

1982. However, certain diversification programmes initiated by the management invited trouble for the company and it added a loss of about 150 crores of rupees to the company. While taking up the diversification programme, the management expected a profit of 40 crores of rupees from these diversification works. The Government did not view it seriously and allowed the present management to continue. The present CMD of the company takes his own decision without consulting anyone in the company. Even the above referred diversification programme was initiated by him and invited trouble for the company. For carrying out project diversification the BGML purchased unwanted machines and it was the main reason why the company made losses. Similarly, for the engineering diversification the company purchased seven machines, out of which 6 are of no use. The management under the present CMD purchased machines worth over rupees eight crores and what is painful to point out here is that after spending crores of rupees these machines are lying unutilised and are in a stage of dilapidation. The present management are even unable to process the 45,000 tonnes of ore extracted from the goldfield and the ore is lying unutilised after a huge amount of money was spent for its extraction. Sir, I may be permitted for two minutes only.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): Please conclude.

SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Sir, we have so far extracted gold ore up to 1,500 feet below the ground but it is considered that we can do extraction up to 3,500 feet below the ground. As far as Kolar is concerned, at present we need not think of mining at deep level since we have not touched the other parts of Kolar which are spread over 300 kilometres. So far we have concentrated mining at Kolar within a radius of 14 kilometres.

Sir, I would like to point out that BGML has got about 12,000 acres of land, out of which only 200 acres of

land has been earmarked for mining and other purposes. It has been scientifically proved that agricultural activities on this land are economically viable with water coming out while mining and also with electricity available at Kolar. This land is most suitable for sericulture. The BGML should also undertake to build houses for the retired employees, utilise this land for agricultural purposes and rehabilitate its retired employees. 6.00 P.M.

Sir, during the last visit of the hon. Prime Minister to Karnataka, he assured the public that the BGML will not be closed down. In this connection I want to know from the Hon. Prime Minister whether the Government has taken out the case of Bharat Gold Mines Limited from the purview of the Board for Industrial Finance & Reconstruction since the case of BGML has referred to BIFR very long back and whether the Government has allocated funds to BGML as demanded by it and other concerned. What are the constructive measures taken by the Government before the announcement by the hon. Prime Minister. In view of the above said facts and circumstances, I, as per the advice of the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, urge upon the Government to implement the recommendations submitted by the Parliamentary Committee.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): Shri Ram Nath Kovind.

Hunger-strike by SC/ST employees of Nationalised Banks

SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, Mr. Vice-Chairman, I beg to rise to express my concern to the plight which the bank employees belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes are facing today. Sir, all the nationalised banks have got the SCs & STs welfare associations. They formed a national federation. All these organisations had some departmental problems with regard to the harassment, victimisation and non-provision of promotional avenues and for that matter, the federation gave a due notice to the Central Government, particularly the Finance Minister as well as

[Shri Ram Nāh Kovind]

the Prime Minister. It was given about a month ago and it was also mentioned there that this is the last report and if these problems are not solved they would be constrained to go on a hunger-strike. Sir, despite the advance notice given to the concerned Minister the Central Government utterly failed. They did not respond in time and for that reason the said federation representing all the nationalised banks sat on an indefinite hunger-strike at Jantar Mantar, New Delhi from the 6th of this month. I had also the occasion to bring this matter to the notice of the Government, especially the Finance Minister and the Minister of State for Finance. I met the Finance Minister today and he promised me for action but the shocking affair is that yesterday the President of the All India SCs & STs Bank Employees Federation, Shri S. K. Patil, who was on an indefinite hunger-strike seriously fell ill and he was taken to the Ram Manohar Lohia hospital and he is still there. I have also brought this to the notice of the Finance Minister. Through you, Sir, I request and appeal to the Government to take timely action and depute some high ranking officer of the Finance Ministry to visit them and have a meaningful dialogue so as to avoid any further complications. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI (Madhya Pradesh): I associate myself with the hon. Member. I urge upon the Government to solve the problem. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI RAM RATAN RAM (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, the order of the Supreme Court dated 16.11.1992 should be modified and there should be an amendment in the Constitution because the order of the Supreme Court has restricted the reservation in promotion and after October 1997 there will be no promotion to the SCs & STs. The non-gazetted employees would be suffering a lot because they will not be getting any promotions. Kindly take note of it. I would like to request the Government to make an amendment in the Constitution and bring it in the Ninth Schedule so that it cannot be challenged in the Supreme Court.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): Now the House is adjourned till 11.00 A.M. on Monday.

The House then adjourned at six minutes past six of the clock till eleven of the clock on Monday, the 12th December, 1994.