

materials which are required for the plastic industry are not easily available here. I do not think at any time we can make this industry completely self-sufficient so far as the raw materials are concerned. But the investigation is going on all the time.

ROCK-BURSTS IN KOLAR GOLD-FIELDS

*103. SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA : Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that during the last three months repeated rock-bursts have been occurring in the gold mines of Kolar Gold-Fields resulting in death and serious injury to a large number of workers and causing panic and despair among them ; and

(b) whether the Government propose to institute an enquiry into the matter and take steps to set things right ?

THE MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI V. V. GIRI) : (a) During the past three months, there have been two major rock-bursts in the Champion Reef Mine, Kolar Gold-Field, the first occurring on the 19th April 1952 and involving death of twenty persons and minor injuries to nine persons, and the second occurring on the 30th June 1952 and involving death of ten persons and serious injuries to two persons. As these rock-bursts occurred in the same mine and resulted in a heavy loss of life, they have caused a certain amount of panic among workers.

(b) It has been decided to appoint a Court of Inquiry to go into the causes of and circumstances attending these accidents. In the light of its findings suitable action will be taken.

SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA : May I know, Sir, when the Court of Inquiry will start its work ?

SHRI V. V. GIRI : Very soon.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY : Has the gold-mines company made any report in this regard to the Government ?

SHRI V. V. GIRI : The Inspector made a report in this matter.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR : May I know, Sir, the number of deaths which have occurred due to these rock-bursts ?

SHRI V. V. GIRI : I have given the number.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : May I know what machinery have the Government got there to supervise the safety measures that are to be taken in the mine ?

SHRI V. V. GIRI : There is a supervisory staff headed by the Inspector.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Have they been checking periodically and if so, how often ?

SHRI V. V. GIRI : I take it that they are being checked periodically.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Have they made a more intensive check after the first rock-burst which entailed so many lives ?

SHRI V. V. GIRI : That is exactly the reason why we have ordered for a Court of Inquiry. The circumstances will be investigated and a report will be placed on the Table of the House.

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH : Is any compensation being paid to the families of the workers who died there ?

SHRI V. V. GIRI : Of course.

SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA : May I know, Sir, whether the Court of Inquiry will be official or non-official ?

SHRI V. V. GIRI : It will be both official and non-official. There will be two assessors, one representing the employers and the other representing the workers.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY : Has any Government officer visited the mine ?

SHRI V. V. GIRI : Yes.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE : May I know whether there are any terms of reference for the Committee ?

SHRI V. V. GIRI : They are general terms of reference that an exhaustive enquiry is to be made in the matter.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE : May I know whether any provisional enquiry is being made as to how and what is the exact cause of these accidents ?

SHRI V. V. GIRI : I have stated already that the Court of Inquiry will go into the whole matter and my hon. friend can also go there and give evidence.

INDIAN FIRMS IN PAKISTAN

*104. SHRI J. R. KAPOOR : Will the Minister for EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news published in the 'Hindustan Times' of 15th July 1952, under the heading "Indian firms pushed out of business" alleging that four big industrial undertakings, namely :

- (1) Dalmia Jain Cement Factory at Karachi ;
- (2) Dacca Electric Supply Co. ;
- (3) Electric Supply and Engineering Works of Chittagong ; and
- (4) Jute bailing presses at Naryan-gunj and Chandpur ;

owned by Indian Nationals in Pakistan have been "squeezed out" of business by the Pakistan jute traders ;

(b) whether Government has made any enquiry in the matter with a view to ascertaining facts ; and

(c) whether Government have taken up the matter with the Pakistan Government ; if so, with what result ?

THE MINISTER FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (DR. B. V. KESKAR) : (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). Enquiries are being made to ascertain the facts.

श्री जे० आर० कपूर : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि हमारे ढाका-स्थित जो हाई कमिश्नर हैं उन्होंने इस बारे में कोई सूचना केन्द्रीय सरकार को भेजी है ?

†[SHRI J. R. KAPOOR : Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether our High Commissioner at Dacca has sent any information in this connection to the Central Government ?]

DR. B. V. KESKAR : I said that we are at present ascertaining the facts and the facts will be ascertained through the Deputy High Commissioner. It will take a little time because one or two firms are in West Pakistan and one or two in East Pakistan.

श्री जे० आर० कपूर : मेरा प्रश्न यह था कि केन्द्रीय सरकार ने ढाका-स्थित हाई कमिश्नर से इस बारे में पूछताछ की है या नहीं, या उन्होंने स्वतः ही इस बारे में कोई रिपोर्ट केन्द्रीय सरकार के पास भेजी है या नहीं ।

†[SHRI J. R. KAPOOR : My question was whether the Government have made any enquiries from the High Commissioner at Dacca in this connection, or whether he has, of his own accord, sent any report in this connection to the Central Government.]

DR. B. V. KESKAR : Sir, we have had reports regarding the four companies about which the report has been published in the paper and to which the hon. Member made a reference. I will not be able to say off hand whether our Deputy High Commissioner made a report. But our