

ther the Government has any plans to sell coal at cheaper prices? It is true that slow progress of modernisation in our coalmines is the cause not only for low production, but also for many avoidable casualties. What proportion of the mining equipment is manufactured indigenously?

WELCOME TO PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION FROM IRELAND

MR. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members, I have an announcement to make. We have with us this morning, seated in the special box, Members of a Parliamentary delegation from Ireland which is currently on a visit to our country under the distinguished leadership of his excellency Mr. Sean Treacy, Speaker of the Lower House of Irish Parliament.

On behalf of the Members of the House and on my own behalf, I take pleasure in extending a very hearty welcome to the Leader and other Members of the delegation and wish our distinguished guests a very enjoyable and fruitful stay in our country. We hope that during their stay here they would be able to see and learn more about our Parliamentary system, our country and our people and their visit to this country will further strengthen the friendly bonds that exist between us. Through them we convey our greetings and best wishes to the members of the Irish Parliament and the friendly people of Ireland.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS—

Contd.

SHRI VASANT SATHE; Sir, as far as making coal cheaper is concerned, after nationalisation, coal has been having administered prices and at no - stage was the coal industry allowed to have a price which will cover the cost. The price was always kept lower than the cost of production in the public interest. The result has been

the coal setcor has been continuously incurring losses and the costs have been going up. Therefore, to the question whether we will be able to sell coal cheaper, the answer is, "No". The next question is, has mechanisation helped? Yes, it has because with mechanisation alone we can improve the productivity and cost efficiency. That we have constantly been trying to do, as I said, by introducing equipment like longwall, etc. and we hope that as far as underground mining is concerned, we will be able to improve the productivity.

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : सम्भाषित महोदय, जो हमारे कोयले की कीमतें ऊंची हैं उसके बहुत से कारण हैं और उनमें से एक कारण यह भी है कि जो हमारा कोयला माइंस को मशीनरीज है जो बहुत ग्रास्टली है उनका कैपेसिटी यूटिलाइजेशन बहुत कम है, जनरली 50 से 60 परसेंट ही है। तो मैं मंत्री महोदय से पहला प्रश्न यही जानना चाहूंगा कि जो ब्रेक डाउन हो जाते हैं इन मशीनरीज के, तो जैसे यूनाइटेड किंगडम में है कि जो कम्पनी मशीन सप्लाई करती है वही उसके मेन्टिनेंस का भी भार ले लेती है ताकि भारी ब्रेक डाउन रिड्यूस हों तो जिनसे हम मशीनरीज खरीदते हैं उनके साथ एक क्लॉज यह भी रखेंगे या कंट्रैक्ट रखेंगे कि वे टाइमली उसका मेन्टिनेंस भी कर दें नहीं तो उन के बिल से काट लिया जायेगा; इन मशीनरीज का यूटिलाइजेशन ज्यादा हो सके इसके लिये क्या हमारे यहां भी यूनाइटेड किंगडम की तरह यह प्रावधान रखेंगे कि जो सप्लायर कम्पनी है वही इमोबिलाइज्ड उसका मेन्टिनेंस ठीक रखेगी, रिपेयर कर देगी। क्या आप ऐसा प्रावधान करेंगे यह मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूंगा।

श्री वसन्त साठे : यह सुझाव बहुत अच्छा है। हम आज तक तो यह प्रयास करते रहे हैं कि जो हमारी ये कम्पनियाँ हैं, स्पेयर्स वगैरह के मामले में वे जिम्मेदार रहें। लेकिन मेन्टिनेंस के लिये उनकी जिम्मेदारी रखी जाय यह जो आप का सुझाव है इस पर हम जरूर विचार करेंगे।