

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, nothing more. This question has already taken 20 minutes.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: But, Sir, this is a very important issue...(Interruptions)....

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is better you ask for a debate. The BAC will see to it. Now, the next question.

कोयला क्षेत्र में रोजगार

*303. श्री ओंकार सिंह लखावत: क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) इस समय कोयला क्षेत्र में प्रत्यक्ष या अप्रत्यक्ष रूप से कितने लोगों को रोजगार मिला हुआ है;

(ख) गत तीन वर्षों में विभिन्न खान दुर्घटनाओं में कुल कितने कोयला श्रमिक मारे गये और ऐसी दुर्घटनाओं को रोकने हेतु क्या उपाय किए जा रहे हैं; और

(ग) कोयला क्षेत्र में श्रमिकों के कल्याण के लिए सरकार क्या कार्यवाही कर रही है?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The total number of persons employed directly is as follows:—

(i) Coal India Limited (as on 10.2.99)	- 5,92,747
(ii) Singareni Collieries Company Limited	- 1,09,706
(iii) Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited (as on 31.12.98)	- 8,394
(iv) Others	- 1,43,221
TOTAL	8,540,68

It is not possible to assess accurately the number of persons employed indirectly.

(b) The number of coal labourers killed in various mine accidents occurred during the last three years in mines under Coal India Limited, Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) and Neyveli Lignite Corporation

Limited(NLC) is given below:—

Year	No of labourers killed		
	CIL	SCCL	NLC
1996	110	29	-
1997	112	35	5
1998	99	36	2

The following safety measures are being implemented in the coal mines of CIL, SCCL and NLC:—

1. Conducting periodic safety audits of mines and monitoring the implementation of the recommendations thereof;
2. Monitoring the safety status of mines through monthly safety status reports of each and every mine;
3. Introduction of a system of safety clearance of the production districts before commencement of production;
4. Thrust on implementation of scientific method of roof support through rock mass rating based support plans by roof bolting and roof stitching systems of support;
5. Preparation of emergency organisation plans for dealing with mining disasters for every mine and conducting mock rehearsals;
6. Area level safety meetings held by General Managers with the Union representatives.
7. Periodical review safety performance of the mines carried out by Tripartite Forum viz Safety Boards at the corporate level and by the Standing Committee on Safety in Coal mines at the level of Ministry of Coal.

(c) Coal India Limited, SCCL and NLC have been paying considerable importance to the welfare of its employees. The companies take special care to improve various facilities like housing, water supply, medical care, education facilities etc., including canteen and banking facilities along-with sports and cultural activities.

In Coal India Limited a Welfare Board — a Joint Bipartite Forum of operating unions and management representatives — functions at

Coal India Ltd. headquarters and also at the subsidiary company level. All the issues relating to welfare of employees are periodically reviewed by the Welfare Board.

श्री ओंकार सिंह लुखावत: सभापति महोदय, मेरे पूरे प्रश्न का पहला भाग यह है कि गत तीन वर्षों में लगभग 428 श्रमिकों की जो कोयला खानों की दुर्घटना में मृत्यु हुई, उसके बाद कोयला उद्योग का राष्ट्रीयकरण होने के बाद कौन-कौन से अंतर्राष्ट्रीय स्तर के प्रयास किए गए? "ख" भाग मेरे प्रश्न का यह है कि जो रूस के डिजायनिंग इंस्टीट्यूट, जिब्रोसेट को कोरबा खदान के मास्टर प्लान का दाखिल दिया गया था, उसका क्या परिणाम रहा? यह मेरा नंबर एक सप्लीमेंटरी क्वेश्चन है।

SHRI DILIP RAY: Sir, mining is the second most hazardous activity of the workers. War is the most hazardous and next comes mining. I have gone to the deep mines. Most of the mine accidents take place in the underground mines which may be one one-and-a-half kilometres below the earth, and anything can happen there. Before nationalisation, a lot of mining used to take place. These private mine-owners never took any interest in the safety measures. They were only interested in profit margins. That is one of the main reasons for nationalising the coal-mining industry. Sir, in 1977, there were 233 fatalities. Now, we have brought it down to 99 fatalities; in 1988. Sir, if we compare it with international mine accidents all over the world, we are not very badly off. In the international sector, they are having very highly mechanised mines. However, in our country, labour-intensive mines is the order of the day. Sir, if you see, in Australia, the fatality rate is 0.174 for every three lakh man-shift. Japan — 0.42; U.S.A. — 0.48; while in India it is 0.26. So, Sir, we are not very badly off. But we are still taking a lot of steps to see that safety measures are implemented in the coal mines. Sir, I do not immediately have the answer on this 'Zibroset'. But, we have had a MoU with C.M.P.D.I. for doing planning. However, we have yet to get a report.

श्री ओंकार सिंह लुखावत: सभापति, महोदय, मेरे दूसरे पूरे प्रश्न के "क" भाग में मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या कोयला खदानों की सुरक्षा की अपर्याप्त व्यवस्था होने के कारण लगभग सवा सौ कोलीरीज में ढाई सौ करोड़ रुपए मूल्य का लगभग 317 लाख टन कोयला फंसा रह गया है? दूसरा "ख" भाग

प्रश्न का यह है कि क्या कोल इंडिया का बिजली घरों और राज्य विद्युत मंडलों पर लगभग 50 अरब रुपया बकाया होने के कारण और धन की कमी होने के कारण सुरक्षा उपायों के निर्माण में कोई बाधा आ रही है? सर, यह मेरा दूसरा सप्लीमेंटरी प्रश्न है।

SHRI DILIP RAY: Sir, most of our coal is blocked because of the fire in Jharia coal mines. Sir, the second supplementary is regarding dues. There are about 5000 odd crores due from different State Electricity Boards, which they owe to the coal India Ltd. We are taking steps to recover these dues. Sir, we have started the 'cash-and-carry' policy since last three months. Without payment, we are not giving any coal to any of the State Electricity Boards.

SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, will the Minister be pleased to state how many contract labourers are working in C.I.L., S.E.C.L. and N.L.C.? I would like to know whether all the workers working under the contractors have been registered under the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act. Sir, I would also like to know whether all the statutory Acts relating to contract labourers are being applied and implemented in these collieries? My third question is about the death of workers. I would like to know whether these deaths include the contract labourers also.

(c) Apart from these killings in accident how many workers are dying in the CIL, the SCCL and the NLC in occupational diseases.

SHRI DILIP RAY: Sir, use of contract labour is prohibited for raising or selling of coal, coal loading, overburden removal, earth cutting, sweeping and cleaning. There are a lot of companies in which, as per different notifications, we are not....

SHRI JIBON ROY: How many workers are employed?

SHRI DILIP RAY: I am coming to that. Just wait, please. Let me come to that.

There is exemption only for the quarry in the North-East Coal Fields and the quarry in the River Front Valley in the WCL. These are the two areas where we have allowed these. It is not possible to assess the contract labour because it is of a very transitory nature. We cannot just tell you how many workers worked at any particular time.

SHRI JIBON ROY: It is a fact that contract workers cannot be engaged in coalmines. But it is also a fact that thousands of contract workers are engaged in permanent and perennial nature of jobs, violating the law. I wish to know the number. This part (a). Part (b) of my question is: how much coal is being raised annually by contract workers? Part (c) of the question is: what procedure are you laying down to regularise those contract workers in permanent jobs in pursuance of the Contract System Regulation Act?

SHRI DILIP RAY: I can only mention that we are producing about 29 million tonnes of coal from the Coal India and the SECL together.

SHRI JIBON ROY: How much are you raising through contract labour?
...(Interruptions)

SHRI DILIP RAY: I cannot say that because I do not know that. It is not possible to answer that.

श्री संजय निरूपम: सभापति जी, मंत्री महोदय ने बताया है अपने जवाब में कि पिछले तीन सालों में कोयला खदानों में काम करते वक्त हमारे मजदूर वर्ग के भाइयों की कितनी जाने गई हैं और उनकी जान बचाने के लिए सेफ्टी मेसर्ज की बात भी मंत्री महोदय ने बताई है, लेकिन इन सेफ्टी मेसर्ज के बापजूद ऐक्सिडेंट हो रहे हैं और लोगों की जाने जा रही है। इसका मतलब है कि सेफ्टी मेसर्ज की व्यवस्था में कुछ न कुछ दोष है। इसके लिए जिम्मेदार कौन है? मृतकों की संख्या तो मंत्री जी ने दे दी लेकिन यह नहीं बताया कि इन ऐक्सिडेंट्स के लिए जिम्मेदार जो कर्मचारी या अधिकारी थे, ऐसे कितने कर्मचारियों अथवा अधिकारियों के खिलाफ कार्रवाई की गई है?

महोदय, मेरे प्रश्न का दूसरा हिस्सा है कि मंत्री जी ने वेलफेयर बोर्ड की बात बताई है कि मजदूरों या कर्मचारियों के वेलफेयर के लिए राष्ट्रीयकरण के बाद एग्जेक्टली किस तरह के मेसर्ज उन्होंने लिए हैं, यह अगर विस्तार में बताएं तो अच्छी बात होगी।

तो, सभापति, महोदय, मेरा प्रश्न दो हिस्सों में है कि, एक, ऐक्सिडेंट्स के लिए जो कर्मचारी या अधिकारी जिम्मेदार थे, उनके खिलाफ क्या कार्रवाई की गई, ऐसे कितने अधिकारी और कर्मचारी हैं तथा, दूसरा, वहाँ पर किस प्रकार के वेलफेयर मेसर्ज है? धन्यवाद।

SHRI DILIP RAY: Sir, about the accidents that take place in coalmines, if there is any fatality, it is looked after by the DGMS under the Labour Ministry. They give a report, and we take action accordingly. If anybody is injured, we take action. I don't have the exact number of person about whom we have taken action.

Regarding welfare measures, I think, the hon. Member means housing, water supply, medical facilities and all that.

Before nationalisation, we had about 1,18,000 houses for the workers. Now we have got almost 4 lakh houses.

We were providing water to 2,27,000 facilities. Now we are providing water to about 24 lakhs families.

About the medical facilities, we have really done a good job. There are 86 hospitals with almost 6,000 beds and 438 dispensaries with 1700 odd doctors working therein.

About education, we have got about 1,248 educational institutions, 15 high schools and one women's college in the Coalfields' area.

श्री प्रेम चन्द गुप्ता: सभापति महोदय, मंत्री महोदय ने अपने जवाब में कहा कि निजी कोयला खदानों का राष्ट्रीयकरण इसलिए किया गया कि प्राइवेट सेक्टर ने माईंस सेफ्टी मैजर्स को ध्यान में नहीं रखा। मंत्री महोदय, क्या आप जानते हैं कि पिछले 40 साल से धनवाद की कुछ माईंस में आग लगी हुई है और ये आग बढ़ती जा रही है। इससे करोड़ों टन कोल स्टक-अप है और ये एक खतरा है जो इस पूरे सिटी को एनगल्फ कर सकता है। जब तक कोई मेजर नेशनल कैलेमिटी नहीं हो जाएगी, तब तक क्या आप कोई ऐक्शन नहीं लेंगे? आप बोलते हैं कि प्राइवेट सेक्टर ने चूंकि सेफ्टी मैजर्स को तरफ ध्यान नहीं दिया, इसलिए हमने नेशनेलाईजेशन किया है। नेशनेलाईजेशन के बाद आपने क्या किया, इसके बारे में मंत्री जी कुछ बताएंगे?

SHRI DILIP RAY: Sir, the Jharia mines are affected by fires. We have discussed that mine in the House several times. Sir, I need a separate notice for that mine to be discussed again. But, I can tell you that one of the main reasons for that is that it is an unscientific mine and the mining there is being done by private owners. Earlier the affected area was 17 kilometres. Now, it has been reduced to nine

kilometres. We are doing our best to see that the fire is put off.

SHRI SANATAN BISI: Sir, my question is regarding safety measures. I am a Member of the Standing Committee on Labour Welfare. We visited Nagpur and found that there is no shelter facility for the mine workers. Moreover, the drinking water facility is also not there. Can the hon. Minister give an assurance that these facilities will be provided?

SHRI DILIP RAY: I will look into it.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Sir, the coal sector mining is very obsolete in India basically because we do not use the modern technology. The coal mining rule stipulates whenever coal is mined, the empty pits are to be covered or to be filled up with sand. The violation of that rule is the main reason why most of the labourers loss their lives.

Secondly, the Government does not explore the coal bed Methane trapped under the coal bed. That is the toxic gas which kills most of the labourers in the coal-fields. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister will make attempts to see that this coal bed methane is tapped with the help of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, because this is a very scarce resource in the country.

SHRI DILIP RAY: Sir, we are doing exactly the same thing. We are taking the help of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas in tapping this resource.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, this is a question of accidents and safety. It is true that the Director of Mines Safety looks after the safety arrangements, but the Ministry of Coal is the nodal Ministry. I would like to know whether the Minister is aware that there was a Committee of Members of Parliament set up two years ago by the Consultative Committee attached to the Ministry of Labour. This Committee was set up in view of declining safety measures and failure on the part of the coal authorities to apprehend the officers or officials, who had been found to be responsible for the violation. If it is true, what has been the response of the Ministry to the long overdue recommendations made by that Committee. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was the Chairman of that Committee?

SHRI DILIP RAY: Sir, I do not have the details now. I will look into it.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: What is this, Sir? This is a question of safety. Sir, my complaint is that nothing has been done.

SHRI T.N. CHATURVEDI: He has taken note of the Committee of which you were Chairman.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, the hon. Member should not indulge in such a simple type of foolery.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Don't use the word foolery.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, thousands of people are involved. Why is the question of my name? It was a Parliamentary Committee and its recommendations were made available to the Ministry and the Ministry did not take any action.

SHRI T.N. CHATURVEDI: Sir, All I said was that probably the reply has taken note of the safety measures suggested by the Committee, of which he was the Chairman. I did not say... But, he should not use this word.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have already said.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: All right. I am sorry for that. I am only saying that the Government must be aware. The recommendation is pending with them. My complaint is that not a single recommendation of that Committee has been looked into till now by the Ministry.

SHRI DILIP RAY: I assure, I will look into it personally and come back.

मध्य प्रदेश और असम में ग्रामीण विकास योजनाएं

*304. श्री गोविन्दराम भिरी: क्या ग्रामीण क्षेत्र और रोजगार मंत्री यह बताते की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) केन्द्र सरकार द्वारा मध्य प्रदेश और असम में विभिन्न ग्रामीण विकास योजनाओं के कार्यान्वयन हेतु कितना अंशदान किया जा रहा है तथा इन योजनाओं के मूल्यांकन की प्रक्रिया क्या है;

(ख) क्या राज्य सरकारों ने इन योजनाओं के कार्यान्वयन, प्रबंधन और मूल्यांकन में जन-प्रतिनिधियों की भागीदारी करने से वंचित रखा है; और