

approximately Rs. 20,000/- or over in each case.

(b) A statement showing the causes of each of these accidents is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, Annexure No. 72.]

(c) 50.

SHRI M. VALIULLA : What is the compensation paid ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : Claims Commissioners are appointed and they go into each case and pay compensation.

SHRI M. VALIULLA : Is it a fact that out of these nine accidents four were due to failure of staff ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : It is given in the statement.

SHRI M. VALIULLA : What are the actions taken against the staff ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : I don't know exactly the action taken. In the usual course action is taken.

SHRI M. VALIULLA : Is there any reserve kept by the Railway Department to meet compensation expenses ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : No such reserve is kept.

LAW TO CONTROL PRACTICE OF OPTICIANS

*248. SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA : Will the Minister for HEALTH be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any law on the control of the profession of opticians ; and

(b) whether Government have received any proposal from the opticians in the country with regard to the laying down of a standard for their training and if so, what action has been taken by Government in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR HEALTH (SHRIMATI M. CHANDRASEKHAR) : (a) No,

(b) Presumably the hon. Member is referring to a Resolution passed at the third General meeting of the All India Opticians' Association held at Bombay on the 22nd April, 1949 which urged the Government of India to establish institutions at various suitable centres for imparting optical training on modern lines. The Government of India carefully considered this Resolution and came to the conclusion that having regard to the absence in the country of the necessary facilities and the difficulty, in present circumstances, of providing them, it was not practicable to give effect to the Resolution.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA : May I know the number of qualified ophthalmic surgeons in the country ?

SHRIMATI M. CHANDRASEKHAR : I cannot give the information just now.

If a separate question is put, I will give the information.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA : As far as statistics go, is it a fact that every 4 out of 10 Indians are weak-sighted ?

SHRIMATI M. CHANDRASEKHAR : It may be so.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA : Do Government propose to undertake any law on this point to control the profession of opticians ?

SHRIMATI M. CHANDRASEKHAR : They would like to take steps but at present it is not possible to put into effect any law.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA : Do other countries have laws on the control of opticians ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Two ladies are carrying on conversation and the Members are not hearing anything. Please address the Chairman.

COACH BUILDING FACTORY AT JHARSUGUDA IN ORISSA

*249. SHRI S. MAHANTY : Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government some time back finalised a scheme for the setting

up of a Coach building factory at Jharsuguda in Orissa ;

(b) whether the Government of Orissa promised to arrange for land free of all costs and electricity energy produced at Hirakud at a cheaper cost for the purpose ; and

(c) whether the scheme has been abandoned ; if so, why ?

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

(b) and (c). Do not arise in view of answer to (a).

SHRI S. MAHANTY : May I know whether preliminary land survey was being conducted for locating this factory in Orissa and whether this survey has been completed ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : I could not quite catch the question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Whether the preliminary land survey for setting up this factory has been completed ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : No, Sir. There is no question of setting up this factory at Jharsuguda.

SHRI S. MAHANTY : Sir, I have to make a submission.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No submissions here ; only questions and answers.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE : The question is if the preliminary survey was conducted at all.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : Perhaps it might have been done by the Orissa Government, Sir.

SHRI S. MAHANTY : Sir, the question of Orissa Government does not arise here. The question has been put to the Railway Minister and the Railways are under the control of the Centre and not under the State's control.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : At times it involves the States also and they have to supply us the information.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE : Do States undertake investigations on the initiative of the Central Government or on their own ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : The whole question was gone into fully and the decision was taken to locate the factory at Perambur in Madras, and the construction of the factory has been going on there.

RAILWAY LINE FROM DEESA TO RANIWARA IN JODHPUR

*250. SHRI H. C. MATHUR : Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether Government had given the Maharaja of Jodhpur to understand at the time of the accession of his state to the Indian Union that a railway line will be constructed from Deesa to Raniwara, and if so, what steps have been taken by the Government of India in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN) : Yes. Arrangements have been made to construct the railway link between the Deesa-Kandla line and Raniwara as soon as the development of Kandla Port has reached a stage when there is traffic offering to and from Kandla over this new link.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR : Is it not a fact that a definite undertaking was given that this project would be given the first priority ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : It will be given priority, Sir.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR : Was any collateral letter passed to the ex-Ruler of Jodhpur ? Did not the Government of India pass a collateral letter to the ex-Ruler ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : The Railway Ministry is not aware of such a thing. This Ministry was told by the State Ministry that they had informed the Jodhpur Maharaja—the then government, that they will give priority to this project.