

were promoted as UDCs, It has been decided to promote 1,000 LDCs as UDCs in the long run.

SHRI R. P. YADAV: I want to know whether the Central Provident Fund Commissioner is not implementing the scheme deliberately due to his prejudices and if so what action is being contemplated against him? Is the Minister aware that the employees are on strike?

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA: The contention of the hon. member is not correct that the Provident Fund Commissioner is not filling up the posts as per the decision. The fact is, the posts are filled fifty-fifty; i.e. 50 per cent will be by promotion based on seniority and 50 per cent by those who come out successful in the examination. On a tacit understanding, the two methods of filling up the posts will go on side by side. *(Interruptions).*

SHRI R. P. YADAV: Has it come to the notice of Government that they are on strike?

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA: It has not come to our notice.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: This was one of the demands of the employees of this organisation which has been conceded in part, not fully. Have they submitted a charter of demands and there is a countrywide agitation going on this? Have they made a request to the minister to intervene in the matter? If so, what is his reaction?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR): We have received charters of demands from various quarters and one of them is from these employees. We have partially met their demands and partially it is under the consideration of the Board of Trustees. *(Interruptions).*

**Compensation to Victims of Dhuri
Mine disaster in Bihar in 1965**

*251. **SHRI S. M. BANERJEE:** Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether family members of 268 workers who died in Dhuri Mine Disaster, Bihar

in 1965 have not yet been paid compensation, and

(b) if so, the reasons why no action was taken to get compensation for the family members either by the State Government or by the Union Labour Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR): (a) Yes.

(b) The enforcement of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, rests with the State Government. No action was possible on the part of the State Government as the compensation proceedings pending before the Labour Court, Patna had been stayed by the Patna High Court till the disposal of the civil revision cases preferred before it by the management. These cases have since been disposed of by the High Court and the compensation proceedings have been resumed in the Labour Court at Patna. The date for the next hearing is 28th August, 1972.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: In 1965 in Bihar, 268 workers died in the Dhuri Mines owned by the Raja of Ramgarh. We are putting this question in 1972 and we are told that no compensation has been paid to their families. May I know whether the Government of India are in contact with the State Government and whether they will see that at least the members of their families, if they are alive, should be paid this compensation?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR: I must admit that it is a sad commentary on the functioning of the judiciary when offences of this nature are brought to the courts, the Labour Court, the Patna High court and all these courts, I do not know under what influence, because so many people died in 1965 and yet no compensation has been paid. *(Interruptions).* I am stating the facts. *(Interruptions).*

SHRI DINESH SINGH: How can you cast aspersion on the High Court? It is very unfair.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: It has taken more than seven years and still they have not been paid compensation. You should be ashamed of such courts.

SHRI PILOO MODY: Government could have paid compensation *suo motu*. Why did they not do it?

MR. SPEAKER: It would be much better if Shri Khadilkar leaves aside all comments and is concise in his answers. He can easily say that it is pending for a long time.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR: Under the Workmen's Compensation Act, the implementation rests with the States. Certain advances were made from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund and other funds. They were very meagre because it was such a big disaster.

MR. SPEAKER: May I request him to give brief concise replies instead of long replies because longer replies lead to complication?

SHRI A. K. SEN: It could not have gone to the court unless the Government resisted the claim for compensation.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR: Now a stage has been reached where perhaps the case will be finalised soon.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry, the question hour is now over.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Sir, I thought you would make an observation about it. It is a scandalous thing. Eleven years have passed.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has already made it.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: The Minister has said that the case has reached a stage where it would be finalised. What is the stage now?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: This is another glaring instance which shows the class character of the government.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: In view of the delay in arriving at a decision by the High Court and in view also of the fact that no compensation has been paid so far, would the government make some *ex gratia* payment?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR: This is a suggestion.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

Death of Shri Charu Mazumdar in Police Custody in West Bengal

S. N. Q. 2. **SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE:** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the country-wide apprehension over the recent death in police custody in West Bengal of Shri Charu Mazumdar, chairman of the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist);

(b) whether medical and other relevant reports regarding the death of this all-India political personality have been adequately examined; and

(c) whether Government are in a position to allay all apprehensions in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) and (c). According to the information furnished by the State Government so far, Shri Charu Mazumdar was arrested by the Calcutta police in the early hours of 16th July, at Calcutta, on being taken to the Calcutta police headquarters he was examined, among others, by an eminent heart specialist. An ECG was arranged and all possible medical care was made available. On being remanded to police custody, he continued to be under constant medical attention and treatment as advised by the heart specialist. Family members of Shri Mazumdar were also allowed to see him when he was in police custody. Shri Mazumdar's condition, however, suddenly deteriorated towards the afternoon of 27th July. He was again examined by the heart specialist and on his advice was admitted at 19.30 hours on 27th July, to the S S K. M. Hospital. Despite all medical assistance, Shri Mazumdar expired at about 4.50 hours on 28th July. A four-man panel of physicians, including the heart specialist under whose