

lective Peace Pact from the Government of the People's Republic of China; and

(b) if so, whether it has been considered by Government; and

(c) what decision has been taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANIL K. CHANDA): (a), (b) and (c). No, Sir.

SHRI N. D. M. PRASADARAO: Is it not a fact that Premier Chou En-lai has in his report on the political situation made this proposal and was it not brought to the notice of the Government of India?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I do not know to which report the hon. Member refers. It is a question for Mr. Chou En-lai and his Government. They did not communicate, either directly or indirectly, to the Government of India or any Government any such proposal. We are in constant touch with Our Ambassadors. The hon. Member is referring probably to some kind of a speech or something made in which some vague suggestion was put forward for people to consider. There is no such proposal anywhere.

SHRI N. D. M. PRASADARAO: Is it not a fact that India itself has made such a proposal?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: No, Sir. India certainly has not made any such proposal. •

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: The Prime Minister once spoke of a Summit Conference for Asia. I would like to know what he had in mind when he was thinking of a conference of that sort.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: No, no. I am quite sure I never used that very unhappy, unfortunate word 'Summit'. These new introductions into the realm of journalism, I hope, would not be brought on to the floor of this House or the other House. I am quite certain, what I said was something quite the reverse of it. I said that, some time or other, in future, Asian I

countries would have to meet and consider various matters. But I added that the time for it had not come.

FINANCIAL AID TO THE FAMILIES OF THE SATYAGRAHIS KILLED IN GOA

•362. SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether any proposal to give financial aid to the families of persons who sacrificed their lives in the Goa Satyagraha is under consideration of Government?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANIL K. CHANDA): No such proposal is under consideration of Government. But it is understood that steps have been taken by non-official agencies to give adequate assistance wherever necessary.

SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY: May I know why the Government does not propose to take this matter into consideration?

SHRI ANIL K. CHANDA: There is an unofficial organization already raising funds for the purpose.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Apart from that, the Government normally does not do this kind of thing. There is some very special difficulty involved in individual cases. The Prime Minister's Fund might be used, not a Governmental fund. The Government as such does not normally come into such matters.

SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY: Is it not a fact that in some of the States, political sufferers are being helped by the Government either through pensions or through lump-sum grants or some such help? In this case, why should not the Government of India take up the matter when satyagrahis from all over the country participated in this struggle?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: What the State Governments do is their concern. But the Government of India has not done any such thing directly

and as far as I can see, that policy is the correct one. I do not think of that policy as an absolutely firm policy, but on the whole, it seems to be a correct policy. Otherwise, difficulties arise. In the present case of the Goan satyagrahis, there is no difficulty about helping them. It is a question of how to help them.

SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY: May I know if the Government of India is against rewarding the political sufferers?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: No, I did not say that.

SHRI JASPAT ROY KAPOOR: May I know what is the total number of persons killed so far according to the latest information of the Government?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I think it is over 17 or 18. At the moment I am not quite sure. But it is not more than 18. I think it is probably 17.

MISMANAGEMENT IN TALCHER COAL-FIELDS, LTD.

*363. SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY: Will the Minister for PRODUCTION be pleased to state whether Government have received any reports and complaints regarding mismanagement in the working of Talcher Coalfields Limited?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR PRODUCTION (SHRI SATISH CHANDRA): No report has been received regarding mismanagement in the working of the Talcher Coalfields Ltd., which is a private colliery. Certain complaints made by the workers were, however, received in 1953. A statement showing the main complaints made and the action taken is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Action taken on complaints made by workers of Talcher Coalfields, Ltd.

1. Staff numbering about 1158 who were retrenched in November 1952 have not been entirely re-instated; i about 300 still remain to be absorbed. 1

This was investigated by the Coal Commissioner. The position is that there was a general strike by the workers in November 1952, when even the essential workers were withdrawn resulting in many of the existing working places getting drowned. It was not, therefore, possible for the management to re-employ all the men when work was resumed. It is reported that only 120 workers still remain to be re-employed. This was brought to the notice of the Labour Ministry who have referred the matter to the Chief Labour Commissioner. The present position about this matter is, however, not known.

2. *Insanitary housing arrangements and lack of proper amenities for the workers.*

According to the Coal Commissioner, the position regarding housing is unsatisfactory while the sanitation in the labour area is reported to be satisfactory. The number of taps is reported to be insufficient but the management has promised to provide more. The Labour Ministry are reported to have a scheme under consideration for the construction of one lakh houses in coal mines directly from the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund which is expected to cover the Talcher Coalfields, Ltd. As regards water supply, a scheme is also reported to be under preparation of the Orissa Government.

3. *Non-payment of bonus and food-grain concessions to workers.*

This was also investigated by the Coal Commissioner who has reported that the bulk of the payments has already been made but that the failure of the management to pay the balance is due to the fact that the colliery is running at a loss. The management is however reported to have undertaken to pay the same as and when the financial position of the colliery improves.

SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY: Has not the Government received any complaint in the month of July 1955?