

Shri Kapur Singh (Ludhiana): With regard to the proposal to have the half-hour discussion on the 7th, I wish to represent that if it is convenient and possible, it might take place on Monday instead of on Friday.

Mr. Speaker: Some other business might be there then.

12.48 hrs.

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE

STATEMENT RE: SUPPLY OF FOOTWEAR TO MINERS

The Minister of Labour and Employment (Shri D. Sanjivayya): I beg to lay on the Table a statement regarding supply of footwear to Miners. [Placed in Library. See No. LT4323/65].

12.48½ hrs.

STATEMENT RE: INCIDENT IN MANA CAMP

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri Tyagi): I am sorry to inform the House of an unfortunate incident in the Mana Transit Camp for migrants from East Pakistan on the 1st May, 1965, in which 2 migrants lost their lives and a number of persons, comprising migrants, camp staff and police personnel, sustained injuries. According to the reports received from the State Government and the camp authorities the facts of the case are stated to be as follows:—

2. The Mana Group of Transit Centres serves as a clearing house for the new migrants entering West Bengal from East Pakistan, who are accepted for relief assistance. While in the Transit Centres, the migrants receive cash doles. The Government of India had issued instructions in October, 1964, that the cash doles should be paid every month in three instalments at an interval of 10 days. This system has been introduced with a view to ensuring that some money is available to migrants from time to

time during the month and that the entire doles for the month are not frittered away at the beginning of the month. This arrangement could not be introduced in the Mana Group of Transit Centres as the available staff was occupied with other pressing administrative duties such as reception, dispersal and screening of migrants. The doles were being paid at fortnightly intervals instead of three times in a month in this group of transit centres. The Estimates Committee in its Seventy-first Report had also commented on this fact and recommended "payment of cash doles should be made to the migrants in instalments regularly and no administrative difficulties should be allowed to stand in the way of disbursement of doles in instalments and in time".

3. On the 1st May, 1965, disbursement of cash doles in accordance with this new arrangement was due to take place at the Mana Camp. Some of the migrants objected to the introduction of this new system and exhorted others not to accept doles on this basis. Some of the migrants, who had accepted doles, were assaulted. A crowd of about 2,000 strong went to see the Chief Commandant, Mana, Col. S. P. Nandy, and pressed him to restore the old system. He explained to the migrants that the new system had been introduced in accordance with the instructions of the Government of India and would be beneficial to them, there would be no reduction in the quantum of doles payable for each month, and he tried to persuade them to accept the new system. The crowd was in no mood to listen to his advice. A little later, they surrounded the Camp Office No. I where disbursements were to take place. The cash chest in this camp office contained over a lakh of rupees. The crowd became extremely unruly and violent and tried to enter the Camp Office. The Chief Commandant, Colonel Nandy, informed the Additional District Magistrate of the situation. The Additional District