

of the Government now and a decision will have to be taken

INDIAN SCHOOL OF MINES, DHANBAD

*449. SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad was suddenly closed in October, 1963 as a result of an accident of a Rikshaw with a State Government Bus in which two students of the School were involved?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI M. C. CHAGLA): No, Sir.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA: May I know whether the institution was not closed before it was scheduled to be closed?

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: I will give you the facts. The accident involved two students and one unfortunately succumbed to his injuries. The school continued to function as usual according to the scheduled programme. The academic session of the school continued upto 10th October, 1963 and the institution was closed on the 25th October for the Durga Puja holidays as per schedule. All that happened was that, the examinations were postponed at the request of the students and the Director agreed to the postponement of the examinations.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA: May I know why the students requested to get the examinations postponed?

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: Well, I do not know whether their minds were agitated by this unfortunate incident. They made the request and the request was granted by the Head of School and the examinations were postponed from the 14th October to 5th November.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA: May I know whether it was a fact that the injured students were not properly attended to in the hospital?

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: That is not true. As a matter of fact we maintain a Resident Medical Officer for the school who resides within the campus. The school has necessary arrangements for medical treatment. It has six beds and a dispensary provided with one compounder, two male nurses and also nursing orderly and other Class IV staff. In cases where the Resident Medical Officer considers it necessary to hospitalise the students, they are normally hospitalised in the Sadar Hospital, Dhanbad.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA: Were these students sent to the hospital for treatment or were they treated in the colliery hospital itself?

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: Both the students were removed to the Central Hospital of the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Organisation, Dhanbad, and were under the treatment of competent staff of the hospital.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: Has the institution taken any step to help the family of the students who succumbed by way of getting damages from those who had been responsible for this accident?

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: I am not aware if the parents have taken up this matter. The ordinary law is there. If the driver of the truck was liable the parents can sue him in a court of law. I do not know where the school comes into this at all.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: Can't the institution help the parents? It was a very pitiable accident.

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: I entirely agree it was most unfortunate, most pitiable and our sympathies go out to the parents of the boy but I do not know whether the parents approached the school authorities for any advice.

*450. [The questioner (Shri B. K. Gaikwad) was absent. For answer, vide col. 3182 infra]

*451. [Postponed to the 19th December, 1963.]