

The Leader - July 3

WHILE we are much relieved to learn that the Andamans prisoners have abandoned the hunger-strike, we would like to know what the Government have decided in regard to the demand of Indian public opinion for an inquiry into the circumstances which led to the death of three of the prisoners. It will be remembered that the M. L. A.'s who waited in a deputation on the Home Member in the course of their memorandum, referring to the death of Mohan Krishna said that 'the circumstances of his death were highly suspicious', that one day's fast was no fast at all, and that he took food without resistance. 'The events,' they added, 'led to the belief that health conditions were not good at all or the treatment given was unduly harsh'. So also in regard to the case of Mahabir Singh who died after only five days' fast, it may be mentioned that while he was an under-trial prisoner in the Lahore jail he hunger-struck for sixty days. If, as we are asked to believe, there is nothing wrong with the treatment meted out to prisoners in the cellular jails there is something wrong with the climate. In that case the prisoners should be repatriated to India without further delay. Only an impartial and searching inquiry can disclose whether it is the climate which is to blame or the jail treatment, or both or what.

H.M. wishes to have figures of the incidence of pneumonia in the Andamans and the Indian jails compared. Will you please look into this matter. If the above statements do not contain the information required, we must consult P. H. Commissioner.

W. G. S. 5/5/33,

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M. G.

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