

(d) whether it is a fact that a large number of workers are not given overtime allowance due to this change;

(e) if so, (i) the number affected and (ii) the extent to which affected;

(f) whether in many cases deduction of overtime allowance already paid have been ordered;

(g) whether representations have been received against such a measure from Railwaymen's Organizations; and

(h) if so, the steps taken thereon?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) The definition of the term 'Factory', as given in section 2(m) of the Factories Act, 1948, excludes railway running sheds.

(b) (i) The reasons for exclusion of railway running sheds from the scope of the Factories Act, 1948, are that running sheds are, from the nature of the work done in them, not factories. (ii) From 1-4-1949, on which date the Act came into force.

(c) The implications are that none of the provisions of the Factory Act, 1948, are applicable to the running sheds.

(d) No; overtime, as due and admissible under the Hours of Employment Regulations, is paid to staff concerned.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The Railway Board are informed that only on one Railway, in a few cases in which overtime at a wrong rate was paid after 1-4-1949, overpayments were recovered.

(g) No representation has been received from any railwaymen's organization.

(h) Does not arise.

#### COLLISION ON DHARMAVARAM-PAKALA LINE

**\*285. Shri Balmiki:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of casualties that occurred in the head-on collision between a goods train and a mixed train

on the night of the 13th June, 1953, on the Dharmavaram-Pakala metre gauge section (Southern Railway);

(b) the causes of the accident; and

(c) who has conducted the inquiry?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) 67 persons died; 23 received grievous and 46 minor injuries.

(b) and (c). The Government Inspector of Railways, Bangalore, held his statutory enquiry into the accident and his finding is that the accident was the result of a lapse on the part of the Assistant Station Master, Mulacalacheruvu, in that he wrongly despatched the mixed train from his station.

#### INSPECTING STAFF FOR MINES DEPARTMENT

**\*286. Shri P. C. Bose:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Mines Department is short of inspecting officers necessary for underground inspection; and

(b) if so, the difficulty in recruiting adequate number of qualified inspectors necessary for the Mines Department?

**The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri):** (a) Yes.

(b) The reason is the dearth of suitable qualified candidates.

#### RISE IN PRICES OF FOODGRAINS

**\*287. Shri A. N. Vidyalkar:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for some time past the prices of foodgrains have been rising in the areas of Assam, West Bengal, Bihar, Maharashtra and some other parts of the country;

(b) the percentage of rise in prices of foodgrains in the months of May, June, and July, 1953;

(c) the causes of this rise in prices; and

(d) the steps Government have taken or intend to take to check this tendency?