

cerning radioactivity in plants and plant products.

Shrimati Ita Paleboudhuri: Since the experiment in England was based on the ash derived from plants that were taken before 1947, have we, a sort of, made out some area from where we will take plants and see if the radioactivity is greater in those areas so that the people may be warned not to eat those things or to see that the cattle may be saved?

Mr. Speaker: That is a suggestion as to how they are to make experiments.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): We are not aware, so far as I know, of any particular area in India which is more affected by radioactivity, and I am not aware also of any ashes being brought from other countries. The plants in the country are being examined from that point of view. I believe that a beginning has been made with samples of grass from various parts of the country. Thus far the radioactivity on these samples is insignificant.

Pakistan Armed Police attack on Indian Police near Fazilka

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Shri D. C. Sharma:
 Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
 Shri Vajpayee:
 Shri U. L. Patil:
 Shri Kumaran:
 Shri N. B. Munisamy:
 Sardar Iqbal Singh:
 Shri Ram Krishan:
 Shri Ajit Singh Sarkhadi:
 Shri Naval Prabhakar:
 Shri M. C. Jain:
 *562. { Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
 Shri Khushwaqt Rai: E
 Shri S. M. Banerjee:
 Pandit D. N. Tiwary:
 Shri Damani:
 Shri Ghosal:
 Shri Sarju Pandey:
 Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
 Shri Daljit Singh:
 Shri Shivaramjappa:
 Shri Kotha Ramani:
 Shri Bhatwanath Roy:
 Shri Hem Raj:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Pakistani armed police made an attack on the Indo-Pakistan border at the Amruka irrigation canal in Punjab;

(b) whether it is also a fact that as a result of this attack seven Indian policemen were killed and several others were injured;

(c) if so, whether any protest was made to Pakistan and any compensation claimed and with what result;

(d) whether a joint enquiry has also been ordered into this incident; and

(e) if so, the result of enquiry?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Emphatic protests have been lodged with the Pakistan Government, asking for full compensation for the loss of lives. The matter is still under correspondence with the Pakistan Government.

(d) and (e). Yes, Sir. A joint enquiry was held by the Commissioner, Jullundur Division, representing India, and Commissioner, Multan and Bahawalpur Divisions, representing Pakistan. The two Commissioners, however, failed to arrive at an agreed conclusion. Our Commissioner came to the conclusion that this cold-blooded action was the result of a calculated plan by the Pakistani border police.

Mr. Speaker: We will go to the next question.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I put one supplementary?

Mr. Speaker: I thought that there won't be any supplementaries.

Shri D. C. Sharma: No supplementaries, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: All right. We will go to the next question.

Villiers Colliery, Talcher

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*570. { Shri Bose:
Shri Panigrahi:

Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether the management of the Villiers Colliery in Talcher in Orissa has refused to allow the workers to work in the colliery from the 29th May, 1958;

(b) for how long the current wages of workers have remained unpaid in the said colliery; and

(c) the action taken by Government in the matter?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour and Employment and Planning (Shri L. N. Mishra):
(a) Yes.

(b) Weekly paid staff from week ending 27-9-57 to 29-11-57 and from 21-2-58 onwards.

Monthly paid staff from February 1958.

(c) Four applications have been filed with the appropriate authority under section 15 of the Payment of Wages Act.

Shri Bose: May I know whether a regular lock-out was declared before the workers were disallowed to work in the mines?

Shri L. N. Mishra: No, Sir; no lock-out was declared before the mines were closed.

Shri Panigrahi: Since for the last three months the employer has closed the mines, may I know what steps Government has taken to see that the mines open and the workers are re-employed?

Shri L. N. Mishra: The mines are closed. I have already stated that applications are pending under the Payment of Wages Act. In some cases

judgments have also been delivered and orders have been passed for making payments, but the management has taken recourse to further appeal to High Courts to get the orders cancelled. There are other cases pending, and the court has already ordered for confiscation of properties in some cases and efforts are being made to get the payment made.

Shri Panigrahi: My question was, what steps Government has taken to see that the mines open.

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): We are having discussions with the Government of Orissa and the representatives of the three organisations of the workers to examine the possibility of reopening the mines, and the negotiations have made substantial progress.

Shri Mahanty: In view of the fact that the National Coal Development Corporation is now prospecting virgin coalfields, may we know what steps the Government of India have taken for reopening the mines which were functioning till the other day?

Shri Abid Ali: I have already replied that question.

Shri Mahanty: May I ask an assurance, Sir, as to how long it will take . . .

Mr. Speaker: We do not ask for assurances here.

Shri Bose: May I know the quality of the coal and the quantity remaining still in that particular mine?

Shri Abid Ali: The quality is good, and the quantity is substantial.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Some months ago, the Orissa State Government requested the Central Government to take over the mines and work them under the National Coal Development Corporation. At what stage is that proposal? May I know whether the State Government's request was rejected?

Shri Abid Ali: That proposal was not considered to be practicable.