

or temporary incapacity or death on account of a recurrence of heart attack before the accident of the officer who was driving the jeep, (iii) the journey was unauthorised and besides the officer and the driver of the jeep, all the others were individuals not entitled to travel in the military vehicle, and (iv) the loss to the State is about Rs. 9,000 00.

(c) Does not arise.

Explosion in Shooting Range in Jhansi Distt.

11. Shri Hukam Chand Kachhavalaya: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1282 on the 14th November, 1966 and state:

(a) whether the enquiry into the death of three boys as a result of an explosion in the shooting range of Armed Brigade in Jhansi District has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the next of kin of the boys have submitted any application for compensation?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Swaran Singh): (a) The Court of Enquiry has been completed.

(b) Babina Field Firing Range is a fully restricted area and unauthorised persons are not permitted in the ranges at any time of the day or night. The villagers of Bhandra Buzurg were fully aware of this. However, four boys from village Bhandra Buzurg went inside the Babina Field Firing Range at about 15.00 hrs. on 24th September, 1966 to round up some grazing cattle that had strayed into the Range Area. These boys were wounded by a shell burst mid-way between village Keshodhan and village Jhanda. Two Boys (Amar Singh and Asa Ram) died on the spot and another boy (Akhe Raj) died after reaching his village. The villagers could not go into the range area on the night of 24th/25th September, 1966, since firing by an Aircraft

was going on. The villagers reported the matter to the civil police on the morning of 25th September, 1966 and with the help of the police, both the dead bodies were recovered on the evening of 25th September, 1966, from inside the Range area.

(c) No application for compensation has been received from the next of kin of the boys. We have, however, initiated action on our own to pay *ex-gratia* compensation.

Fire in C.O.D. Cheoki

12. Shri Hukam Chand Kachhavalaya: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1275 on the 14th November, 1966 and state:

(a) whether the report regarding the causes of fire in the Central Ordnance Depot, Cheoki, (near Allahabad) has since been received by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the further time likely to be taken?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Swaran Singh): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It has not been possible for the lower formation to submit the report to Government so far through Army Headquarters due to several administrative reasons. However, instructions have been issued to ensure that the report is submitted to Government within a month.

Indian Embassy in Peking

13. Dr. Karni Singh: Will the Minister of External Affairs, be pleased to state:

(a) whether, in view of the recent political upheavals in China, any steps have been taken to ensure the safety of the lives and property of the officials of the Indian Embassy in Peking; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of External Affairs (Shri M. C. Chagla): (a) and (b). All possible precautions have been taken. It would not be in the public interest to give any detailed information.

Firing Ranges of Yol, Ghurkari and Kachhiari

14. Shri Hem Raj: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) the number of deaths and persons injured in the firing field ranges of Yol, Ghurkari and Kachhiari in District Kangra during the last five years;

(b) whether any investigations have been made and any compensation paid to the injured or to the relations of the deceased;

(c) whether it is a fact that these firing ranges are near the villages Yol and Ghurkari;

(d) if so, whether any representations have been made by the villagers to shift them outside the habitable area of these villages;

(e) if so, the action taken by Government to shift these ranges; and

(f) whether it is also a fact that the villagers of Yol, Ghurkari and Kachhiari have also suggested alternate sites and if so, the action taken by Government thereon?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Swaran Singh): (a) to (f). Information is being collected from the authorities concerned. As soon as it is available, it will be laid on the Table of the House.

12.00 hrs.

POINT OF PERSONAL EXPLANATION BY MINISTER

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): Sir, earlier in the

morning an insinuation had been made by an hon. Member, Shri Madhu Limaye, that I was in charge of the Indian Youth Congress and that the Youth Congress was receiving money from the CIA. I should like to say that he is wrong on both counts. I am not in charge of the Youth Congress. I am a member of its central advisory committee and I am very proud to be a member and of the confidence that the Congress President has placed in me. So far as the money is concerned, the Youth Congress draws on the funds of the Indian National Congress and does not receive any money from outside.

श्री मधुलिनये (युगेर) : गलत बिल्कुल गलत ।

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया (कन्नौज) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, आज मैं नहीं हूँ, कभी ये या नहीं, मबाल तो यह है ?

Shri Dinesh Singh: I think, probably the hon Member is mixing up with his own youth wing

श्री जार्ज करमन्वीक (बम्बई दक्षिण) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, ए० आइ०सी० ने क्या मुझे गलत बतलाया ? मुझे बताया गया है

"He is all in all of the Congress Youth Organisation."

दफ्तर से मुझे बतलाया गया तो क्या वह गलत बतलाते हैं ?

श्री मधुलिनये . क्या आपका दफ्तर झूठ बोलता है ? जबिल भारतीय कांग्रेस कमेटी का दफ्तर गलत जानकारी देता है ?

Mr. Speaker: You verify it. I am not interested in finding out what the Congress Committee office has said... (Interruptions).