

by the connecting Broad and Metre Gauge North Bengal Express trains. The feasibility of further improvement is under consideration.

\*24. [Postponed to 3rd September 1953.]

ROOF COLLAPSE IN THE KOTHAGUDEM  
COALMINES

\*25. SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the roof of the incline in the Kothagudem coal-mines collapsed on the 26th July 1953, killing some labourers and injuring many others; and

(b) whether any enquiry has been conducted into the cause of the accident; if so, (i) what is the result of the enquiry; (ii) who has been held responsible for the accident; and (iii) what steps have been recommended to prevent such accidents in future?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI): (a) Presumably the reference is to the accident which took place on the 25th July. If so, three coal loaders were killed and two injured.

(b) Yes.

(i) The enquiry into the accident revealed that the collapse of roof occurred due to hidden slits in the roof strata. The roof had been well supported and the supervisory staff had done their duties properly.

(ii) No blame can be attached to any person.

(iii) No specific recommendations have been made because the accident occurred as the result of circumstances over which the persons working underground did not have any control.

STATEMENT OF THE INDIAN PILOTS' GUILD  
ON THE REPORT OF THE ENQUIRY CON-  
DUCTED INTO THE AIR INDIA DAKOTA  
CRASH AT PALAM

\*26. SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the statement issued by the Indian Pilots' Guild on the report of the enquiry conducted into the Air India Dakota crash at Palam Airport; and

(b) if so, what further action Government propose to take in the matter in view of that statement?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The points raised in the statement issued by the Guild are under examination.

CLASS I AND II OFFICERS OF THE RAILWAYS

\*27. SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total number of class I and class II officers in each department on each zone of the Indian Railways on the 1st April 1950 and 30th June 1953; and

(b) how many of these class I officers were officers promoted from class II in each department on these dates?

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

PRICE OF RICE SUPPLIED TO THE COCHIN  
PORT WORKERS

\*28. SHRI M. MANJURAN: Will the Minister for TRANSPORT be pleased to state whether the price of rice supplied to the workers of Cochin Port has recently been increased; if so why?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): Yes. The issue price of rice has been raised from three annas ten pies to five annas nine pies per Cochin Nazhi, as a result of an order of the Government of Travancore-Cochin raising their issue rate.

OVERTIME ALLOWANCE OF THE COCHIN PORT WORKERS

\*29. SHRI M. MANJURAN: Will the Minister for TRANSPORT be pleased to state whether rates of the overtime allowance paid to all sections of workmen at the Cochin Port are uniform; if not, why not?

The DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): No. Employees governed by the Factories Act and the Minimum Wages Act are eligible for overtime allowance at double the ordinary rate and other workmen are allowed overtime allowance at  $1\frac{1}{2}$  times the ordinary rate.

1. [Postponed to 3rd September 1953.]

ALLOWANCES OF THE POSTAL EMPLOYEES

2. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the postal employees all over India receive dearness allowance at the same rate; and

(b) if not, what is the basis on which dearness allowance and other facilities are provided for at different places?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHANUR): (a) The scale of dearness allowance is uniform all over India.

(b) Does not arise.

FAMILY PLANNING

3. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred in starting a family planning experiment centre at Ramanagaram in Mysore State;

(b) the work so far done by that centre;

(c) the period for which this work is to be continued at that centre;

(d) whether similar centres are likely to be started in other parts of the State; and

(e) how many centres are altogether functioning in India?

THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH (RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR): (a) Rs. 45,000 up to June 1953.

(b) A statement containing the information required is placed on the Table of the House.

(c) Up to the latter part of 1954.

(d) The question of starting more centres will be decided on receipt of the recommendations of the Family Planning Research and Programmes Committee.

(e) Three.

STATEMENT

*Work done at Ramanagaram Family Planning Centre*

Fourteen villages with a total population of about 8,000 have been selected for the experiment. In September and October 1952, an attitude survey was made of all couples with wives under 40 years of age to find those who would be willing to learn a method of family planning. Of the 941 couples interviewed among 712 or 70 per cent. one or both partners expressed willingness to learn a method. Of those, 208 wives could be