

accidents, loss of life and approximate cost of damage to Railway property sustained therein are also given in the statement laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-5599/66].

(d) Payment of compensation to the victims involved in the accidents is being progressed. An amount of Rs. 1,900/- has been paid as ex-gratia.

Blind Children

1030. Shri Liladhar Kotoki: Will the Minister of Social Welfare be pleased to state:

(a) the number of blind children of School going age in the country; and

(b) the percentage of such children who have been provided education?

The Deputy Minister in the Department of Social Welfare (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) No dependable data is available. According to rough estimates, however, the number of blind children of school-going age may be between 4 and 5 lakhs;

(b) About one per cent of such children are estimated to be in schools.

Singarani Collieries

1031. Shrimati Lakshmi Kanthamma: Will the Minister of Mines and Metals be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have given all assistance promised to the Singarani Collieries by the end of the Third Five Year Plan; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Mines and Metals (Shri S. K. Dey): (a) and (b). No promise as such was given about the quantum of assistance to the Singarani Collieries by the end of the Third

Five-Year Plan. A sum of Rs. 17.73 crores is expected to be provided to the Company by the end of the Third Plan, including a sum of Rs. 13.68 crores in the Third Plan, based on the actual requirements of the Company.

N.C.D.C. and Neyveli Lignite Project

1032. Shrimati Lakshmi Kanthamma: Will the Minister of Mines and Metals be pleased to state the assistance given to the National Coal Development Corporation and Neyveli Lignite Project by the end of Third Plan?

The Minister of Mines and Metals (Shri S. K. Dey): Funds provided to the National Coal Development Corporation and the Neyveli Lignite Corporation by the end of the Third Plan are expected to be as under:—

- (1) National Coal Development Corporation.—Rs. 127.63 crores.
- (2) Neyveli Lignite Corporation,—Rs. 143.73 crores.

Mineral Deposits in North Arcot District

1033. Shri Balakrishnan: Will the Minister of Mines and Metals be pleased to state:

(a) whether further investigation is being made to assess the available deposits of zinc and other mineral ores in Mamandur area North Arcot District; and

(b) if so, the estimate of mineral deposits available in the area?

The Minister of Mines and Metals (Shri S. K. Dey): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.