

(a) what amounts have been spent, if any, for awarding scholarships and stipends to displaced students for their studies in High Schools and Colleges in different States in 1951-52 and what amount is proposed to be spent during the current year;

(b) how many students have benefited by the scheme; and

(c) whether there is any contribution to these amounts by the State Governments?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) and (b). A sum of Rs. 1,33,57,000 has been allotted to the various States for the current financial year. The rest of the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

(c) No.

ACCIDENT IN KOLAR GOLD MINES

422. Shri Vittal Rao: Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) the cause of the accident that occurred in the Champion Reef Mine of the Kolar Gold Fields on the 1st July, 1952;

(b) the total number of persons killed and injured in the accident;

(c) the number of accidents in the Kolar Gold Fields mines since 1947 with dates and number of casualties;

(d) what precautions are taken in order to prevent these accidents;

(e) what was the result of the enquiry, which according to the Minister of Labour, was being carried out after the accident on the 19th April, 1952; and

(f) whether Government propose to place the report of the enquiry on the Table of the House?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) The accident happened as a result of a heavy rockburst.

(b) Two persons are seriously injured and nine are missing.

(c) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.

(d) As a result of the inquiry made into the cause of accident which occurred on the 2nd November 1951, the Inspector of Mines, Oorgaum has made certain recommendations, specifying the manner in which support should be set and advanced in the levels where faults are known to exist, to be implemented by mine managements. He also had a discussion with the Superintendents of all mines on further precautionary measures. The Department of Mines are presently studying the nature and occurrence of rockburst in Kolar Gold Fields which took place during the past 25 years with a view to formulating measures to prevent recurrence of such rockbursts. The question of appointing a Court of Inquiry to go into the question of the rockburst of the 19th April 1952 is being considered and its findings might help the Government to decide what further precautionary measures should be taken. All possible attention is being paid to the enforcement of the Mines Act, 1952 and the Regulations framed thereunder.

(e) The Inspector, who conducted the enquiry, was of the opinion that the rockburst could not have been foreseen and that all possible precautionary measures had been taken by the mine management.

(f) I would invite the attention of my friend to the reply given by me today to part (d) of the Starred Question No. 1785.