

work was started in January, 1964. The details of the project are given in the statement laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6186/66].

**दिल्ली अस्पताल कर्मचारी संघ द्वारा
हड़ताल की खबर**

4640. श्री श्रींकार लाल बेरबा :
श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय :
श्री बड़े :

क्या स्वास्थ्य तथा परिवार नियोजन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या अखिल भारतीय चिकित्सा विज्ञान संस्था शाखा के रूप में पंजीबद्ध दिल्ली अस्पताल कर्मचारी संघ के प्रतिनिधियों ने 20 अप्रैल, 1966 से भूख हड़ताल करने का नोटिस दिया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उनकी मुख्य मांगें क्या हैं; और

(ग) भूख हड़ताल को रोकने तथा संघ की मांगें स्वीकार कराने के लिये सरकार ने क्या कार्यवाही की है ?

**स्वास्थ्य तथा परिवार नियोजन मंत्री
(डा० सुशीला नायर) :** (क) जी हां ।

(ख) बराबर रूप में मुख्य मांगें इस प्रकार हैं :—

- (1) संघ को मान्यता देना ।
- (2) पदोन्नति । कुछ वर्गों के कर्मचारियों की स्थायी नियुक्ति, पदोन्नति वरिष्ठता के आधार पर तथा उन कुछ पदों के जिनके लिए पदोन्नति पाने वाले कर्मचारी उपलब्ध हैं, विज्ञापन बन्द करके की जाये ।

(3) कुछ कर्मचारियों के प्रति मुपरवाइजरी स्टाफ का कथित अशिष्ट व्यवहार के विरुद्ध संस्थान् द्वारा कार्यवाही ।

(4) कुछ कर्मचारियों पर लगायी गई चार्जशीट वापस लेना ।

(5) कतिपय पदों की सृष्टि / उन्नयन ।

(6) विभिन्न भत्तों की मंजूरी; कुछ भत्तों को वेतन मानना । क्वार्टरों में बिजली के पंखों तथा पानी के मीटरों की व्यवस्था ।

(7) कुछ वर्गों के कर्मचारियों के वेतनमानों/गंजाना मजूरी में संशोधन;

(ग) संघ द्वारा भूख हड़ताल की सूचना देने वाले उनके 7 अप्रैल, 1966 के पत्र में रखी गई 28 मांगों में 16 पुरानी मांगें हैं और उनमें से कई पहले ही पूरी की जा चुकी हैं । कुछ पुरानी और नई मांगें संस्थान् के विचाराधीन हैं ।

12.25 hrs.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

**EXPLOSION IN SEED OIL EXTRACTION
PLANT AT AMRAVATI.**

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur):
I call the attention of the Minister of Works, Housing and Urban Development to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

The explosion in Seed Oil Extraction Plant at Amravati resulting in the death of about 38 persons and injuries to many others.

[Shri S. M. Banerjee]

Now the number of deaths is more; it is 41.

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Works, Housing and Urban Development (Shri Bhagwati): I am deeply distressed at the loss of lives and injury to persons as a result of the explosion in the morning of the 26th April, 1966, in the Cotton Seed Oil Factory of Lakshmi Oil mill Industry at Amravati. According to the information obtained from the District Magistrate, Amravati, the explosion occurred in the extractors of the solvent extraction plant of the mills. The whole plant including the extractors, where the explosion occurred, come under the jurisdiction of the State Factories Department of Maharashtra Government. *Only the underground solvent storage tanks of the plant come under the purview of the Explosives Department of my Ministry and are licensed under the Petroleum Rules.* In far as the storage tanks are concerned for which licences have been issued, safety rules for the prevention of accidents were already prescribed by the Explosives Department for observance by the Factory authorities. *As confirmed by the District Magistrate, Amravati, no damage has been caused to these underground solvent storage tanks.* It is likely that the explosion might have been due to some leakage in the solvent extraction plant in the Mill. The State Government authorities are already on the spot investigating into the causes of the explosion and an Inspector from the Explosives Department has also gone to Amravati and his Report is awaited. The State Minister for Labour has also appointed a One Man Commission for going into the causes of explosion.

The fire that flared up was very devastating and the flames became uncontrollable as they were by the oil and cotton seeds. Only partially the fire could be brought under control at about 1:30 P.M. on the same day (26th April). The damage

was very heavy and surrounding area of 150 yards was also affected. Five persons were killed inside the factory premises, 56 persons were admitted in hospitals out of whom 34 expired and two more dead bodies were also found later on. Thus the total number of deaths is 41 as per information given by the District Magistrate of Amravati yesterday evening. The condition of some of the remaining persons in the hospitals is very serious.

A sum of Rs. 200.00 per family of the workers as well as to the outsiders has been sanctioned by the State Government by way of relief to the members of the deceased's families. In addition, the Chief Minister of the Maharashtra Government and the Commissioner, Nagpur, have promised further reliefs to the families of the victims of this unfortunate accident.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: From the Press it appears that this accident took place because some of the safety rules prescribed by the Chief Inspector of Explosives were not correctly followed. In view of the fact that so many workers have died, including those who were residing in that area—41 more are about to die because of their precarious condition—I want to know whether the Chief Inspector of Explosives or some representative of the Central Government who is connected with this Department, will also be associated with this inquiry which has been entrusted to a labour tribunal which does not consist of any technical man at all; I want to know whether the inquiry will take place with the help of the Central Government also?

Shri Bhagwati: The responsibility of this Ministry is very limited. This Ministry issues licences for the storage of this dangerous petroleum and the Department of Explosives have framed rules and prescribed safety rules, so that accidents may not happen. That has been done.

The Chief Inspector of Explosives and his Deputy will investigate into this matter. At present, the Inspector of Explosives has gone there and he has investigated into the accident, and we are awaiting his report.

As regards the commission and the question as to who will be associated with that commission, it is a matter for the State Government. They have appointed an one-man commission. So far as we are concerned, we shall do whatever is possible, and if hon. Members so desire, we can send somebody from here, and I personally can go there and look into these matters. But our responsibility is limited.

In the underground solvent storage tanks there has been damage. From this it appears that there was nothing wrong in the observance of the safety rules, so far as the underground solvent storage tanks for which we are responsible and concerned.

श्री भागवत झा (भागलपुर) :
माननीय मंत्री जी ने कहा कि सम्भव यह है कि जो साल्वेंट एक्स्ट्रैक्शन प्लैन्ट रक्खा हुआ है उसमें लीकेज के कारण एक्सप्लोजन हुआ हो। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि श्रम मंत्रालय के निर्देश के अनुसार क्या यह आवश्यक नहीं है कि समय समय पर ऐसी फैक्ट्रियों की जांच की जाये, चाहे प्रान्तीय सरकार ही क्यों न उसे करती हो, कि वहां पर सुरक्षा के नियमों का पालन होता है या नहीं। अगर ऐसा है तो पिछली बार इसकी जांच कब की गई थी क्या इस सम्बन्ध में आपको मालूम है, और क्या आप चाहते हैं कि इस सम्बन्ध में खास कर आप के निर्देश से या महाराष्ट्र सरकार के निर्देश से कोई जांच की जाये।

Shri Bhagawati: This inquiry will be held by an one-man commission. So far as the plant where the accident has taken place is concerned, there was no explosion in the underground solvent storage tanks for which we are responsible. Even then, our

Chief Inspector there at Nagpur will go there and make investigations. I have already stated that if necessary we shall send somebody from here also, and personally I may also go there and see.

Shri Daji (Indore): The important point which arises is this. The fact that the underground storage tanks have not been damaged is not a fool-proof reply. When such dangerous solvent storage tanks are allowed to be kept to store those dangerous solvents, the surrounding conditions are also laid down in the rules. Before this accident, may I know when the inspector from the Explosives Department had gone and inspected that factory last?

Shri Bhagawati: I have said that we are awaiting his report.

Shri Daji: I do not want the report. The hon. Minister may give me the date when this factory was inspected last by the officer of the Explosives Department.

Shri Bhagawati: I am not in a position to say that just now.

Shri Daji: That is the crucial point. That is the whole point.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister may ascertain it and make it known.

Shri Bhagawati: Yes, I shall ascertain that.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti (Dhanbad): While admitting the fact that we grow wiser in the face of such tragic events in our lives, may I know whether Government have taken steps to see that, in the neighbourhood of such dangerous places, where explosives and solvents are likely to cause damage, no huts are allowed to be built up lest the poor, landless and homeless people should be butchered?

Shri Bhagawati: Rules are framed specifying the distance from one tank to the other and also from one

[Shri Bhagawati]

tank to the filling sheds. As regards the huts, they are somewhere else....

Shri P. R. Chakraverti: Some minimum distance should be there between the huts and these storage tanks.

Shri Bhagawati:...they are not connected with these underground solvent storage tanks. But what the hon. Member has suggested is also an important point and that should also be looked into.

श्री मधु लिमये (मुंगेर) : अभी विदर्भ में जो यह दुर्घटना हुई उस किस्म की दुर्घटनायें बम्बई में गैस कम्पनी के कारखाने में हुई थी और कोयले के खान में भी पिछले साल हुई थी। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इन दुर्घटनाओं को टालने के लिये क्या केन्द्रीय स्तर पर कोई इंडस्ट्रियल सेफ्टी कांफरेंस हुई थी। यदि हुई थी तो उसकी सिफारिशें क्या थीं और क्या उन सिफारिशों पर उन सभी कारखानों में अमल किया जाता है जहाँ पर विस्फोटक पदार्थों का इस्तेमाल होता है यदि अमल नहीं किया जाता है तो उन पर अमल कराने के लिये सरकार क्या कदम उठाने जा रही है।

Shri Bhagawati: The Department of Explosives has inspectors, assistant inspectors, deputy chief inspectors and chief inspectors in different regions, and they go round and inspect these plants and see whether the rules prescribed by them are followed.

Over and above that, factory inspectors have also to see that the rules are observed. We shall always keep this in view. It is true that we have to take steps to see that such accidents do not take place.

श्री मधु लिमये : प्रश्न कुछ था और जवाब कुछ है।

Mr. Speaker: He wanted to know whether in view of certain other accidents also, some conference had been convened, and if so, whether any recommendations had been made by it, and also whether they have been implemented.

Shri Priya Gupta (Katihar): The Industry Minister only can answer this, not the Works and Housing Deputy Minister.

श्री मधु लिमये : मजदूर मंत्री इस का जवाब दे सकते हैं। जगजीवन बाबू बैठे हुए हैं। वह बतलायें कि इंडस्ट्रियल सेफ्टी कांफरेंस हुई थी।

The Minister of Industry (Shri D. Sanjivayya): Towards the end of last year, we had an all-India conference on industrial safety which was inaugurated by our respected President of the Republic. I cannot at the moment say what recommendations were made. But recommendations were made and I think the present Labour Minister must be taking action on them.

श्री मधु लिमये : मैं एक निवेदन करता हूँ। यदि इस वक्त नहीं बतला सकते हैं तो मैं मंत्री महोदय से कहूंगा कि वह जानकारी हासिल कर, बाद में सदन को सूचित कर दें।

एक माननीय सदस्य : नोटिस चाहिये।

श्री मधु लिमये : हमेशा नोटिस की बात करने हैं। एक महीना इसी में चला जाता है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : कांफरेंस में कुछ सिफारिशें हुई थीं वर्कर्स की सेफ्टी के लिये। वह सिफारिशें क्या थीं और आया उन पर अमल किया गया है या नहीं, इसकी वह सभा को इत्तला दे दें।

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया (फर्रुखाबाद): यह दुर्घटनायें या तो सरकार के कर्मचारियों

की लापरवाही या मालिकों की लापरवाही से होती है बहुत हद तक । तो उनको दूर करने के लिये क्या सरकार ने कभी इस प्रस्ताव पर विचार किया कि मरने वाले कर्मचारियों के कुटुम्बों को अच्छी खासी क्षतिपूर्ति दी जाये, समझिये एक लाख या 5 हजार रुपया फी आदमी, जिससे सरकार और कारखानों मालिक दोनों ही सावधान हो जायें । अगर ऐसा सोचा है तो सरकार किस नतीजे पर पहुँची है, और अगर नहीं सोचा तो क्यों नहीं सोचा ।

Shri Bhagawati: This is a matter coming within the purview of the State Government.

The Minister of Works, Housing and Urban Development (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): Labour Minister.

The Minister of Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation (Shri Jagjivan Ram): The Workman's Compensation Act is there. When the details of the accident came to my notice, I asked the Ministry to examine whether in such cases where there is danger of explosion or risk we cannot consider the possibility of heavily insuring the workers at the employer's cost.

श्री यशपाल सिंह (कैराना) : जब कि इस तरह की दुर्घटनायें अधिकतर हो रही हैं तो क्या सरकार ने इस तरह के विश्लेषण के लिये कोई डिपार्टमेंट कायम किया है कि आया यह सैवाटेज से होती है या लापरवाही से, और जिन सरकारों ने आबादी के पास इस तरह से मिल बनाने या फैक्ट्री बनाने की इजाजत दी है उन सरकारों से भी क्या यह कहा गया है कि कम से कम जहाँ पर पापुलेशन हो वहाँ से एक मील की दूरी पर यह कारखाने कायम होने चाहियें ।

Shri Bhagawati: All these matters will be looked into by the Commis-

sion appointed by the State Government.

Shri R. Barua (Jorhat): Are there any rules for periodic inspection from the explosives side and also from the factory side? If so, were they observed in this particular case? Also, will the security aspect be looked into during the inquiry?

Shri Bhagawati: I have already stated that there is periodic inspection by the explosives department, and also by the factory inspectors. What happened in this particular case is a matter for investigation.

श्री विद्वनाथ राग्डेय (सलेमपुर) : जैसा अभी मंत्री महोदय ने बतलाया है, और समाचार पत्रों में भी प्रकाशित हुआ है, जो यह भयंकर विस्फोट हुआ है वह सवा छः बजे सुबह हुआ और तीन बजे तक जारी रहा और इसका खास कारण यह है कि आग बुझाने के लिये वहाँ फायर ब्रिगेड या दमकल नहीं था । जब दमकल नागपुर से, अकोला से और पिलगांव से आया तभी उसे सुझाया जा सका है । इससे स्पष्ट होता है कि वहाँ के कर्मचारियों की और फैक्ट्री के इंस्पेक्टर की लापरवाही है । तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इसके सम्बन्ध में सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

Shri Bhagawati: The hon. Member will appreciate that these are matters with which only the State Government is concerned.

Shri P. C. Borooah (Sibasagar): May I know whether there is any provision in any existing law for payment of compensation to the non-workers living in and around such factory sites who sustain destruction of life or property; if not, whether the Government will be pleased to consider this also while taking up the matter of safety in mines?

Shri Bhagawati: The Chief Minister of Maharashtra has already announc-

[Shri Bhagawati]

ed that he will give relief to all those who have suffered in this incident.

Shri Priya Gupta: In view of the fact that the hon. Deputy Minister has accepted in principle that the solvent tank which is underground is the property of the Central Government, though the pipes leading to the solvent tank may be on the surface, the rules under the Indian Explosives Act warrant that there should be fire-fighting arrangement either of the inert gas type or of the water trailer pump type to put off the fire. We also know the jurisdiction within which people should not be allowed to settle under the Indian Explosives Act. So, may I know whether the Government has gone into both these things to find out if there has been any violation of the rules and provisions under the Indian Explosives Act?

Shri Bhagawati: Whether there has been any violation, whether there was any breach of the safety rules, all these things are being investigated into. It is premature to give any opinion on this subject.

Shri Priya Gupta: It is not a thing to be found out. They know the lay-out of the pump, the solvent tank and the factory. It is only under the rules of the Indian Explosives Act that it is functioning. I do not understand what there is to enquire into. It is not a new thing. Let me submit that before giving sanction for the installation of any explosives establishment under the Indian Explosives Act, this is a preliminary thing to be seen and satisfied, and only then this sanction is to be given. May I know whether they have satisfied themselves about this before sanctioning it?

Mr. Speaker: This is what he says. It is to be enquired into.

Shri Daji: The point is, whether before such pumps are allowed to be

established, under the rules there is any provision to keep a fire-fighting equipment or not. That is the precise question.

Shri Bhagawati: As regards the first question, all these things were enquired into by the Chief Inspector of Explosives and then he issued the licence. As for the fire brigade, I do not think that is a condition.

Dr. Ranen Sen (Calcutta East): From the statement made by the Minister it is clear that there are two sets of inspections, one from the Centre and another from the State. In view of the fact that such incidents are taking place in the last few years too often, may I know if the Government have thought of having an integrated system of inspection, so that all these accidents and explosions do not take place; if the Government has not done that, what prevented the Government from taking such steps?

Shri Bhagawati: It is a suggestion.

Mr. Speaker: That might be looked into, whether there should be an integrated inspection.

Dr. Ranen Sen: What about the first part of the question?

Mr. Speaker: He says it is a suggestion, it will be looked into. What should I do?

श्री बड़े (खारगौन) : पहले क्वेश्चन में जो आपने जनसंघ को मौका नहीं दिया . . .

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अब आप बार बार वही बात करेंगे ?

श्री बड़े : उसके विरोध में मैं प्रश्न पूछना नहीं चाहता हूँ ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : नहीं पूछना चाहते हैं तो न पूछिये ।

Shrimati Savitri Nigam (Banda) : What surprises us most is why the people living in the neighbouring area were allowed to construct their huts. Was it done with the connivance of the mill owners or the inspectors? I would like to know whether the Government is going to fix responsibility on either of them and get compensation paid to the families of those unfortunate people who were residing there and who could not be covered by the Labour Ministry.

Shri Bhagawati : I want to make it clear that we have no connection, no responsibility, for the erection of the huts. It is a subject which the State Government deals, and they allow this factory to be built there. We only came in for issuing the licence for this underground solvent tank when we are satisfied that the conditions for licence are fulfilled and the petroleum rules are observed.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam : What question I put and what answer!

Shri Priya Gupta : He has said a wrong thing. Why is he avoiding? It is a question of underground or overground.

Shri P. K. Deo (Kalahandi) : The Chief Inspector of Explosives stays at Nagpur and these explosions took place under the very nose of the Chief Inspector, and today, after the third day, no report has been available to ascertain the actual cause of the explosion. May I know if the Government is going into the question as to who is responsible for this explosion, and of providing deterrent punishment so that there is no recurrence of such a kind of mishap?

Shri Bhagawati : The question of punishment will rise only when the commission gives its report, and in the Maharashtra Assembly the Minister has said that the report is to be given within three months.

Shri P. K. Deo : I am referring to the preliminary report of the Chief

Inspector of Explosives who stays at Nagpur so close to Amravati.

श्री श्रीकार लाल बेरबा (कोटा) : श्रीमान् जी, जो आपने हमारे दल के प्रति अन्यायपूर्ण व्यवहार किया है उसके विरोध में मैं कोई प्रश्न नहीं पूछना चाहता हूँ।

श्री बज बिहारी मेहरोत्रा (बिल्हौर) : यह जो विस्फोट हुआ है

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैंने आपको बुलाया, आप खड़े नहीं हुए . . (व्यवधान) . . . मैंने देखा नहीं। अच्छा मैं बुला लूंगा।

Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur) : The science of explosives is fast growing. Is it not a fact that the knowledge of the Chief Inspector of Explosives and all those persons working in that department is out of date, and therefore all such explosions and other untoward events are happening? May I know what the Government is going to do so that these persons come to know the science of explosives up to date?

Shri Bhagawati : It is an insinuation. These officials have requisite qualifications and experience.

श्री राम हरक्ष यादव (प्राजमगढ़) : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या मौजूदा हालत में सरकार के पास आंकड़े हैं कि मृत आदमियों में से कितने मिल मजदूर हैं और कितने जनरल पब्लिक के आदमी हैं ?

Shri Bhagawati : That figure I do not have.

श्री बज बिहारी मेहरोत्रा : इस विस्फोट में जो लोग मरे हैं उनमें से कुछ तो मजदूर हैं और कुछ ऐसे लोग हैं जो नागरिक थे, ऑपेडियों में रहते थे। तो उनको कम्पेन्सेट कराने के लिए सरकार क्या इन्तजाम कर रही है जो मजदूर नहीं हैं ?

Shri Bhagawati: As I have already stated, we are not competent to say anything about compensation. It is for the State Government to do it.

12.50 hrs.

RE. EXPLOSIONS IN RAILWAY-
TRAINS AT LUMDING AND DIPHU
—contd.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Hem Barua wanted to seek a clarification. I cannot call Dr. Singhvi. He is not a signatory.

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati): I just wanted to have a clarification from the hon. Minister regarding the statement made by the hon. Minister of Railways yesterday. Although the self-styled Home Minister of the so-called Naga Federal Government has said in the Chinese and Pakistani fashion that the allegation that there is involvement of Naga hostiles in the series of incidents in Assam are "baseless and unfounded", may I know from our Home Minister one thing? Do not the papers recovered from this self-styled Home Minister of the Naga Federal Government as also from some of his valued comrades at Jorhat on the 7th March, 1966 contain names of two persons who are said to have successfully committed sabotage at Furkating on the 17th February, 1966 and, if so, may I know why, instead of arresting these persons whose names are available with Government and whose arrests would have led to further clue to the unfortunate incidents at Lumding and Diphu, the Government are fighting shy to arrest them? Is it because of the fact that a certain member of the so-called Nagaland peace mission has intervened and asked the Union Government not to insist on arresting these persons, for, this might complicate the talks that our Government are at present having with the Naga underground leaders at Delhi? In that context, may I know how long do the Government propose to give political status to criminals?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Nanda): The answer is not going to be as complicated as the question was, because I can give the information in very simple terms. There were documents, with the persons who were apprehended and who were occupying that jeep, which have been found to contain incriminating evidence: that is, some explosions which occurred—at least one explosion is traceable to certain persons; not the persons who were in that jeep but certain other persons....

Shri Hem Barua: Certain other persons: I know that.

Shri Nanda: Efforts are being made to trace them and arrest them. (*Interruption*).

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Hem Barua: My submission is this. These papers that were recovered from the self-styled Home Minister of Nagaland and some of his other comrades at Jorhat on the 7th March, contained names of two persons who are said to have successfully committed that sabotage at Furkating on the 17th February, 1966. The Government of India has got photostat copies of the document with them, and my submission is this. Instead of arresting those people, those people whose names are available with Government, the Government have not so far decided to arrest those people. Why, I want to know.

Shri Nanda: It is not a question of decision; we are trying to do that. We are trying to get at them. (*Interruption*).

Shri Hem Barua: Are you satisfied with the reply, Sir?

Mr. Speaker: He has said that they are trying to arrest those persons.

Shri Hem Barua: Their names are available with Government from the 7th March, 1966. Today is 28th April, 1966.