

SHRI K. S. HEGDE : Is it a fact that the All-India Trade Union Congress is more a political organisation than a labour union ?

SHRI V. V. GIRI : It is for them to say.

TRAIN SERVICE BETWEEN KAVALI AND MADRAS

*80. SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA : Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for the discontinuance of the train service between Kaveli and Madras on the Southern Railway ;

(b) whether Government have received any representations from public bodies or individuals for the resumption of this service ; and

(c) whether Government propose to re-start this service ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN) : (a) Prior to 1st April 1948, there was a passenger train each way between Madras and Kaveli. From 1st April 1948, simultaneously with the extension of the Ongole—Cocanada passenger train to and from Bitragunta, the passenger train running between Madras and Kaveli was scheduled to run between Madras and Bitragunta only. The introduction of the daily Janata Express train from 6th November 1951 between Madras and Calcutta necessitated the cancellation of some of the sectional trains on the north-east line of the Southern Railway including the passenger train which was running between Madras and Bitragunta. This was found necessary, as due to paucity of stock and power, it was not possible to introduce the Janata Express without the cancellation of the trains.

(b) Yes.

(c) No.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Has the Ministry received a number of

representations about the inconvenience being caused by the discontinuance of this train service ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : I have already answered the question in the affirmative.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Is there any proposal under the Government to start a shuttle service between Kaveli and Gudur to meet the urgency of the passengers ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : Not at present, Sir.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : What time does the Ministry propose to take to introduce this service ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : Unless the stock position improves, we will not be able to do it. But we are examining the question.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : I am not asking for the whole train from Kaveli to Madras but from Kaveli to Gudur in which even a few carriages will do.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : We are examining the position for the whole section, Sir.

COMPENSATION FOR CASUALTIES IN THE GOLD FIELDS

*81. SHRI M. VALIULLA : Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of compensation paid by the Kolar Gold Field mining companies for the casualties caused by the accidents connected with the operations of those companies in the years 1950-51 and 1951-52 ;

(b) how much of this compensation was in the form of lump sum grants and how much of it was in the form of life pensions or grants ;

(c) the nature and the number of casualties during those two years ; and

(d) whether there are reserve funds maintained by these companies to meet the contingencies of the kind stated above ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI) : (a), (b) and (c). A statement showing the available information is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, Annexure No. 17.]

(d) Government understand that each mine has a reserve to meet the estimated liability to employees on retirement in respect of claims for service gratuity and silicosis compensation and that the resources of the mining companies are adequate to meet any other claims arising out of accidents.

SHRI M. VALIULLA : May I know the amount of reserves that are kept by each of these mining companies for giving compensation ?

SHRI ABID ALI : This information is not available now.

SHRI M. VALIULLA : May I know whether any contribution is taken from the labourers for this purpose ?

SHRI ABID ALI : No, Sir.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY : Were there any disabled persons—temporarily or permanently disabled—who were compensated, Sir ?

SHRI ABID ALI : Yes, Sir. Many. It is given in the statement placed on the Table. [See Appendix III, Annexure No. 17.]

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : May I know, Sir, what time on the average they took for paying this compensation between the accident and the actual payment ?

SHRI ABID ALI : The information is not available. If notice is given, certainly we will obtain the information and supply it.

DR. D. H. VARIAVA : Are any steps taken to prevent silicosis in these mines and may I know if any research is being done to prevent it by proper gas masks ?

SHRI ABID ALI : There are hospitals, Sir, and doctors are there to advise but I have no information about any particular steps taken in this direction.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Are there any cases where compensation is not paid ?

SHRI ABID ALI : We have no information.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Have the Government, Sir, received any complaints regarding the delay in payment of compensation ?

SHRI ABID ALI : Not to our knowledge.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY : Has the Government not been apprised of the resolution of the Labour Union that there have been cases related to these accidents in which compensation has not been paid ?

SHRI ABID ALI : No, Sir, at least so far as my information is concerned.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Will the Minister get the information as to the number of cases in which compensation has not been paid ?

SHRI ABID ALI : I have already replied, Sir, that this information is not available and if notice is given, certainly we shall obtain the information.

SHRI V. V. GIRI : We shall certainly obtain it.

SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA : Has the Court of Inquiry submitted its report after enquiring into the accidents there ?

SHRI ABID ALI : Yes, Sir.

DR. D. H. VARIAVA : Will the Minister just pass on the information that silicosis could be prevented by proper gas masks and will this information be passed on to the medical units working in the mines ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Suggestion for action. Next question.

COACH-BUILDING FACTORIES

*82. SHRI M. VALIULLA : Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have cancelled an earlier arrangement entered into with a Swiss firm for the establishment of a coach-building factory at Perambur ; and

(b) whether a new arrangement is being entered into on a partnership basis, with three Swiss companies jointly to start the same factory ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN) : (a) No. Only the question of revision of the agreement is under consideration.

(b) Negotiations are still in progress for revision of the agreement as indicated already. The terms and conditions for technical and financial participation by the Swiss companies have still to be finalized.

SHRI M. VALIULLA : Is it not a fact that the Government are thinking of cancelling the agreement already entered into ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : The hon. Member is trying to put it in a different way. We have said that we are in the process of revising the agreement.

SHRI M. VALIULLA : What are the reasons for revision ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : The agreement has not worked very well so far and so we are revising.

SHRI K. S. HEGDE : May I know how much amount was spent under the existing agreement ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : We have fulfilled our part of the agreement and we have paid some amounts as per the terms of the agreement. I am prepared to place a copy of the agreement on the Table. So far we have paid Rs. 107 lakhs towards coaches that have been ordered.

SHRI K. S. HEGDE : Has any return been obtained for the payment ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : We have so far obtained 26 coaches.

SHRI K. S. HEGDE : Are there any other payments monthly made to this company for the intended work they are to do ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : The agreement does not stipulate monthly payments but there is provision for annual payment.

SHRI K. S. HEGDE : How much has been paid ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : We have paid the amounts stipulated for the first two years.

SHRI K. S. HEGDE : Will the Minister kindly let us know the amounts ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : Under the agreement we have made three payments, viz. :

| | Rs. |
|--------|----------|
| First | 3,00,000 |
| Second | 3,00,000 |
| Third | 2,80,000 |

SHRI K. S. HEGDE : Have we received any return for these ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : Their experts have come here and assisted us in preparing designs and other things.

SHRI K. S. HEGDE : Will the hon. Minister not be able to say whether we have suffered any loss in this ?