

sorbed. Similarly, on the *ex-E. I. Railway* those who had 12 months' service on 1st January 1950 were also absorbed.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Even if some of them have been absorbed, these 120 people are still there who, according to your reply, have been in employment from before 1st January 1950 on the Eastern Railway. Even taking it on the average that each of them has put in five years' service now it means that their services are satisfactory. Why is it then that Government is now thinking in terms of retrenching them?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: The hon. Member is not right in his assumptions. I do not know about their average service because I do not have the figures in that regard. As a matter of fact, they were definitely advised that they will have to go before the Service Commission, but some of them were absorbed even without their having to appear before the Service Commission.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Then why cannot these people also be absorbed without their having to go through the Service Commission?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: In the case of those who were absorbed, it is not as if they were asked not to appear before the Commission. Many of them had to appear before the Commission.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: The hon. Deputy Minister has just stated that some of them have been absorbed without their having to appear before the Service Commission. If that is so, on the criterion on which they have been absorbed these people also should be absorbed.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: But I have specified the dates, that is, the years of service put in.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Has it come to the notice of the Government that clerks who had passed the S.S.L. C. were recruited as Hamals and appointed to such other menial posts? What has happened to them?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: In fact, the hon. Member has given a representation on the matter. We are considering it.

ACCIDENT IN THE DAMRA COLLIERY

*469. **SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR:** Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any accident occurred in the Damra Colliery near Asansol on the 14th March 1954;

(b) if so, what is the number of employees—

(i) killed; and

(ii) injured

as a result of the accident; and

(c) what are the causes which led to this accident?

THE MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI V. V. GIRI): (a) Yes.

(b) 10 persons were killed. None was injured.

(c) A close inspection of the place where the bodies of the deceased were found revealed a *bidi* on the base plate of a pump. A match box and a packet of *bidis* were also recovered from the clothing of the deceased. It is, therefore, presumed that one or more of the deceased had been smoking and had thereby ignited inflammable gas.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is it not very likely, Sir, that these matches were left inside the clothing of the victims afterwards?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No insinuations.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is it not a fact that the electric fans, which are used to drive away the poisonous gas accumulating in the pit, were out of order on the day on which this accident occurred?

SHRI V. V. GIRI: I do not think the hon. Member is correct.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Then I think my hon. friend will do better to collect some more information about this. Anyway, is my hon. friend aware that the workers on that very day refused to go down the pit and they brought to the notice of the management that such state of affairs was existing?

SHRI V. V. GIRI: That information is not before me. I am prepared to go into the matter.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is it not a fact that this complaint that the electric fans sometimes go out of order was brought to the notice of the Mining Inspector by the workers earlier but no action was taken?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has said that he would go into the matter.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: When this question has been raised and when 10 persons have died, is the hon. Minister only to be satisfied with some Report and base his replies only on that?

SHRI V. V. GIRI: If the hon. Member asks me for anything, I can give quite a lot of information about it. When Mr. Mazumdar raised a specific question, I said I would go into the matter. If the hon. Member wants the story of the whole matter, I am prepared to give it.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: The whole point is that the management has been negligent in spite of repeated complaints of the workers that the fans were not working. The workers are forced to go down the pit and the accident takes place and the reason given by the officials is that some match boxes and bidis were found on the bodies of the victims and, therefore, it is due to the negligence of the workers. But the position is that it is due to the negligence of the officers who are responsible and we want that serious action should be taken against them.

SHRI V. V. GIRI: So far as the latter part of the question is concerned, as promised, I shall go into the matter.

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL: Is there in such cases a coroner's inquest, and if not, will the hon. Minister see to it that when such accidents take place, a coroner's inquest is held?

SHRI V. V. GIRI: A coroner's inquest is not necessary, for the inspectors of Mines are there to go into the whole matter and they send their reports.

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL: Is it not a fact that the report obviously has been unsatisfactory and it has compelled my hon. friend to go into the matter again? Instead of that, would it not be advisable to have a statutory procedure of this nature so that such fatal accidents could be enquired into judicially?

SHRI V. V. GIRI: The official report of the Chief Inspector of Mines has not yet come in and I shall have to look into that.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: May I know, Sir, if this matter was enquired into by the Government Chief Inspector of Mines?

SHRI V. V. GIRI: Yes.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: Were any allegations of the kind that are now made here made before him?

SHRI V. V. GIRI: Of course.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is my hon. friend aware that eight workers of the colliery have been victimised after this accident, because they refused to go down the pit without satisfying themselves that it was quite safe for them to go there?

SHRI V. V. GIRI: Notice, Sir.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: The hon. Minister stated that all these allegations were made before the Inspector of Mines. What were his findings on those allegations?

SHRI V. V. GIRI: I have stated already that the official report has not yet come.

MANUFACTURE OF LOCOMOTIVES AT CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS

***470. DR. R. P. DUBE:** Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over 90 per cent. of the components of the 100th locomotive manufactured at Chittaranjan Locomotive Works were made at Chittaranjan itself;

(b) the value of the remaining 10 per cent. of the components which were imported or purchased by the Works for use in that locomotive; and

(c) the total cost of manufacture of that locomotive?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a), (b), and (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Sir, the hon. Minister has been giving figures on the floor of the House about the percentage of component parts of locomotives that are being built in this country and also about the cost involved, and what is the sense in saying now that they are being collected?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: We are trying to collect the latest information.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: What was the earlier information?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That which has already been given to you.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Will the hon. Minister also give us information as to the exact nature of the components which are being manufactured in Chittaranjan?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: That also will be given, Sir.

DR. R. P. DUBE: It was stated in this House that about 90 per cent. of the components were being made here and when that statement was made, it must have been made with some knowledge of facts.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That was at that stage. At the present stage he is collecting the information.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Sir, the latest must be more than 90 per cent.; it cannot be less.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He will collect the information and give you.

SHRI T. V. KAMALASWAMY: The question refers to a particular locomotive, that is the 100th locomotive.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I have not got that information.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: The Railway Board must have had this information on their files. Anyhow, the notice must have been received by them at least ten days before.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Whenever we are able to collect the information within the time we certainly do so, but when it is not possible to get the information, we have to ask for time and I would request Members to hold their patience.

RENT FROM RAILWAY EMPLOYEES FOR RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION

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

(a) the rate at which the rent for furnished and unfurnished residential