

The Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri C. Subramaniam): (a) and (b). Complaints have been received from the foundries in Gujarat State regarding shortage of foundry grade pig iron, resulting in restricted production. Government is generally aware of the shortage of pig iron (foundry grade) for foundries not only in Gujarat State but in other States also. No precise information is available as to which small-scale units in Gujarat State, are on the verge of closing down due to this shortage. A total quantity of 27,596 tonnes of pig iron was supplied to the various foundries in Gujarat State during 1962 against current and outstanding orders. Some despatches have been arranged on priority basis to keep the foundries going.

12.14 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

ACCIDENTS AT MITHANI AND SRIPUR COLLIERIES

Shri Yashpal Singh (Kairana): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Labour and Employment to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The accidents at Mithani colliery on the 12th April, 1963, and Sripur colliery on the 10th April, 1963, resulting in some deaths and injuries to several."

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Labour and Employment (Shri R. K. Malviya): I regret to inform the House that an accident occurred in the Sripur colliery on the 10th April, and another in the Mithani Colliery, on the 12th April 1963.

The accident in Sripur colliery was due to a down-going cage striking against the bottom of the shaft. There were nine persons in the cage and one of them sustained serious injuries.

The shaft in the mine is 800 feet deep and is fitted with good winding arrangement. The accident has been inquired into by the Mines Inspectorate and has been classified as a case of misadventure.

The accident in Mithani colliery was due to fall of roof coal from a height of about six feet striking against three loaders who were busy loading coal into baskets. Two of the loaders were killed instantly and one received serious injuries.

The accident has been inquired into by the Inspectorate. The supervisory staff and the management have been held responsible for the accident as it occurred owing to non-observance of safety precautions contained in the regulations. Action is being taken for instituting legal proceedings against the management and officials concerned.

Shri Yashpal Singh: May I know whether the Mines Inspector had previously reported any possibility of such a danger?

Shri R. K. Malviya: We have not got any information about it. It is after the accident that the Inspectorate made an inspection and gave the report.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Banerjee:

Shri Yashpal Singh: What is the ex-gratia payment.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order; I have called Shri Banerjee.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): I want to know whether it is a fact that this accident in Sripur and adjoining areas took place at a time when Safety Week was being observed in those mines, whether there is any truth in it and what action has been taken to safeguard the interests of workers who are working more during the emergency and to apply safety measures which are not applied by the mine-owners now.

Shri R. K. Malviya: It is a fact that these two accidents took place at the

time when the coal mines were observing the Safety Week. So far as the precautions are concerned, the regulations are there and they are being observed very meticulously. As I have just now said in the case of Mithani we are going to prosecute the management. Apart from this, recently two more actions have been taken—one is for training the workers before entering the mine and the second is that we are constituting a National Safety Council very soon to take all precautions in future to reduce the number of accidents as much as possible.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad): I would request you to ask the Government if Safety Week produced those accidents, what will happen in other weeks during the year. If you can ask it, it would be better than my asking it.

Mr. Speaker: Should I ask the supplementary myself?

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: No, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Papers to be laid on the Table.

12.17½ hrs.

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE

COFFEE AMENDMENT RULES, 1963

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Coffee Amendment Rules, 1963 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 585 dated the 6th April, 1963, under sub-section (3) of section 48 of the Coffee Act, 1942. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-1166/63].

12.18 hrs.

APPROPRIATION (No. 2) BILL, 1963

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): Sir, I beg to move:*

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1963-64, be taken into consideration."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1963-64, be taken into consideration."

The Motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clauses 1 to 3, the Schedule, the Enacting Formula and the Title stand part of the Bill."

The Motion was adopted.

Clause 1 to 3 the Schedule, the Enacting Formula and the Titles were added to the Bill.

Shri Morarji Desai: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The Motion was adopted.

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.