

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