

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: The designs have been finalised and tenders for the construction have been called for and we hope to begin the work before the year is over.

RESERVATION OF WAITING ROOMS FOR AIR CONDITIONED TRAFFIC

*G50. SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether at some of the railway stations waiting rooms are reserved exclusively for passengers travelling by air conditioned coaches;

(b) if so, the stations at which such arrangement exists; and

(c) what are the reasons for such reservation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) No.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: May I inform the hon. Minister

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: No, no, put a question.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: I am asking a question, but I remember that only last week I saw a room which was specifically and exclusively reserved for air conditioned coach passengers, and it appeared there on a board. Is the hon. Deputy Minister aware of that?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I am not aware of that. I shall go into the matter. It is news to me.

'651. [For answer, vide cols. 4694-4695 infra.]

MINING INSPECTORS

*652. DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors of Mines employed by the Mines Department.

(b) the number of circles in which the mining areas are divided; and

(c) the total number of mines which the two Inspectors posted at Chhindwara have under their jurisdiction?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI): (a) Inspectors—9.

Assistant Inspectors—3.

However, six more posts of Assistant Inspectors are at present vacant. In addition, there are also 6 Junior Inspectors in position as against a total of 13 sanctioned posts.

(b) Nine.

(c) 461.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: With reference to part (c) of the question, may I know how many of the mines in Circle III are coal mines?

SHRI ABID ALI: Circle III is the Chhindwara Circle, but with regard to the break-up of the figure, I want notice.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: May I know what is the area covered by Circle III and how much time does it take for an inspector to reach the remotest inspection point in the circle from his headquarter at Chhindwara?

SHRI ABID ALI: As I have already said, Circle III is situated in the Chhindwara District and for further information, I would require notice.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: How many times does an inspector inspect a mine in a year? Or rather in how many years does he inspect one mine?

SHRI ABID ALI: At present the position is not a very happy one. But we have decided to increase the number of inspectors and junior inspectors and we hope to see that every mine is inspected at least twice a year, henceforth.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Is it a fact that some mines are not inspected even once in three or four years whereas the Chief inspector of Mines has remarked that they should be inspected three or four times in a year?

SHRI ABID ALI: As I have already said, at present the position is not a happy one, but we hope it will be quite satisfactory soon.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Does the hon. Deputy Minister think that the increase in the inspectorate that he is contemplating would meet the requirements as laid down by the Chief Inspector of Mines inasmuch as there are nearly 3,300 mines and of these mines 800 or so are coal?

SHRI KHANDUBHAI DESAI: Sir, the question of making the inspection of mines adequate has been examined and tentative proposals have been drawn up. There should be at least two inspections per year of non-coal mines and third-class coal mines. There should be four inspections per year of first-class and second-class coal mines other than gassy mines, and there should be six inspections of gassy mines. In order to give effect to this project, the Mining Department is being strengthened and that scheme is under consideration. Before long we will be able to announce that the inspecting staff has been adequately strengthened.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Are there any written instructions laid down for the inspection of mines and do these inspections include the inspection of the safety requirements? Do they form part of the regulations?

SHRI ABID ALI: I think those regulations are already there.

STRIKE BY THE LABOURERS IN THE LANJIBERNA QUARRY IN ORISSA

•625. SHRI S. MAHANTY: Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state: 25 RSD-2.

(a) whether the labourers employed in the Lanjiberna Quarry in the Sundergarh District went on a strike during the month of February last;

(b) if so, what were the demands of the labourers; and

(c) how the strike was settled and the disputes resolved?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI): (a) The workers were on strike from the 11th to 26th January 1955. No strike took place during February 1955.

(b) The demands related mainly to reinstatement of 50 workers rendered unemployed as a result of the termination of the contract of a contractor by the management in December 1954, increase in wages, dearness allowance and bonus.

(c) At the intervention of the Conciliation Officer (Central), Asansol, an agreement was reached and the workers called off the strike on the 26th January 1955. The management agreed:

(i) to absorb about 50 workers employed by the ex-contractor and to make some *ex gratia* payment to them in respect of the period they remained out of employment;

(ii) to enter into negotiation with the union regarding other demands; and

(iii) not to victimise workers for participation in the strike and to consider some payment for the strike period which would be treated as leave without pay.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Sir, it appears that the services of one contractor were terminated as a result of which 50 workers had been thrown out of employment. May I know, Sir, if there are any more contractors in the Lanjiberna Quarry?

SHRI ABID ALI: Sir, I require notice.