

(d) Yes. The accident is considered to be a case of misadventure as an unforeseen weakness in the natural strata near the bottom of a shaft 95 feet deep, which was to be used as a sand separator and bunker, resulted in transmission of hydraulic pressure over a structure of steel and reinforced concrete at the bottom of the shaft and caused the structure to collapse when the Damodar river, in flood, inundated the shaft.

STRIKE BY TEA GARDEN WORKERS

*1213. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press report of a strike by 20,000 workers in some thirty European-owned tea gardens in Assam; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken, or are proposed to be taken in this regard?

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

(b) The dispute falls in the State sphere. According to a report received from the Government of Assam the strike was called off after the management had agreed to pay compensation for lay-off in economic gardens at the rate of 50 per cent. of wages and to upgrade plucking rates.

CHILD MORTALITY

*1214. **Shri Achuthan:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of child mortality in the various States in India during the last five years; and

(b) the causes for high child mortality in India and the short term steps Government propose to take in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) and (b). A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 8.]

AIR LINES

*1215. **Shri Achuthan:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to open any new air lines in the near future; and

(b) the total number of employees serving in the two Air Corporations?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) A technical Committee of the Indian Airlines Corporation has been constituted recently to consider, *inter alia*, the formulation of a suitable route pattern for the operation of air services. The question of opening new routes will be considered by the Corporation after the report of the Committee has been received.

(b) The total number of employees of the two Air Corporations is 9214.

INLAND WATER TRANSPORT

*1216. **Shri Achuthan:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state how far the development works have progressed in the Inland Water Transport in South India as per the Plan?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): A provision of Rs. 6 lakhs has been included in the first Five Year Plan towards the Central Government's contribution to the Water Transport Board that may be set up in South India covering Madras and Travancore-Cochin States. The question of setting up such a Board has been taken up with the State Governments concerned.

CONGESTION ON SOME SECTIONS OF NORTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

616. **Shri Anirudha Sinha:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the daily average number of passengers who travelled between Darbhanga and Jainagar and Darbhanga and Nirmali both ways on the North-Eastern Railway between 1st January, 1953 to 1st June, 1953?

(b) What was the average carrying capacity of the passenger coaches provided daily in up and down trains on both the sections?

(c) Was the number of coaches daily provided sufficient to carry the passengers?

(d) If not, what steps do the Railway Administration propose to take to relieve the congestion?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.

MOBILE POST OFFICES IN PUNJAB

619. Prof. D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the names of cities in the Punjab where arrangements have been made for having Mobile Post Offices;

(b) the number of such post offices; and

(c) how many new Mobile Post Offices are going to be opened in the Punjab in 1953-54?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) The new urban Mobile Post Offices are at present being introduced only in those cities which are connected by Night Air Mail. No city in the Punjab is directly connected by Night Air Mail.

(b) The urban Mobile Post Offices are functioning at 4 places in India viz., Nagpur, Delhi, Madras and Kanpur, and they number 5.

(c) Nil.

POST OFFICES IN PUNJAB

620. Prof. D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post-offices opened in the Punjab, district-wise, in 1952-53;

(b) the population per post office in the Punjab; and

(c) the special postal arrangements made in the hilly areas of the Punjab?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 9.]

(b) 6,162 persons.

(c) The following arrangements were made in the hilly areas of the Punjab during 1952-53:—

(i) conveyance of mails on motor buses between Alampur-Lambargaon (Kangra Division).

(ii) Frequency of delivery arrangements was increased in 13 places.

(iii) 2 Additional village postmen were employed to improve the delivery arrangements.

(iv) 17 additional letter boxes were planted.

(v) 963 "no-dak" villages were brought under delivery beat system.

TRAINING OF *Gaushala* WORKERS

621. Shri S. C. Samanta: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether arrangements have been made for the training of *Gaushala* workers from various States in India;

(b) if so, where the training centres are located;

(c) how many workers have been trained so far (State-wise); and

(d) whether there are any non-official training centres in India?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes.

(b) There is only one centre at present which is located at Pipri (Wardha).

(c) The first batch of 15 workers will complete their training in December, 1953. The workers come from the following States: