

status which confers security of tenure as well as pensionary benefits analogous to those available to permanent employees.

Allotment of Cement and Steel to Collieries

467. **Shri Matin:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) the quota of cement and steel allotted during the second quarter of the year to Government collieries; and

(b) the quota of cement and steel allotted during the same period to private collieries?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) and (b). The required information for the quarter April to June, 1957 is given below:—

	(a) Govt. collieries Tons	(b) Private collieries Tons
Cement	7890	16110
Steel	6673.50	5600

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

HYDERABAD STATE BANK (COMPENSATION) RULES

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of section 41 of the State Bank of Hyderabad Act, 1956, a copy of the Hyderabad State Bank Compensation) Rules, 1956, published in the Notification No. S.R.O. 2274, dated the 14th October, 1956. [Placed in Library. See No. S-152/57.]

FURTHER INFORMATION ON SUPPLEMENTARIES TO STARRED QUESTION No. 134

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the statement containing further information on the Supplementaries to Starred Question No. 134 answered on the 18th July, 1957.

Statement

While replying to Supplementaries to the Starred Question No. 134, on the 18th July, 1957, regarding the amount allocated to the Punjab under the Low Income Group Housing Scheme, I had *inter alia* stated that in the Second Plan, there was no target so far as the number of houses was concerned. Although I had also mentioned that Rs. 40 crores had been allotted and the maximum help that could be given in regard to any particular house was Rs. 8,000/- from which it should normally be possible to calculate the number of houses, which could be built out of Rs. 40 crores, I would like to add that a target of 68,000 houses had actually been laid under the 2nd Five Year Plan but this target would, of necessity, be regarded as notional rather than physical due to various changing factors, such as, pre and post-budget rise in the cost of building materials, revision of ceiling costs in the case of Local Bodies and wide flexibility in the permissible costs of construction.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE FIFTH REPORT

Sardar Hukam Singh (Bhatinda): Sir, I beg to present the Fifth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

EXPLOSION OF A RAILWAY WAGON AT ASANSOL RAILWAY STATION ON 31-7-57

Shri Tangamani (Madurai): Sir, under Rule 197, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Railways to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The explosion of a Railway wagon at Asansol Railway Station on the 31st July, 1957."

The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram): Sir, a covered goods wagon loaded with over 100 packages of fireworks, booked from stations in Madras State to a number of stations

[Shri Jagjivan Ram]

via Asansol, was received at Asansol from Khargpur. Early in the morning on 31-7-1957, it was placed on the siding serving the transshipment shed so that the contents may be sorted and despatched to the different destinations. The wagon was opened at about 1100 hours and very shortly thereafter its contents exploded.

The explosion was of severe intensity. It was felt not only all over the town of Asansol, but over a radius of several miles. Besides the wagon containing the fireworks, three wagons by its side were damaged, and the roof of the transshipment shed was blown off. The track was also severely damaged and thrown out of alignment.

As a result of the explosion, 10 died on the spot and 4 more have since died in the hospital. One of those who died is a tranship clerk, another a member of the Railway Protection Force and three labourers working under the labour contractor. The remaining dead bodies have not yet been finally identified, but it is believed that two of them are of tranship clerks and the remaining of labourers employed by the contractor.

Two persons who were seriously injured were taken to the Railway Hospital where they are progressing.

Some persons also received minor injuries, but their exact number is not known.

An enquiry into the accident by a Committee of Railway Officers commenced yesterday (18/8/57). The Inspector of Explosives, Calcutta, the Additional Superintendent of Police, Asansol, and a representative of the local District Magistrate were also present during the enquiry.

The Indian Explosives Act, the Indian Railways Act and the Red Tariff issued by the Indian Railway Conference Association prescribe a number of regulations in regard to the packing, marking, handling and transport of explosives and dangerous

goods. Some of these are for the senders to comply with and the others for the railway staff to implement.

At this stage, with the enquiry into the accident still in progress, it is not possible to say what was the cause of the explosion.

POINT OF INFORMATION

Shri Viswanatha Reddy (Rajampet): May I make a submission, Sir? Some days ago I gave notice of a call attention notice with regard to the Pataskar Report on the subject of the Madras-Andhra border. Since then certain reports which purport to be substantial portions of the Pataskar Report have appeared in the Madras Press. I wish to know from the Home Minister whether he is prepared to make a statement on the subject.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member has given a call attention notice regarding Pataskar's Report on the ground that some portions have appeared in the Madras Press. I have passed it on, I think, to the hon. Home Minister for consideration and information.

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): I don't think I have received it.

Mr. Speaker: Let me see where it is. I shall try to send it on immediately. I will look into it and see.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS*—contd. MINISTRY OF LAW

Mr. Speaker: As suggested by me on the 31st July, 1957, Members who want to speak on the Demands for Grants in respect of various Ministries should send me chits intimating their names, Division Numbers, State, Constituency and Party to which they belong and also whether they have already taken part in any other debate or debates on the General Budget. Even in case where parties and groups give names, they may use the same forms.

*Moved with the recommendation of the President