

**Accident in Central Bhowrah Colliery**

\*6. { Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan:  
 Shri Vajpayee:  
 Shri U. K. Patil:  
 Shri Kumaran:  
 Shri Supakar:  
 Shri Bibhuti Mishra:  
 Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:

Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Court of Enquiry appointed to enquire into the causes and circumstances of the mining accident in the Central Bhowrah Colliery has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the main findings of the Enquiry; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour and Employment and Planning (Shri L. N. Mishra):

(a) Yes.

(b) The court has held that the accident should never have taken place but for the violation of the safety regulations for which the management is squarely responsible.

(c) The report has been published and a copy of it is being placed on the table. Steps are being taken for the criminal prosecution of the owner and the manager of the colliery and also for the holding of an inquiry under the Coal Mines Regulations, 1957 into the conduct of the Manager with a view to considering the question of suspension or cancellation of his Manager's Certificate. A departmental enquiry is also being started against the Regional Inspector of Mines concerned for certain lapses in the inspection of the mine.

Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan: May I know when the court of inquiry is likely to begin its work and when it is likely to complete it?

Shri L. N. Mishra: The report is being placed on the Table of the House. All the details will be available in that report.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: The question is when the court of inquiry to go into the conduct of the Manager under regulation 25 will be appointed?

Shri L. N. Mishra: Very soon. It has been published in the Gazette of India on the 2nd of August. No steps could be taken until its publication in the Gazette.

**French Settlements in India**

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\*7. { Shri D. C. Sharma:  
 Shri Vajpayee:  
 Shri Shivananajappa:  
 Shri Damar:  
 Shri N. R. Munisamy:  
 Pandit D. N. Tiwary:  
 Shri Kumaran:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the Government of France have intimated as to when *de jure* transfer of Pondicherry to India will be ratified?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): No, Sir. We have not received any assurance of the ratification of the Treaty of Cession by the French Government by any particular date.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know when the last letter on the subject was received from the French Government and what were its contents?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): I do not know to what communication the hon. Member refers and from whom. But the position is this. From time to time we have been informed by the French Ambassador here that he hoped this ratification will take place soon. And on the last occasion we were informed that it would take place in May of this year, 1958, when the French Parliament was meeting. But, as the House knows, after that various developments took place in France, bringing about change of Government and the Parliament itself was adjourned. It is not meeting now. It may meet towards the end of the year. So we have now been