

sions in suitable cases—and gratuity at least in others—is given except when the men have been there altogether in temporary service and have been there only for a few months. In this case, I believe compensation has been given.

**SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI:** I want to know the amount that the Government has paid as compensation to the families of the persons killed.

**SHRI GOVIND BALLABH PANT:** I am not able to mention the amount. As the hon. Member might have seen from my earlier answer, I do not have very definite information before me.

**SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:** Does the hon. Minister think that reasonable compensation has been given?

**SHRI GOVIND BALLABH PANT:** I believe it has been. Opinions may differ as to what is reasonable but I believe that compensation has been given. If it has not been, I shall look into the matter.

**SHORTAGE OF SUPPLY OF RAILWAY  
WAGONS FOR TRANSPORTATION OF  
COAL TO JUTE MILLS ETC.**

**\*370 SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK:** Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND FUEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the contention of the Indian Jute Mills Association that due to the shortage of supply of railway wagons for transport of coal and coke, the jute mills and other industrial concerns in and around Calcutta are confronted with a serious situation threatening dearth of coal supply and the consequent shortfall in industrial production; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to improve the wagon supply position?

**THE MINISTER OF REVENUE AND CIVIL EXPENDITURE (DR. B. GOPALA REDDI):** (a) and (b) No such

contention from the Indian Jute Mills Association has been brought to the notice of Government, though a few individual jute mills have complained of shortage of coal. Immediate steps were invariably taken by the Coal Controller to step up movement of coal to such units. The principal steps taken were as follows:

- (1) In addition to normal allotments special allotments of wagons varying from 50% to 100% of the quota were made.
- (2) Movement by road was permitted liberally.
- (3) Jute mills with low stocks were permitted to draw coal from other mills with sufficient stocks.

**SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK:** May I know whether the supply of wagons for transporting coal is the responsibility of the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel or that of the Ministry of Railways?

**DR. B. GOPALA REDDI:** The actual movement is done by the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel but the allotment is made by the Railway Board.

**SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK:** May I know as to whether the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel has made adequate arrangements with the Ministry of Railways to see that a regular supply of wagons is made available for transporting coal for being supplied to these mills and other concerns?

**DR. B. GOPALA REDDI:** All possible steps are being taken by the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel and the Railway Ministry is also alive to the difficulties of the various industries round about Calcutta.

**SHRI B. K. P. SINHA:** May I know whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report which appeared in some important newspapers two or three days back that even the Railways have run short of coal and

that there is a prospect of some Rail-way services being discontinued? If so, what steps are Government taking to improve matters in that respect?

DR. B. GOPALA REDDI: I have not seen that statement and so I have no comments to offer.

\*371. [Postponed to the 10th March, 1960.]

#### MISSING 'VAMPIRE' PLANE

\*372. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a 'Vampire' plane which took off from Delhi on the 25th August, 1958, at 11.40 A.M. has not since returned; and

(b) if so, whether any clue has so far been found about the missing plane?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) No, Sir.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: What was the destination of the plane, Sir?

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH: The plane went for a training exercise in the north-east sector of Delhi.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know whether it was seen anywhere after its taking off?

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH: When it did not return, searches were ordered. There has been a report from one Swami Purvanand that he had seen this plane flying over the Nanda Devi mountain. Although it was inconceivable that the plane could have been seen at that height by the naked eye, enquiries were made from the Chinese authorities as to whether there was any information

about the missing aircraft having crashed in Tibet and the reply was that there was no force-landing or crash in that area

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know as to whether there is any information about the wireless equipment being in working order before its taking off?

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH: The aircraft was equipped with the usual radio facilities and the last message received was a request for bearing. Afterwards there was no contact with the plane.

DR. A. N. BOSE: Who was piloting the plane?

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH: Flying Officer Balwant Singh

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Was there any other person in the plane?

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH: There was the Navigator, Flying Officer A. K. Ghosh

#### INSPECTION TEAM ON AMMUNITION

\*373. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the answer given to Starred Question No. 560 in the Rajya Sabha on the 21st December, 1959 and state:

(a) the names of the members of the Inspection Team at Zurich at the time of the acceptance of the ammunition in question during the second half of 1953; and

(b) whether any enquiries have been held earlier also regarding the quality of this ammunition and its utility for the purpose it was meant?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH): (a) Ex. Wing Commander O. P. Bhargwadaj, Shri P. S. Nagasundaram, and Shri O. P. Sharma.

(b) Yes Sir; there were two Committees of Inquiry.