

for the regular incumbent to come in?

MR. SPEAKER: That is already given in detail in the statement.

DR. K. L. RAO: They have called the candidates for interview and they are expected any time, now, unfortunately, the UPSC has taken such a long time. As I said, they have taken nearly a year for the first batch to be selected and they may take some-time for the second batch. Therefore; as soon as the persons are selected, then they will join. There is no other time limit for the people taken on *ad hoc* basis.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rajdeo Singh—absent.

Shri Onkar Lal Berwa—absent.

Explosion of Coal Dust Bunker of Barauni Thermal Power Station

*684 SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA:

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPAN:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coal dust bunker of the Barauni Thermal Power Station exploded on March 12, 1973; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the number of casualties as a result thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA). (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b). One of the 50 MW sets at Barauni had to be shut down on 12th March, 1973 due to a leakage in one of the superheater tubes.

After about an hour and half a fire was detected in the air-preheater and the connecting ducts. This rapidly intensified, and resulted in explosion. The outbreak of fire was found to be due to the burning of the soot-deposits on the air-preheater tubes. Due to intensity of fire, portions of the hopper melted and the falling of the molten mass on the ground caused injuries to the people standing nearby.

47 persons were given first aid in the Thermal Station Hospital. 12 persons were referred to Hospital at Mokameh. Out of these, three were discharged immediately and seven the next day. The two remaining persons who were apparently standing on a higher platform, jumped to the ground and received fractures and are under treatment in the Hospital.

श्री सुखदेव प्रसाद वर्मा : अध्यक्ष महोदय, जो विवरण सभा पटल पर रखा गया है उसमें यह बताया गया है कि सुपरहीटर ट्यूब में लीकेज के कारण यह एक्सप्लोड हुआ है, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह जो विस्फोट हुआ कोयले के चूर्ण में वह असावधानी के कारण हुआ है या जो इस्ट कहा जमा था उस की देखभाल करने वाला कोई था या नहीं था यह इस विवरण से स्पष्ट नहीं होता है, इसलिए निश्चित पता नहीं चलता है कि इस विस्फोट में असावधानी बरती गई है या कैसे यह विस्फोट हुआ है ? यदि असावधानी बरती गई है तो उस के लिए किस किस की जिम्मेदारी है और उन के ऊपर क्या कार्यवाही की गई है ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO): A committee was appointed by the Bihar Government to go into this and pending the committee's findings, I do not want to say much on the subject. But, in this particular case, what

happened was that one of the super-heater tubes was leaking and, therefore, the boiler was shut down. Subsequently, after an hour and a half, the explosion took place in the air preheater, not in the super-heater tube but in the air preheater where the air is heated before it gets into the boiler. That heater got exploded and the exact reason for that is being investigated. If I say anything now, it will prejudice the inquiry. So, I will rather refrain from saying anything now.

श्री सुखदेव ब्रह्मचर्य वर्मा : जांच करने के लिए जो कमेटी बनाई गई है वह आप ने बनाई है या बिहार सरकार ने बनाई है, उस कमेटी में कौन कौन लोग हैं और वह कमेटी कब तक अपनी रिपोर्ट सरकार के पास देगी ? उस के लिए कोई समय निश्चित किया गया है या नहीं ?

DR. K. L. RAO: This committee has been appointed by the Bihar State Government and its members are a retired Chief Engineer of DVC and the present Additional Chief Engineer of DVC and a fuel expert. A committee of these three has been appointed. The Committee's report is expected in one or two months.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: I would like to know from the Minister as to what was the total financial loss. What is the total loss incurred due to this accident of March 12, 1973?

DR. K. L. RAO: Total loss is about Rs. 20 lakhs. The repair work is estimated to take about three months.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: Whether any compensation was given to the injured persons? Can you tell this information?

DR. K. L. RAO: Injured persons have not been paid compensation so

far. But they will be paid according to the Workmen's Compensation Act.

मध्य प्रदेश विधान सभा के रिक्त स्थानों के लिये विज्ञापन

* 686. डा० लक्ष्मीनारायण पांडेय : क्या बिस्मिल, न्याय और कम्पनी कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) क्या मध्य प्रदेश के यऊ तथा जरायांब जिला बिलासपुर निर्वाचन क्षेत्रों से विधान सभा के रिक्त स्थानों के लिए इस वर्ष निर्वाचन होने थे ;

(ख) क्या उक्त दोनों निर्वाचन क्षेत्रों में निर्वाचन की तारीखें भी घोषित कर दी गई थीं ; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो घोषित तारीखों को निर्वाचन न कराये जाने के क्या कारण हैं ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN): (a) Elections were scheduled to be held in early 1973 for filling the vacant seats from the 250-Mhow and 96-Jarhagaon Assembly constituencies in the Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly.

(b) Yes, Sir. A programme was sent to the Chief Electoral Officer, Madhya Pradesh, for holding these two by-elections.

(c) The Chief Electoral Officer subsequently reported to the Election Commission that acute scarcity conditions caused by severe drought prevailed in a major portion of the State, that these constituencies were badly affected by scarcity, and that the entire administrative machinery of Government was deployed on relief measures and so it was neither possible nor desirable to hold the by-elections on the scheduled dates.