

(b) Government have no information regarding the relationship of Shri Goel and the supplier; the matter is being looked into. Shri Goel was deputed to Jagadhari in response to the request of the Conservator of Forests, Punjab who desired that a representative of Hirakud Organisation should be sent to select the timber. Under the advice of the Conservator of Forests and with the help of one of his officers, Shri Goel selected the timber and gave instructions for its despatch.

#### DAMAGE TO COFFER DAM

\*2285. **Shri R. N. S. Deo:** Will the Minister of **Irrigation and Power** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Coffor Dam constructed at Hirakud for diverting the stream of the river for facility of work during the rainy season has been washed away during the first slight flood last month;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what was the total cost of the Coffor Dam and the total amount of damage done; and

(c) whether any machinery or other works were washed away or damaged as a result of the flood, and if so, the total amount of damage?

**The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Shri Nanda):** (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as possible.

#### ACCIDENT IN GUDUR MICA MINE

\*2287. **Shri Raghavaiah:** Will the Minister of **Labour** be pleased to state:

(a) what was the cause of the explosion in Srinivasa Mica Mine in Chennur Village, Gudur Tehsil, Nellore District, Madras State on the 13th May, 1952 which resulted in the tragic death of two workers and serious injuries to a third worker;

(b) whether the families of the deceased have been paid any compensation;

(c) whether it is a fact that when, on the information given by the Gudur Division Mica Workers' Union, the Mica Inspector visited this mine, he detected 159 detonators in a cement pit inside the Mica Factory, a double set of wage-registers showing mutually contradictory entries regarding the men involved in the accident of the 13th May, and also found a deficit of 5,400 lbs. in the stocks and clear evidence of smuggling of huge quantities of Mica; and

(d) what steps do Government propose to take in the matter?

**The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri):** (a) The explosion was caused by a drill rod encountering a misfired charge of Gelignite, while four drillers were drilling hole in a drive with a compressed air jack-hammer.

(b) Payment of compensation is governed by the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, which is administered by the State Government. The mine owner has admitted liability for payment of compensation. The Chief Inspector of Mines in India has already brought to the notice of the Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation, Madras that dependents of the deceased and the injured persons should be paid compensation.

(c) The Mica Inspector is an officer of the State Government and we have asked for a copy of his report from the State Government. I should, however, mention that matters like deficit in stock, smuggling of mica fall in the sphere of the State Government, which will no doubt take necessary action. On receipt of the Inspector's report, we will look into all the matters which concern the Central Government.

(d) As the accident was, to a certain extent, found to be due to the incompetency of the manager of the mine, the Chief Inspector of Mines has cancelled his appointment as manager and has asked the mine management to appoint a duly qualified and experienced manager forthwith which has since been done. He has also sanctioned the prosecution of the owner, manager and shot-firer under the Mines Act, 1952, for contravention of certain provisions of the Act and the Regulations. As regards full and prompt payment of compensation, the Chief Inspector of Mines has already taken up the matter with the Commissioner, Workmen's Compensation, Madras.

#### HARIJAN DISPLACED PERSONS

581. **Shri Elayaperumal:** Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to state the total number of Harijan displaced persons who live in India?

**The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain):** The Member is referred to my reply to part (a) of Unstarred Question No. 440 by Shri Rup Narain on 16th July, 1952.

#### MERCANTILE SHIPS

582. **Shri Badshah Gupta:** Will the Minister of **Production** be pleased to state:

(a) the names of mercantile ships of