

(d) whether there are reserve funds maintained by these companies to moot 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, I certainly we shall obtain the information.

SHRI V. V. GIRI : We shall J 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 Peram-bur ; 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 ?