

view that the laboratory is to be situated in a central area because minerals and forests are found in Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Bihar? Is he in a position to tell us now whether the laboratory will be situated in an area which is in close proximity to Bihar, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh?

PROF. SHER SINGH: This suggestion will be examined. As I said, this will not be just like other laboratories. Here the suggestion is that there should be experimental stations for various types of researches. And it would not be as if the laboratory will be located only at one place. It means that experimental stations will be set up at different places for the type of work that is necessary for that area.

SHRI S. S. DAS: He has not clarified the position whether Hindi version is correct or English version is correct.

श्री. शेर सिंह : उसमें वन सम्पदा और खनिज मन्त्र तो आ गए हैं वैसे थोड़ी सी गलती रह गई है।

श्री रावबन्नी : माननीय मंत्री जी ने स्वीकार किया है कि मध्य प्रदेश सरकार ने प्रयोगशालाओं के स्थापित करने के प्रस्ताव भेजे हैं। मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ—क्या उन प्रस्तावों में मध्य प्रदेश सरकार ने स्थावनों का भी उल्लेख किया है कि वे कौन से स्थानों पर खोले जाने चाहिये? क्या उन पर मंत्री जी ने कोई विचार किया है?

श्री० शेर सिंह : मैंने पहले निवेदन किया है कि इस पर कमेटी बैठी हुई है जो विचार कर रही है। वे एक्सपेरिमेंटल स्टेशन्स होंगे, जिन के बारे में सब बीबी को ध्यान में रख कर फैसला किया जायगा और राज्य सरकार की भी सलाह ले ली जायगी।

Arrest of Satyagrahis in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

*624. **SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of "Satyagrahis" including women and children were arrested in February, 1979 in Andaman Islands;

(b) if so, the dates and number of such arrests and the reasons for such arrests;

(c) whether a few old ladies while under jail custody at Port Blair were kept in the open compound from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. without food and water and on demand of food for children in arms, police atrocities caused few ladies hospitalisation and three of them lost two fingers each which were amputated; and

(d) if so, what are the details and what action Government contemplate to take against the authorities concerned and whether Government paid any compensation to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

In the course of an agitation, a number of persons squatted on public roads in Port Blair obstructing traffic between the 19th and 21st February. 122, 128 and 75 persons respectively were arrested on these 3 days. Of these 128 were women with 14 children. Women and children were arrested only by women constables. Immediately after arrest, they were produced before the Sub-Divisional Magistrate. While the Court was holding its proceedings, the arrested persons were provided with drinking water. The Court was held in the corridors of the old Cellular Jail building and no one was made to remain in the open. After the persons were removed to jail, they were offered food according to the jail procedure. When some of the persons were being taken to the special jail, where they were to be kept in custody, the truck carrying them met with an accident. As a result of the accident, three women sustained injuries in their hands. The injured persons were immediately rushed to the hospital and it is a matter of deep regret that two of the injured persons had to undergo amputation. One woman lost two of her fingers and another one finger. The injuries were, however, not caused by any police action. No compensation has been paid to the injured persons.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:
 Sir, the reply given by the hon. Minister is misleading. It is a misleading statement because I have got here the photographs of the old ladies. The injuries were due to police atrocities inside the Cellular Jail, Port Blair. So, they had to amputate two fingers, each of these old ladies. Here, the Minister has stated in his statement that the Sub-Divisional Officer held the court inside the Cellular Jail. Even very recently the hon. Minister was present there and the Prime Minister was also present when he went there for dedication of the Cellular Jail as a national memorial, and it is quite impossible for such a large number of people to sit inside the corridor of the jail and hear the case. So, naturally they were kept inside the open space under the sun and the ladies with their children in arms were not provided with drinking water, but the Home Minister said that they were provided with water. And they were not given any food during the day time, and violating all norms of the jail the ladies, the satyagrahis, were subjected to atrocities. Again he has said that the injuries were not due to atrocities, but they were due to a van accident. Sir, I want to put a categorical question to the Minister whether any case was registered when the van met with an accident and if that case was registered, when it was registered. This is my categorical question.

SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL:
 Sir, very recently the hon. Member met me in regard to this and I assured him and I have also passed an order that it should be inquired into by the Chief Commissioner.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Mr. Speaker, it is not a question between the Member and the Minister. He should answer to the House as to what he has done.

(Interruptions).

SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL:

The answer is there before the House and you are listening. What is the use of telling like this?

(Interruptions).

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:
 Sir, what he refers to is in connection with the 90-point charter of demands which was given to the Prime Minister. So far as the incident happened during the course of agitation at that time is concerned, that was not at all discussed with him and the thing is that I asked for a categorical reply whether, if that van met with an accident it requires under the law that a case should be registered. My question is whether that was done or not.

MR. SPEAKER: Whether any case has been registered? If so, when?

SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL:
 I want notice.

MR. SPEAKER: He wants notice for that.

(Interruptions).

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:
 It is my right, Sir. As a Member I have got the right to know.
(Interruptions).

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Mr. Speaker, can you allow this Minister to state like this? *(Interruptions).* He does not know whether any accident happened, and he has come to this House....

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:
 I want a categorical reply on whether a case was registered or not.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI H. M. PATEL): May I just reply? Sir, in this statement it is made very clear. The statement says that when some of the persons were being taken to the special jail where they were to be kept in cus-

today, the truck carrying them met with an accident. As a result of the accident, three women sustained injuries in their hands. Now, the hon. Member said that this is not correct. Following that he asked a question whether a complaint was filed or not.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: I asked a specific question that if that van met with an accident, is it not the normal law of the country to register a case. That is the point.

MR. SPEAKER: That is what he is answering.

(Interruptions).

SHRI H. M. PATEL: As I understand, what he asked was: was this done or not? To that, because the hon. Minister does not have that information, he said, 'I will have notice.'

MR. SPEAKER: Second supplementary.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: This information has to be obtained from the Chief Commissioner and he replied, 'This is the report which was given.'

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: I am not satisfied with his reply. But, even then, at your instance, I would like to put the second supplementary. That is, those old ladies—I have placed the photo on the Table of the House—have lost their fingers and they were amputated due to Police atrocities. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether they will be given compensation for that.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: Injuries took place. It is not that the truck met with the accident. This is how it is described in the information that we have received:

The vehicle while passing by the side of the Jail factory razed the wall as a result of which three female under-trials sustained inju-

ries on their fingers as they were holding the upper edge of the truck. The injured people were immediately rushed to the Pant Hospital which is situated closeby and were given the necessary medical treatment.

As a result of these injuries, the ring finger and the little finger of the left hand of Smt. Phoolmala Biswas and the little finger of the left-hand of Smt. Nayantara Biswas had to be amputated.".....
(Interruptions)

So, in this case there is no question of somebody automatically registering a complaint before the Police. It was an accident. *(Interruptions)* Nevertheless, he has said that since he put this question, we will obtain further information.

MR. SPEAKER: Question Hour is over.

MR. SPEAKER: Short Notice Question.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Short Notice Question No. 2

Sir, I have to make one submission. I have written to you with copies sent to the Ministers of Railways....

MR. SPEAKER: They are here.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Where is the Railway Minister?

I have written two letters—one to the Minister of Railways....

MR. SPEAKER: The difficulty is: how many letters you write on one day?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Have you seen the reply?

MR. SPEAKER: The reply will now come.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: The reply says:

"Close and constant liaison is being maintained with the Ministry of Energy, the coal producers and the Railways...."

Where is the Railway Minister?....
(Interruptions). The super Minister of Railways is here.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, the Minister of Steel and Mines.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: He is in charge of catering only.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: Not catering, but at the receiving end.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

Production in integrated steel plants may stop within a few days

S.N.Q. 2, SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether as reported by PTI and as published by the Statesman, New Delhi, dated 22nd March, 1979, production in all the integrated steel plants may stop within the next few days if immediate steps are not taken to replenish their stocks of coking coal; and

(b) if so, what are the facts thereof and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK):

(a) and (b). The normal stock of coking coal in all the integrated steel plants for continuous and satisfactory production should be maintained at the level of 5 lakh tonnes. As against this, the coking coal stocks in the integrated steel plants have been running at precariously low levels for the last several months, leading to considerable loss in pro-

duction. The stock position of coking coal in all the integrated steel plants, which on 1-8-79 stood at 151,400 tonnes i.e., equivalent to 3 days consumption requirement, declined to a level of 1,13,000 tonnes on 20-3-79. In some steel plants such as RSP, TISCO and IISCO, the stocks were less than 1 to 1½ days' requirement.

Close and constant liaison is being maintained with the Ministry of Energy, the coal producers and the Railways so as to secure maximum supplies of good quality coking coal to the steel plants. The matter is being continuously reviewed at the Ministerial level.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Sir, in view of the fact that although in the Third Plan, the target set was 100 million tonnes of coal and although thirteen years have passed, it has remained unfulfilled, leave alone the Fourth and Fifth Plans.

Similarly, steel production target set in the Second Plan is not realised after a decade. In the middle of March this year, as the Minister admitted it, the coking coal stock is likely to be 1,30,000 tonnes in TISCO, IISCO and other public sectors. It is meagre and just enough for 1½ days for both TISCO and IISCO. Both for coal and steel at times, there is a glut as was admitted by him on the floor of the House and, at times there is acute scarcity. This requires a thorough probing by a Judge. This is unconnected with this Ministry. The estimated decline in steel production in public sector in 1977-78 is one million tonnes. Oven pushing in steel plant needs 43,000 tonnes of coal daily consistent with the shortfall in supply. The requirement from April—October, 1978 is 7.452 million tonnes but the supply made is 6.324 million tonnes—a shortfall of 15.1 per cent.

Sir, we regret to note that India used to supply coal for consumption abroad. Now we have taken to importation of coal from abroad for