

(ग) सरकार का विचार है कि सरकार द्वारा को जाने वाले कार्रवाई के लिए विभिन्न प्रस्तावों में जो मांग की गई है वह स्वायत्त नहीं है।

Engineering College, Tripura

701. Shri Biren Dutta: Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Engineering College for Tripura has been approved by Government; and

(b) if so, when it is likely to start functioning?

The Minister of Education (Shri M. C. Chagla): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The College was inaugurated on 15th August, 1965. Regular classes will, however, commence from 1st of September, 1965.

12.15 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE EXPLOSION IN HIGH EXPLOSIVES FACTORY AT KIRKEE

श्री बड़े (खारगोन) : मैं अविलम्बनीय लोक महत्व के निम्नलिखित विषय की और प्रतिरक्षा मंत्रों का ध्यान दिलाता हूँ और प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि वह इस बारे में एक वक्तव्य दें :

"21 अगस्त, 1965 को किरकी के उच्च विस्फोटक पदार्थ कारखाने (हाई एक्सप्लोसिब्स फैक्टरी) में हुए एक विस्फोट, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप 10 व्यक्तियों की मृत्यु हुई और अन्य घायल हुए, का समाचार।"

The Minister of Defence Production in the Ministry of Defence (Shri A. M. Thomas): Mr. Speaker, Sir.

On 21st August, 1965, at about 10 A.M., a serious accident occurred in one of the buildings of the High Explosives Factory, Kirkee. The accident resulted in the death of the following ten persons:—

1. Shri V. Venkataraman, Deputy Manager.
2. Shri R. B. Limaye, Assistant Foreman.
3. Shri C. G. Kamat, Assistant Foreman.
4. Shri A. G. Kulkarni, Charge-man.
5. Shri P. B. Pawar, Supervisor, 'A' Grade.
6. Shri R. M. Chavan, Supervisor, 'A' Grade.
7. Shri Pachmuthu Velanda, Chemical Plumber.
8. Shri Kishan M. Gaikwad, Chemical Process Worker, 'A' Grade.
9. Shri Syed Ali Syed Kadar Badsha, Chemical Process Worker, 'B' Grade.
10. Shri B. B. Gaikwad, Labourer 'B' Grade.

2. Shri Y. S. Ingle, Messenger boy was seriously injured. Information has since been received that he expired on 23-8-1965.

3. A Court of Enquiry with the Chief Inspector of Military Explosives has been ordered to investigate the causes of the accident in accordance with the usual procedure. No sabotage or foul-play is suspected; it appears to be a case of an unfortunate accident.

4. The building and machinery has been considerably damaged. It would be some time before production can be re-commenced in this building. We have, however, examined the implications and are taking alternative steps. I am in a position to assure the House that the accident will not be allowed to affect the defence production.

5. It is not in public interest to disclose any further information.

6. This news of the accident involving the death of so many valuable workers of our Ordnance Factories has naturally come as a shock. The personnel of the Ordnance Factories have been rendering a valuable service to the country and I am sure the House will join me in extending to the members of their families its sympathies. Government is taking steps for payment of necessary compensation according to rules.

श्री बड़े : क्या यह बात सच है कि "महाराष्ट्र टाइम्स" और सभी मराठी पत्रों में यह बात प्रकाशित हो गई थी कि इस की न्यायालयीन चौकशी की जायेगी इस प्रकार का एक वक्तव्य इस गवर्नमेंट ने दिया था और कहा था कि उसी वक्त कम्पेन्सेशन भी दिया जायेगा। लेकिन अब शासन ने न्यायालयीन चौकशी करने का इरादा छोड़ दिया है और एक कमेटी नियुक्त की है। कम्पेन्सेशन बाद में दिया जायेगा ऐसा जिक्र आया है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि गवर्नमेंट ने अपना पूर्व निश्चय क्यों बदला।

Shri A. M. Thomas: There has not been any shift in the Government's position. It appeared in the papers that military authorities had taken over the investigation.

Shri Bade: It is in the "Maharashtra Times".

Shri A. M. Thomas: It is the Chief Inspector of Military Explosives who is the authority constituted for making inquiries into such type of accidents as had happened. He is an independent authority functioning under the Director-General of Inspection and he is not under the Director of Ordnance Factories.

With regard to the payment of compensation, I have already mentioned in my statement that compensation will be paid according to rules.

Shri Bade: My Question was....

Mr. Speaker: The earlier decision was to pay them immediately, but now it has been postponed and will be done after the inquiry has been completed.

Shri A. M. Thomas: The payment of compensation has nothing to do with the inquiry.

श्री यशपाल सिंह (कैराना) : सरकार अपने इंटररेस्ट्स को पब्लिक का इंटररेस्ट कहती है। पब्लिक का इंटररेट तो यह है कि इस बात को जनता जाने कि क्या कारण है इस दुर्घटना का, क्या इसका कारण सेवोटॉज है या आपकी असावधानी है। इस की एनक्वायरी किसी हाईकोर्ट के जज को सौंपी जाए। इस बारे में सरकार की क्या राय है ?

Shri A. M. Thomas: The question whether there has been any negligence or not will certainly be enquired into by the Chief Inspector of Explosives. I took shelter under "public interest" because it is not desirable to mention as to the production of what vital commodity has been affected.

श्री हुकमचन्द कछवाय (देवास) : जो आग लगी वह प्रयोग के समय लगी। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या प्रयोग करते समय आग बुझाने के साधन वहाँ नहीं थे। यह जो क्षति हुई है मशीनरी की और इमारत की यह कितने रुपए की हुई है। क्या इसका कुछ अन्दाजा है ?

Shri A. M. Thomas: There is fire-fighting equipment within the explosives factory. How it happened has to be inquired? Whether it was in the course of experiment or anything else will certainly be gone into by the Chief Inspector of Explosives. I may also submit for the information of the House that the Secretary, Defence Production, as well as the Director, Ordnance Factories, have gone to the spot and they will come back with the necessary information.

श्री हुकमचन्द कछवाय : मैजिनरी और इस्पात की कितने की हानि हुई ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : ज्यादा न पूछें, जवाब आ गया ।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : दूसरी बात का उत्तर नहीं आया ।

Shri Surendra Pal Singh (Bulandshahr): May I know how old is the Kirkee ordnance factory, and is it the first time that an explosion of this nature has taken place there?

Shri A. M. Thomas: The ordnance factory is pretty old. Fortunately for us, very few accidents have happened. The last serious accident that took place in 1956 was not in this factory. This is a very old factory but the plant and machinery here have been modernised recently.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): Sometimes back a similar accident took place in Khamaria in the danger building. I would like to know whether this accident took place because the danger building workers are not given adequate safety and if so, what further improvements have been suggested by the Committee which was appointed to go into the entire question of giving protection to the workers?

Shri A. M. Thomas: The accident that has taken place now is not the type of accident which took place in Khamaria where one person unfortunately died. That is altogether a different matter; that was from the packing side when they were packing certain things. I may inform the hon. Member and also the House that every precaution is taken in this matter. The hon. Member knows since he himself was a defence ordnance employee. We do take all precautions.

Shri Daji (Indore): Is it a fact that none of the workers was insured at Government expenses as is required

and if so, will the Government consider payment of family pension instead of only compensation?

Shri A. M. Thomas: I have already said that necessary compensation will be paid according to rules. If any modification is to be made, we shall certainly consider that question.

Shri Daji: My first question was whether the workers were insured at government expense and whether they are covered by that insurance?

Shri A. M. Thomas: My information is that some section of the employees is covered by some insurance scheme, but I do not know the details.

Shri P. C. Borooah (Sibsagar): May I know whether there is any system of strict scrutiny in the recruitment of workers in ordnance factories so as to prevent sabotage or dilly-dallying activities finding their way to ordnance factories?

Shri A. M. Thomas: Yes, Sir.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad): Are there reasons to believe that in some, if not most, Defence industries factories, including this one at Kirkee, there are pro-China and/or pro-Pakistani elements surreptitiously at work and if so, what measures have been taken, particularly since the Emergency was proclaimed in 1962, to weed out such elements, and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

Shri A. M. Thomas: I do not think that we should go into the broader question. I have already stated that no sabotage or foul play is suspected in this particular case.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I do not.... What did he say, Sir?

Mr. Speaker: In this particular case, there was no sabotage.

Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur): On the one hand the Minister says that a Court of Inquiry has been appointed and the Chief Inspector of Explosives

will hold the inquiry and on the other hand he says that there is no act of sabotage. How can the Minister anticipate the findings of the inquiry? I want to know what makes the Minister think that this is not an act of sabotage and what are the reasons which he has in view that in future such things would not affect other factories?

Shri A. M. Thomas: There are certain obvious facts in the light of which we can come to certain conclusions. From the obvious facts in this case, we can say that there is no case of sabotage.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti (Dhanbad): Prompted by such tragic happenings which are a matter of grave concern, does the Government think it necessary to inspire public confidence by appointing a high level judicial committee instead of appointing the Chief Inspector of Explosives as has been done with regard to the explosion in Dhori?

Shri A. M. Thomas: It is a very unfortunate accident no doubt, but the Government thinks that it is enough that the requisite machinery now constituted functions.

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री : बिजनौर इस कारखाने में हुई इस भयंकर दुर्घटना से शिक्षा लेकर दूसरे भाँ इस प्रकार के जो हथियार बनाने के कारखाने भारत में हैं, क्या रक्षा मंत्रालय ने उनमें कुछ सावधानी के लिए नए कदम उठाए हैं ?

Shri A. M. Thomas: I have already stated that every possible effort is being taken to see that such accidents do not recur.

Shri Krishnapal Singh (Jalesar): I would like to know from the hon. Minister what precautions are being taken to prevent such accidents and what security arrangements are made? Formerly there used to be a guard; there used to be a small hut near every gate where every worker

who entered was searched and match boxes, etc., were deposited outside. Are these precautions being taken now?

Shri A. M. Thomas: There are elaborate safety rules governing this matter and Hon. Members are free to visit these ordnance and explosives factories to see what precautions are being taken. I am not in a position to describe all the various safety precautions that are being taken.

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

12.27 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

PAPERS UNDER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY ACT

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Hathi): Sir, on behalf of Shri M. C. Chagla I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) a copy each of the following papers under sub-section (4) of section 23 of the Institute of Technology Act, 1961:—
 - (i) Certified Accounts of the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, for the year 1963-64, along with the Audit Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-4607/65].
 - (ii) Certified Accounts of the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, for the year 1963-64, along with the Audit Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-4608/65].
 - (iii) Certified Accounts of the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, for the year 1963-64, along with the Audit Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-4609/65].