

[Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha]

specified in section 3 of the Salaries and Allowances and Pensions of Members of Parliament Act, 1954, with respect to Members of Parliament.

So, Sir, so far as the salary and emoluments of Ministers are concerned, they are the same as that of a Member of Parliament. Whatever else is spent by him or on him is appurtenant to the work which the Constitution has entrusted to him. The same distortion has been brought with respect to the Rashtrapati Bhawan and an impression is sought to be created that the personality of the person of the Rashtrapati Bhawan himself is spending that much. The Rashtrapati Bhawan is a dignified monument, it is a national monument and it is only a fact that the President lives in a small portion of it but the rest of it is open most of the time. It has beautiful gardens. And all this distorts the entire picture. It does not behove the hon. Members to involve the President's name or the Prime Minister's name in this manner.

Sir, there is no need for me to try to answer the other questions. I will beseech you and the hon. Members to pass this Bill.

**THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN):** Now I shall put the Resolution moved by Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha to vote. The question is:

"This House appears the draft Ministers' (Allowances, Medical Treatment and other Privileges) Amendment Rules, 1986, framed under sub-section (1) of section 11 of the Salaries and Allowances of Ministers Act, 1952 (58 of 1952) and laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on the 24th April, 1986.

*The motion was adopted.*

**THE COAL MINES LABOUR WELFARE FUND (REPEAL) BILL, 1986**

**THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE):** Mr. Vice-Chairman,

Sir, once again I say that this is an innocuous Bill in the sense that all that we are saying is that in 1947 there was this Act, the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Act, 1947. This was prior to nationalisation of 1972. What actually happened, Sir, was that because the working class was exploited in the coal industry, the Government felt that a sort of fund should be created by imposition of a cess on sale of each tonne of coal and that cess was used for the purpose of welfare. That was the main Welfare Act. After nationalisation of 1972, the responsibility of welfare naturally came to the nationalised industry and as is well known to hon. Members, an amount of hardly Rs. 6 crores that was being spent on the welfare of workers rose to Rs. 100 crores by 1984-85 that was spent on the welfare of the workers. This is not only a responsibility but a duty of the nationalised industry and, therefore, entire welfare activity now falls within the purview and responsibility of the nationalised sector, the Coal India Limited and other companies that are there. All that this Bill seeks to do is now to repeal the redundant Act which has ceased to have any validity as it is and absorb all the labour. There is no retrenchment of a single worker out of 2500 odd workers; in the entire coal industry, there are about 7½ lakh employees. These people are going to be absorbed in the respective companies and the responsibility of welfare is going to be undertaken by the company. This is the only purpose of this Bill.

I would urge and request the hon. Members if they could restrict themselves to this aspect; I shall be highly obliged and they accept and pass the Bill. That will save their time and also the time of the House. But if they want to use this Bill to enlarge the scope and speak, as I have been seeing, on everything under the name 'coal', then of course it is their pleasure and whatever wisdom comes from them, I will try to learn from that and try to respond to that.

Thank you.

*The question was proposed.*

DR. R. K. PODDAR (West Bengal): Mr. Vice-Chairman, the Government took 13 years to find that this measure was redundant. By this Bill, the Government proposes to abolish the existing pre-nationalisation arrangement of a extending welfare measures to coalmine workers.

[The Vice-Chairman (Shri M. P. Kaushik) in the Chair.]

I would have wholeheartedly supported it if this step ensured better amelioration of the worries and anxieties of the workers of the nationalised concerns. In 1973, all the coalmines were nationalised but for mysterious reasons, the very high quality coal mines owned by TISCO were excluded. This still remains excluded. Is it not an admission by the Government that TISCO coalmine workers' welfare is better served by the Tatas than by our own public sector?

Let us have a look at the state of workers' welfare at this moment, 13 years after nationalisation. About 140 to 170 accidents take place every year resulting in 150 to 200 deaths. There has been no appreciable drop in the fatality rate which hovers around 1.30 per million although the Mines Safety Committee set up by the Government itself recommended long ago that it should be reduced to 1.00 or less, per million. Governments record in improving the safety of miners is not at all remarkable. They have been very sluggish in introducing less-hazardous open cast mining as is the case in advanced countries. As regards the condition of housing, the less the better. Less than 30 per cent of the workers have so far been provided with housing facilities. The rest continue to live in primitive dwellings the *dhauras* which means rows of rooms, without windows and without the benefit of even clean drinking water. Medical facilities exist only in name. Incidence of tuberculosis in the highest among coal workers. In addition to this dangerous disease, which can easily be eradicated, if the Government is determined, if it is serious enough, various other occupational hazards, occupational ailments, haunt these workers who literally keep the wheels of our national economy moving. They

are mostly given common medicines and they have to wait, some times as long as a year, to get admission to a sanatorium or a good hospital. Instead of regular health check-up, including chest x-rays, they are sometimes given the benefit of attending the so-called special medical camps. I do not know what prevented the Coal India Limited during all these years from setting up schools for the children of miners, as other nationalised industries have done, like SAIL, BHEL etc. Till now, the facts reveal that the Government's concern for the miners' welfare is at best half-hearted and at worst, an eye-wash.

Sir, before nationalisation, private investment in coal industry was about Rs. 55 crores and coal production was about 77 million tonnes. Now, with Rs. 6,000 crores of public money, the production is about 150 million tonnes. To hide its Himalayan inefficiency, Government tries put the blame on the apathy and indiscipline of the workers. It is even now victimising the workers by cutting eight days' wages for absence of one day during the recent strike. It continues to ignore the charmed circle of private contractors, corrupt officials and mafia gangs conspiring to siphon off the huge national investment into unproductive channels.

Sir, I would request the hon. Minister not to take this *ad-hoc* measure but to strengthen the existing arrangement for looking after the workers' welfare, instead of distributing its responsibility among individual nationalised coal companies. In these days of so-called accountability of the public sector by which the Government actually mean profitability, individual companies will tend to reduce or at least restrict the expenditure on miners' welfare. I would also like to suggest here that in the existing arrangement, workers should have adequate representation through secret ballot. Since this Government pose as a very good friend of the workers, I hope, it will not continue to be oblivious of its responsibility in regard to workers' participation as enunciated in article 43A of the Constitution, and the Industrial Policy Resolution of 1956. Thank you, Sir.

5.00 P.M.

श्री रामानन्द यादव (बिहार) : मान्यवर मंत्री जी ने कोल माइन्ज वेलफेयर फंड एक्ट जो पहले बना उसको अबोलिश करने के कारणों पर प्रकाश डाला है। मैं माननीय मंत्री से यह जानना चाहता था कि उस बोर्ड को तो आप एबोलिश कर रहे हैं, लेकिन उसका आल्टरनेटिव क्या है? यह बता रहे हैं कि सारा वेलफेयर का काम अब भारत कोकिंग कोल करेगा, कोल इंडिया करेगा यानी जो जनरल मैनेजर्स हैं कम्पनी के वे करेंगे, उनके पदाधिकारी करेंगे। लेकिन अनुभव क्या बताता है? अनुभव यह बताता है कि वेलफेयर के पैसे जो सरकार देती है, वह बहुत सा पैसा लाट जाता है और खर्च नहीं हो पाता है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से स्पष्ट शब्दों में यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जब से कोल इंडिया नेशनलाइज हुआ है तब से आज तक केवल 400 करोड़ रुपये माइन्ज लैबर के वेलफेयर पर खर्च किए हैं और उसमें से कितने परसेंट लैस कट गया और आज भी लैस कट रहा है? मान्यवर, एक बात और मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो वेलफेयर बोर्ड है उसके एबोलिश करने के पहले मंत्री जी क्या आपके जो कर्मचारी हैं बड़े-बड़े सीसीएल के बोर्ड के लोग, माइन्ज लैबर के रिप्रेजेंटेटिव जो कि डिफ्रेंट यूनियनज के हैं, उनके लोगों को बुलाते और कन्सल्टेशन करते कि आल्टरनेटिव क्या है? क्योंकि बोर्ड बहुत से इन्स्टीट्यूशनज चलाते हैं, मल्टीपरपज स्कूल खोल रहे हैं, वीरियस स्कीमज हैं, तो उनका क्या होगा? मंत्री जी उनके चलाने की जिम्मेदारी कौन लेगा, इस पर भी आप जग प्रकाश डालें? मंत्री जी यह 400 करोड़ रुपये कोल माइन्ज के इतने बड़े समुदाय पर खर्च हुआ है लेकिन इसमें बहुत सा लैस कर गया। खर्च कम हुआ है 50 परसेंट के करीब। जो रक्षक है वही भक्षक है तो वे उनका वेलफेयर क्या देखेंगे? यह तो शोषण करने वाले लोग हैं। वेलफेयर करने के लिए, वेलफेयर मेजरज को इम्प्लीमेंट करने के लिए एक सेंपरेट मिनिस्ट्री की, एक सेंपरेट डिपार्टमेंट का होना लितान्त रूप से आवश्यक है। यह देश के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि अदर पब्लिक अडरटॉकिंग में जो भी वेलफेयर मेजरज हैं मजदूरों के लिए वे जितने अच्छे ढंग से इम्प्लीमेंट होते हैं उतने अच्छे ढंग से कोल इंडिया के इम्प्लीमेंट नहीं होते हैं

और उतनी सुविधाएं नहीं मिलती हैं। अब पानी को ही ले लीजिए। जो लोग कोयला क्षेत्र से आते हैं वे जानते हैं कि जंगल में कोयला मिलता है, पहाड़ों में मिलता है जहां पर कि पानी की कमी है और पानी नहीं मिलता है। पानी को लोग इकट्ठा करते हैं गड्डों से और उसे बायल करते हैं। घड़ों में भरते हैं और तब जाकर पीते हैं। मेरा अपना भतीजा आफिसर है जो कि पानी पोखरे से ले करके उसको बायल करके पीता है। हम वहां खुद गए हैं और हमने बायल किया हुआ पानी पिया है। आज इतना बड़ा कोयला क्षेत्र है। वहां की कंडीशन ऐसी है कि वहां कोई भी मजदूर ऐसा नहीं है जो कि अन्दर जाकर कोयला काटता हो, उसे ढपेता हो और ऊपर लाता हो तो उसके लंगर में टी.वी. के बर्ज नहीं पहुंचते हैं? शाम के वक्त जब वह मजदूर बड़ी मात्रा में खघारना है तो उसके अन्दर से काला-काला सा धुक निकलता है। क्या मंत्री जी इस बात की जांच करने की आपने कोशिश की है कि कोयले के क्षेत्र में काम करने वाले जो माइनर्स हैं, उनमें से कितने परसेंट टी.वी. से ग्रस्त हैं। आज तक न तो कोई वेलफेयर मेजरस लिया गया है और न ध्यान दिया गया है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि कितना रुपया खर्च करते हैं, कितने रीजनल हास्पिटल बनाए हैं उगीसा में, बिहार में मध्य प्रदेश में और जहां-जहां बड़े-बड़े कोयले के माइन्स हैं वहां कितने बड़े के अस्पताल हैं? मान्यवर, आप जानकर ताज्जुब करेंगे कि यह संख्या नगण्य है, बड़े की अस्पतालों में कमी है। आज जो मजदूर हिन्दुस्तान के शहर से लेकर देहात में कोयला निकालता है नीचे अण्डरग्राउंड में जाकर के, उसकी हालत क्या है? सबसे रिफॉट से आपको मालूम होगा जो आदमी कोयला खान में काम करता है, उसकी 80 परसेंट लाइफ घट जाती है, अगर सौ वर्ष उसे जीना होगा तो वह 20 वर्ष जिएगा और वह भी जिएगा सांसते हुए, हांफते हुए। अस्पताल की दृष्टि बढ़ती जा रही है, पानी की व्यवस्था नहीं है, हाउसिंग की व्यवस्था नहीं है। आज तक आप 40 प्रतिशत माइन्स में काम करने वाले मजदूरों के लिए उचित प्रबन्ध नहीं कर सके। आपको कोयले से काफी पैसा मिलता है, आपकी रेल की गाड़ी चलती है, एनर्जी पैदा होती है, थर्मल पावर

चलते हैं, उद्योग धंधे चलते हैं और यह कोल सेक्टर में जब तक आप मजदूरों को सुविधा नहीं देंगे, आपका आउट-पुट नहीं बढ़ेगा। उनकी शक्ति क्षीण होगी और प्रोडक्शन कम होगा, उनकी लाइफ कम होगी। इसलिए अगर आप एफिसियेंसी चाहते हैं, अधिक प्रोडक्शन चाहते हैं तो मजदूरों के वेलफेयर पर आप विशेष रूप से ध्यान दें...

(समय की घंटी)

मान्यवर, सफ्टी माइन्स कांग्रेस हुई थी। एक कमेटी बनी थी और उस कमेटी ने फाइंड-आउट किया था कि कौन-कौन सी सुविधा मजदूरों को दी जानी चाहिए। मैं सरकार से पृच्छना चाहता हूँ कि क्या उस कमेटी की रिकमण्डेशन को सरकार ने लागू किया है? जहाँ तक मुझे मालूम है पूर्ण रूप से उस सफ्टी एक्ट को लागू नहीं किया गया। मैं तो साफ कहता हूँ सरकार से कि आपने आज तक जितने भी सफ्टी एक्ट बनाए हैं, माइनर्स को हक में जितने भी कानून बनाए हैं, अगर उनको इम्प्लीमेंट कर दें तो हण्डेड परसेंट उससे भला हो जाएगा और अगर कानून बनाने की आवश्यकता नहीं रहेगी। आवश्यकता इस बात की है कि आपकी जो सी.सी.एल. के बड़े-बड़े आफिसर हैं, भारत कॉकिंग कोल, संप्रुल कोल फील्ड, ईस्टर्न कोल फील्ड, इनके बड़े-बड़े जो आफिसर हैं, उनको जरा कहिए कि मजदूरों के प्रति अपना एट्टीट्यूड बदलें। आपने यहां अनेक कानून पास कर दिए, पैसों का एलार्बमेंट कर दिया। लेकिन पैसों का खर्च ठीक से नहीं हो पाता है इन आफिसरों की बदनीयती के कारण। इसलिए मान्यवर, मंत्री जी आपकी नियत में हमको संदेह नहीं है। लेकिन संदेह है उन बड़े-बड़े तनखाह-दारियों पर, जो उस एरिए के माफिया से मिलकर अपनी सम्पत्ति बढ़ाते हैं, अपनी सुविधा बढ़ाते हैं, अपने को आराम दिलाने हैं, उनके लोगों को नौकरी भी दे डालते हैं, लेकिन इससे देश का टेलफेयर, मजदूर का वेलफेयर नहीं होता... (समय की घंटी)...

मान्यवर, मैं मंत्री जी से आग्रह करूंगा जरा स्कूल की तरफ तो ध्यान दीजिए। क्या आपने एजुकेशन के सम्बन्ध में चिन्ता की है? कितने कालेज आपके कोल-फील्ड

एरिया में बने हैं? उनके बच्चों के पढ़ने के लिए सरकार स्कूल न खोले तो आपका इंस्टीट्यूशन स्कूल नहीं चला सकता। आप मजदूरों के लड़कों की स्कालरशिप भी नहीं दे पाते हैं। माइनिंग इंजीनियरिंग के इंस्टीट्यूट हैं, टेक्नीकल इंस्टीट्यूट हैं। माइनर्स के बाल-बच्चों को उस तरह की टेक्नोलॉजी की शिक्षा दिलवाइए जिसमें वह काम करते हैं। कभी आपने इस तरफ ध्यान देने की कोशिश की है। मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि जितने माइनिंग के स्कूल हैं उनमें माइन्स में काम करने वाले मजदूरों के बच्चों के लिए कितना रिजर्वेशन आपने किया है? उनके रीक्रिएशन के लिए कितना खर्च किया है, उनकी हाउसिंग पर कितना खर्च किया है। एक्सीडेंट क्यों होते हैं। एक्सीडेंट तीन-चार तरह से होता है। जहरीली गैस निकलती है भीतर से, आप अन्दर जाएंगे तो देखेंगे नीचे। जहरीली गैस निकलेगी और मजदूर मरेंगे। पॉस्मिंग सेट जो पानी फेंकता है वह खराब होगा। धनबाद साइड में जो माइन्स जमीन की अन्दर इनक्लाइन्ड किस्म की होती है वह फलड हो गई तो सैंकड़ों की तादाद में मजदूर मरेंगे। क्यों मरते हैं? क्योंकि आउट-ड्रॉटिंग मशीनरी बाहर फिट की गई थी जिसको पानी पम्प करना था। कोयले की खान में सतत पानी आता है। उसको जब तक बाहर नहीं निकालेंगे मजदूर काम नहीं करेंगे अन्दर जाकर। वहां बिजली नहीं है, हवा नहीं है। हाई-पावर मशीनरी से और पंखों से हवा अन्दर प्रेस की जाती है। सुनते हैं कि माडर्नाइजेशन होगा माइन्स का। छोड़ दीजिए माडर्नाइजेशन की बात। कम से कम आप इतना तो कीजिए कि पानी की वजह से जो छत माइन की गिर जाती है और लोग डबकर मर जाते हैं उसका पानी तो फिकवा दीजिए। आपके पास एलोकेशन आफ फंड काम होता होगा, कार्लबोरेशन नहीं करते — I understand it very clearly, you are not able to give what the miners want.

लेकिन एक बात तो जरूर कीजिए, कम से कम खगारिया घाट शुरू कीजिए, बड़े पैमाने पर शुरू कीजिए। उसमें तो उतनी टेक्नोलॉजी की जरूरत नहीं। उससे कोयला भी अच्छा निकलेगा, बर्बाद भी नहीं होगा। नीचे सैंड नहीं दीजिएगा तो खान धंस जायेगी, अगर उसमें अच्छा स्लीपर नहीं

[श्री रामानन्द यादव]

देंगे तो धंसने की सम्भावना है। घटिया किस्म के ठेकेदार कोयला क्षेत्र में लाए गए हैं। बालू ढोने में, साल का स्लीपर सप्लाई करने में, पम्पिंग स्टैंड्स की सप्लाई में करोड़ों रुपये का नुकसान होता है। चरागाह हो गया है कोल फील्ड। मैं मंत्री जी से आग्रह करूंगा कि आप कमीशन नियुक्त करें जो इस बात की जांच करें कि कोयला खान का जो एरिया है उसमें हमारा जो मनी का इनवाल्मेंट है उसका उपयोग ठीक से होता है या नहीं। जितना आउटपूट होता है उसका कौन हिस्सा बाहर निकल जाता है और कौन सरकार के खजाने में आता है। वेलफेयर के लिए क्या मैजर्स किए गए हैं? बाहर जो वातावरण है उसको ठीक करने के लिए एक कानून बनाया गया था। जब प्राइवेट सेक्टर में कोयले का एरिया था तो प्राइवेट जो लोग थे उन के लिये अनिवार्य था कि 10 पेंड कादेंगे तो वहां के 10 पेंड जरूर लगायेंगे। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि वातावरण ठीक से बना रहे, इकोलाजिकल बैलेंस मेंटेन्ड रहे इस के लिये कोल इंडिया या उस की जो सब्सिडियरीज हैं, वे क्या करती हैं। इस पर आप को प्रकाश डालना चाहिए। इन शब्दों के साथ मैं इस बिल का तह दिल से समर्थन करता हूँ। जो भी किया आप ने अच्छा किया। अब यह आप के जिम्मे है, मैं चाहूंगा कि इस को ठीक ढंग से आप चलाइये। सातवीं योजना में आप इस पर 800 करोड़ रुपये लगायेंगे। कौन इस को खर्च करेगा? यही मैनेजर्स जो वहां व्ययला भी निकलवाते हैं। और वहां का वेलफेयर भी देखते हैं। वही देखेंगे कि कितने मजदूर मरे। अगर 25 मरेंगे तो वह 5 बतायेंगे क्योंकि वेलफेयर आफिस वही है। डाइरेक्टर जनरल आफ माइंस सेफ्टी का स्टाफ क्यों घटता जा रहा है। इस का कारण क्या है? वर्कर्स को डिटेले नहीं किया जाता है कि उन की सेफ्टी किम तरह से होगी। उन को फटविथर मिलना चाहिए, उन को नकाब मिलनी चाहिए, वह नहीं मिलती है। पत्थर उन पर गिर जाता है। उन को पुराने हूट दिये जाते हैं। वह खराब होते हैं, फट गये होते हैं। किट्स कैसे दी जाती हैं इस को देखने की आवश्यकता है और वहां उन के वेलफेयर को ठीक करने की आवश्यकता है। इन शब्दों

के साथ मैं इस बिल का समर्थन करता हूँ।

DR. SHANTI G. PATEL (Maharashtra): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, this Bill has been brought with a laudable objective of taking over the responsibility of doing welfare work as an employer by the Government, and that too, doing much better than what was being done in the past, particularly by the private employer who engaged the coal labour in the past.

The hon. Minister also, in his introductory remarks, has referred to the amount of money that was being spent, which used to be Rs. 6 crores or Rs. 12 crores later on, and said that this amount was going to be increased now to Rs. 100 crores or so. But this is far from adequate.

If we look to the state of the conditions in the coalfields, none else a person than Mr. Ramanand Yadav who is ordinarily a great supporter of the Government cause and who believes in the dictum that 'his Government can do no wrong' and that the Government is always right, doing always good, was constrained, was pained to observe that whether it is in respect of water supply or health or education, in all these cases, the conditions were absolutely horrible as far as the coalfields were concerned. He has gone further and said that the money that is allotted was not being spent or that it was misspent or misappropriated. Whatever that may be, but the fact remains that he was constrained to make this remark is a proof, if necessary, of the bad conditions that exist in the coalfields.

Let us look at the water supply. It is the declared policy of the present Government to give water to every village. But here is an industrial areas, and here are the people who are made to work in far-flung areas, far away from the cities and towns and even villages, where they are required to start their own settlements and find out their living and work under such very undesirable conditions, where the environment and surroundings are quite hostile. There they cannot get enough water. What I would like to ask the Minister is whether the performance is as expected. Thirteen years after the nationalisation what we find, according to

the report of his own Ministry, is that 50 per cent of the people are provided with potable water. This means, lakhs of people do not get water. If they do not get potable water, the consequences are well known. They will become victims of various diseases, and then the question of health would arise.

There also, of course, the Report refers to so many dispensaries, hospitals and what not, but these are not enough to do the work. One question that I would like the Minister to answer is could they have not done better as a public sector employer in this particular regard-welfare?

Again in the matter of health adequate facilities are not made available. Enough number of ambulances are not there. This is one industry which is the most accident prone industry, but here the ordinary ambulance service even is not properly organised. Of course, there are figures to show that there are a number of ambulances, but the question is unless a proper aid at a proper time is made available, the person has no chance of survival. The same is true in case of various diseases also. This is one industry again where there is a heavy hazard of occupational diseases because the coal dust is the one thing which damages the lungs and causes disease. For that also, apart from preventive measures, curative measures also become necessary. I am sorry to say that even this aspect is not being looked after in spite of so many years of the Government existence of this industry.

Now I come to education. This is very important. We want to build up the citizens of future to take up responsibilities in various spheres of society. If they are kept away from education or are likely to get education which cannot be called education, how can they be good citizens of this country? That is why it is very necessary that good education, which should include vocational education also, should be made available so that they are able to find employment and lead a better life.

Coming to housing, the same sorry state of affairs exists. To say that 32 per cent of the people have been provided housing facility is not a tall claim. Mind you they are not staying in the cities; they are not staying in towns; they are staying in far-

flung areas where houses are not available. The so-called houses Dhowras, which are provided to them are not fit for human habitation. It is, therefore, necessary, and I do expect from a person of his conviction and enlightenment, to take radical and urgent steps, to move faster than what his predecessors have been doing in the past, so that he could achieve the goal.

I would also like to refer as to what is going to be the machinery. I was expecting him to say something about the machinery which will carry on the work of welfare. No machinery has been set up for the purpose though the old has been dismantled. There has to be a specialised machinery, especially at the top where the labour representatives are going to be associated in taking policy decisions and a number of various other measures that are required to be taken.

This brings me to the point of workers' participation. Whenever you constitute such a machinery, the participation by the workers is very important. I am happy to say—and I would like to congratulate him—that he has taken a lead in deciding upon the representatives of the workers through secret ballot. I know he is not merely a politician, he is also a trade unionist. We have worked together and he has imbibed certain basic principles, and this is one of them. But I find there is some hesitation in his mind as to how this should be organised. He feels that all the workers cannot be given a right to choose their representative unions. May I appeal to him to go into this in a little greater detail and depth and particularly refer even to the land of capitalism—America—where also the workers' representatives are chosen through a secret ballot by all the workers whether they are members of the union or not. That is how the union is chosen. I am sure he will find a way to accept this criterion. But if he cannot find this way, I would certainly request him to go ahead with whatever scheme he has in his hand and not to wait till all agree and come together because that is the best way of avoiding, sabotaging or finishing the whole principle of secret ballot. I wish that he applies his mind to it and goes ahead with it.

[Shri Shanti G. Patel]

While concluding, I would say that let us prepare an integrated scheme, a time bound scheme under which these and other welfare measures can be improved and the targets can be achieved. Unless such a scheme is prepared with a time perspective, I do not think, we will be able to achieve the purpose with which this Bill is sought to be abolished and the responsibility is being taken by the Government.

**SHRI VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY:** (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, at the outset itself, I want to say that some more time should have been given for this very, very important Bill.

The **VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. KAUSHIK):** But the time allotted is only one hour. I cannot help it.

**SHRI VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY:** Sir, in our country the primary energy source is coal. All our industrial prosperity depends on coal. Even other core sectors like thermal power stations, steel, cement, fertilizers, railways, transport, soft coke for domestic consumption, all depend upon coal, because it is the gamut of our industrialisation. Many of my hon. friends spoke about coal sector, welfare of coal workers, and coal mines. We all know that 7 1/2 lakhs of coal workers go into the pits without ventilation, because the booster fans cannot send in air as the mine proceeds. Under these conditions living in hovels, as it has been said, without proper water supply, walking and cycling from 10 to 20 KMs, these coalmine workers reach the working spot. This is their living conditions. Then added to this, there are private contractors, Mafia gangs and smugglers. It has been reported in the press that due to wrong planning Rs. 500 crores worth of coal was lying near the pits. What a boon for these people! That is why these Mafia gangs have grown resulting in smuggling of coal. As a result of these elements, our public sector undertakings are losing lot of revenue. What is the solution for all these things? As our hon. friend just now pointed out, is there workers participation in industry? We talk in and talk out about workers participation. It has been told yesterday by the Finance Minister that the most important

thing to see is that workers should participate in every industry. Is the Ministry of Energy capable of doing this? In 1983 itself you proposed for it. I think your Labour Minister has proposed for it. But so far you have not implemented it. I ask a simple question: Why you are not able to do it? Simply because your INTUC—Indian National Trade Union Congress has stated that it is not going to abide itself to the secret ballot. You want the Mafia gangs. You want their representatives to rule the roost. You do not want the secret ballot. You do not want true representatives of the workers to organise, to help and to achieve the targets. In spite of the poor living conditions, the miners have achieved the target that has been fixed by the Government and the Planning Commission for this year, that is, 150 million tonnes. They are going to achieve also your target which has been fixed for the Seventh Five Year Plan, i.e., 229 million tonnes by 1989. But what are you doing for them in turn? They have done their part. That is why we say, your Government calling itself as a socialist must depend on the working masses of this country and if you cannot do it, everything will come to a naught.

There was a day's strike by the coal workers recently to teach you a lesson. But still you have not learnt it when the entire coal industry came to a standstill to warn you that you are not able to abide by your agreement—you are not able to provide pension and you are not able to give them housing facilities. You have promised these things to them. In lieu of their one day's strike you are withholding 8 days salary. Under these circumstances, what else the workers can do if there is no ventilation in the mines, has the workers not to come out? (*Time bell rings*) Yes, my time is up. I want to state something very important and very urgent.

**THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. KAUSHIK):** You can take one minute.

**SHRI VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY:** Sir, that minute will be given to the benefit of the House. Today, in the

'Statesman' I have seen Mr. Dubey and Mr. Mishra have shifted their war to Dhanbad. This is the service that is being rendered, occupying the INTUC office. This is how I am utilising this one minute. Two Chief Ministers, one present Chief Minister and one ex-Chief Minister, they are trying to take the INTUC into their hands, while our Chief Minister, Mr. N. T. Rama Rao flew from Bombay and went to the coalmines and assured the workers that every aspect of this industry i.e. education, housing, and electrification, all the problems will be taken up on priority and eight days salary will not be cut for one day's strike. In the same way, when two accidents occurred, our Ministers went into the coalmines. Somagudam and Godavari Khanj tried to find out the cause and told the management that it is due to their negligence that the workers have lost their lives and stood there and saw to it that the compensation was given to them. This is the spirit with which we want to understand this problem. That is why as my friend has told, workers participation is fundamental. Yesterday, you made our colleagues on the other side in the Parliament to wake up till 3 A.M. to declare our secularism and about democracy, the question of secret ballot is going to tell us where we stand. (*Time bell rings.*) I would urge upon the Government, please for heaven's sake, take a decision. When you can whip a decision which goes against the Indian Womenhood, why can't you whip a decision in favour of secret ballot. Thank you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity.

(*Interruption.*)

DR. SHANTI G. PATEL: Mr. Kalpanath Rai, I am prepared to inquire along with you in this matter.

श्री कल्पनाथ राय (उत्तर प्रदेश) : आदरणीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, कोयले की खानों का राष्ट्रीयकरण सरकार के द्वारा किया गया है। यह जनता के हित में और देश के हित में एक बहुत बड़ा समाजवादी कदम था। कोयलों की खानों में काम करने वाले जो मजदूर हैं उनके संबंध में श्री शान्ति पटेल जी ने सुझाव दिये हैं वे बड़े अच्छे सुझाव हैं।

सरकार को उन सुझावों पर अमल करना चाहिये। इसके साथ-साथ मैं आदरणीय वसन्त साठे जी से कहना चाहता हूँ कि आप समाजवादी विचारधारा के प्रवक्ता हैं, आपके थोड़े से कार्यकाल में कोयला क्षेत्र में अद्भुत कार्य हुए हैं। आपने इस डिपार्टमेंट को सुधारने की दिशा में बहुत ही सराहनीय काम किये हैं। हम यह जानते हैं कि कोई जादू की छड़ी ऐसी नहीं है कि एक महीने में, दो महीने में या एक साल में कोई समस्या का समाधान हो जाय। हमारे मित्र श्री शान्ति पटेल जी स्वीकार करुंगे कि उनके जैसे रचनात्मक विरोधी दल के नेता श्री साठे के इस कोयले सेक्टर को अच्छा बनाने की दिशा में उनकी साथ प्रयास करेंगे। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ श्री शान्ति पटेल जी से कि हिन्दुस्तान में प्रति व्यक्ति जो कोयले का उत्पादन है वह 0.94 टन है और जायना में 14.2 टन है और आस्ट्रेलिया में 14 टन है। इस प्रकार हिन्दुस्तान के मजदूरों की जो कोयला उत्पादन की कपीसिटी है वह वर्ल्ड में लोअस्ट है।

डा. शान्ति जी. पटेल : इसके लिये कौन जिम्मेदार है ?

श्री कल्पनाथ राय : यह बात मैं आपसे कह रहा हूँ क्योंकि आप पढ़े-लिखे आदमी हैं और समझदारी से बात करते हैं।

DR. SHANTI G. PATEL: I am all for productivity and production.

श्री कल्पनाथ राय : आदरणीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, जब कोयला खानों का राष्ट्रीयकरण हुआ था तो सरकार की तरफ से 50 करोड़ रुपये खर्च होता था और कोयले का उत्पादन 75 मिलियन टन था। आज सरकार की तरफ से 600 करोड़ रुपये खर्च हो रहा है और कोयले का उत्पादन 150 मिलियन टन है। यानि जब 50 करोड़ रुपये इस सेक्टर पर सरकार द्वारा खर्च होता था तो 75 मिलियन टन उत्पादन था 1971 में और आज अब 600 करोड़ रुपये . . .

श्री वसन्त साठे : 6 हजार करोड़ रुपये।

श्री कल्पनाथ राय : और जब आज 6 हजार करोड़ रुपये खर्च होता है तो कोयले का उत्पादन केवल 150 मिलियन टन है।

[श्री कल्पनाथ राय]

आदरणीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, यह एक ऐसा सवाल है जिस पर हमें विचार करना चाहिए। यह कोई सरकार का ही सवाल नहीं है। आदरणीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, चीन में इस समय कोयले का उत्पादन 750 मिलियन टन है। चीन और हिन्दुस्तान ने एक साथ आजादी हासिल की और आज वहाँ कोयले का उत्पादन 750 मिलियन टन है और हिन्दुस्तान में इसका उत्पादन 150 मिलियन टन है। आदरणीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, कोयले से हमारा पूरा आध्यांगीकरण का रिश्ता जुड़ा हुआ है। पूरा हिन्दुस्तान का विकास, रेलों का चलना, देश में बिजली का उत्पादन, खेती का विकास तकनीकी और वैज्ञानिक सारा विकास कोयले से जुड़ा हुआ है। तो कंसे कोल सेक्टर को संगठित किया जाय इस पर हमें सोचना है। जितनी बातें शान्ति पटेल जो ने कही हैं उन सब बातों से मैं सहमत हूँ और मैं समझता हूँ कि हमारे मंत्री जी आदरणीय वसंत साठे जी जो समाजवादी विचारों के सबसे बड़े प्रवक्ता हैं वे भी इन विचारों से सहमत होंगे। आज सबसे बड़ा सवाल जो हमारे सामने है वह उत्पादन बढ़ाने का है। हिन्दुस्तान जैसे विकासशील देश में प्रोडक्टिविटी लिंक होनी चाहिये अजरी से। दूसरे हिन्दुस्तान में उत्पादन के साथ मजदूरी नहीं जुड़ी होगी तो हम कभी भी अपने देश की समस्याओं का हल नहीं ढूँढ सकते। आदरणीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, श्री विजय माहन रेड्डी जो नये सदस्य हैं वे अभी एक अखबार पढ़ रहे थे। मैं उनसे पूछना चाहता हूँ, मैं शान्ति पटेल जी से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि धनबाद में सबसे बड़ा माफिया गैंग जो है उसको किस दल के द्वारा समर्थन दिया जा रहा है? क्या जनता पार्टी हिन्दुस्तान के सबसे बड़े माफिया गैंग, जो धनबाद में है, उसका समर्थन नहीं करती है? पिछले दस सालों से धनबाद में 300 मर्डर्स इस गैंग के द्वारा किये गये हैं या नहीं? इस गैंग के द्वारा 300 हत्याएं धनबाद में की गई हैं या नहीं? विरोधी दलों के लोगों का उस माफिया गैंग को समर्थन है या नहीं? उस माफिया गैंग ने करोड़ों करोड़ नहीं बल्कि अरबों रुपया लूट के माध्यम से,

कोयला मजदूरों का शोषण करके, कतले-आम करके, गुण्डागर्दी करके अर्जित किया है या नहीं? उसको विरोधी दल के लोगों का समर्थन है या नहीं?

डा. शान्ति जी. पटेल : नहीं।

श्री कल्पनाथ राय : ऐसे कहने से नहीं होगा।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री एम. पी. कांशक) : उत्तर आ गया आगे बढ़िये।

श्री कल्पनाथ राय : अगर आप चाहते हैं कि देश में उत्पाद बढ़ें, अगर आप चाहते हैं कि कोयला खदानों में काम करने वालों की हालत में सुधार हो, अगर आप समाजवादी समाज की रचना करना चाहते हैं तो हिन्दुस्तान में समाजवाद का सीधा अर्थ है, उत्पादन बढ़ाना, प्रोडक्शन बढ़ाना। हिन्दुस्तान में समाजवाद का यह अर्थ है और यूरोप में समाजवाद का अर्थ है दौलत का बटवारा जब कि एशिया, अफ्रीका और हिन्दुस्तान जैसे विकासशील देशों में समाजवाद का अर्थ है उत्पादन को बढ़ाना और उत्पादन को बढ़ाकर तब उसका बटवारा करना। फर्स्ट प्रोडक्शन देन डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन। इसलिये मैं आपसे, श्री रेड्डी, श्री शान्ति पटेल और अन्य हमारे जो मित्र समाजवाद में निष्ठा रखने वाले हैं

(व्यवधान) . . . सत्यप्रकाश मालवीय जी आपका भी नाम ले रहा हूँ, जो भी समाजवाद की बात करते हैं मैं उनसे कहना चाहता हूँ कि बैंकों का राष्ट्रीयकरण, राजाओं के प्रिवी पर्स को समाप्त, कोयला खदानों का राष्ट्रीयकरण और बीस-सूत्री कार्यक्रम समाजवाद की दिशा में उठाये गये कदम हैं। लेकिन चीन और रूस में पब्लिक अंडरटैकिंग में अकाउंटैबिलिटी है अर्थात् जो उस पब्लिक सेक्टर के कारखाने को चलाता है उसकी अकाउंटैबिलिटी है। अगर उस में प्रॉफिट होगा तो उस मैनेजर को प्रोमोशन मिलेगा, प्रोत्साहन मिलेगा लेकिन यदि उस में प्रॉफिट नहीं होगा तो उसके खिलाफ कड़ी से कड़ी कार्यवाही होगी। जब हम समाजवाद लाना चाह रहे हैं तो इन चीजों को, प्रोडक्टिविटी को भी मद्दे नजर रखें। (व्यवधान) आप जैसे लोग जो हैं हिन्दुस्तान में दिन रात हड़ताल का समर्थन करते हैं परन्तु कभी रूस में हड़ताल नहीं होती है, चीन में हड़ताल नहीं होती है, वहाँ कभी हड़ताल को

अलग नहीं किया जाएगा। लेकिन हिन्दुस्तान में डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन करने के लिए, तोड़-फोड़ करने के लिए, हिंसा करने के लिए जहाँ गिरा जाए वहाँ आप हड़ताल कराएँ, तोड़-फोड़ करें, प्रोडक्शन न बढ़े, एनार्की करें यह कोई तरीका नहीं है। जो चीज चीन में आप पसंद नहीं करते हैं वह आप अपने देश में पसंद करते हैं। (सभ्य की घंटी) मैं अपनी बात खत्म करूँगा मेरा आदरणीय साठे जी से निवेदन है कि जो शान्ति पटेल जी ने बात कही है मैं शतप्रतिशत उनको बातों का समर्थन करता हूँ मुझे उन बातों को फिर दोहराना नहीं है लेकिन एक बात मैं आपसे निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ, एक समाजवादी व्यक्ति होने के नाते यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि रूस या चीन में जिस तरह का कोयले का उत्पादन हो रहा है उन देशों में क्यों उत्पादन इतने जोरों से हो रहा है, आप उन चीजों का अध्ययन करें और उन अध्ययनों के आधार पर अपने मुल्क में भी ऐसी व्यवस्था उत्पादन बढ़ाने के लिए की जाए। जब से वसंत साठे जी ने इस मन्त्रालय को सम्भाला है इन्होंने बहुत से सराहनीय कदम उठाये हैं और उन्होंने इस दिशा में बहुत अच्छा काम किया है। सी. सी. एल. या जितनी भी कम्पनियाँ हैं उन कम्पनियों में जो मनेजर्स आप रखते हैं उनका टर्म तीन वर्ष का होता है। किसी भी व्यक्ति को किसी भी कम्पनी या कोयले के क्षेत्र की ज्योफ़ी को, हिस्टरी को समझने में कम से कम साल भर से कम नहीं लगेगा और वहाँ पर उत्पादन को गतिशीलता प्रदान करने के लिए उसको कम से कम पाँच साल का मौका मिलना चाहिये। अगर आप समझते हैं कि हॉल्डिंग कम्पनी का मैनेजिंग डायरेक्टर एक यांग्य आदमी है, काबिल आदमी है और प्रोडक्शन आपके टारगेट के अनुकूल बढ़ रहा है तो ऐसे व्यक्ति को आपको प्रोत्साहन देना चाहिए और मजदूरों की हालत को समझने के लिए जब आप कदम उठाएँगे तब एफिशियेंसी बढ़ेगी। एफिशियेंसी बढ़ेगी तो प्रोडक्शन बढ़ेगी लेकिन आप प्रोडक्शन और मजदूरी को लिंक कीजिए। उत्पादकता के साथ उनको बोनस मिलेगा। उत्पादकता के साथ उनकी मजदूरी बढ़ेगी। उत्पादकता के साथ सारे काम जूटें होंगे। जब तक हमारे विकासशील देश में यह

सिद्धान्त आप स्वीकार नहीं करेंगे . . . (व्यवधान) कभी भी हम समाजवाद के सिद्धान्तों का जगतंत्र के माध्यम से चुनाव नहीं कर सकते। हिन्दुस्तान में हम जनतंत्र के माध्यम से समाजवाद लाना चाहते हैं (व्यवधान) हम कम्युनिस्ट तानाशाही जिसमें इन्सान की कोई क़ीमत नहीं है उस कम्युनिस्ट राक्षसी तानाशाही के माध्यम से हम समाजवाद नहीं चाहते हैं, हम जनतंत्र के माध्यम से समाजवाद चाहते हैं (व्यवधान)

श्री दीपेन घोष (पश्चिमी बंगाल) : आप को जानकारी नहीं है। (व्यवधान)

श्री कल्पनाथ राय : आपसे हजार गुना ज्यादा जानकारी है। (व्यवधान)

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Whatever productivity each worker has shown, his wage level does not conform to it.

श्री कल्पनाथ राय : आदरणीय घोष जी हिन्दुस्तान में पर कीपटा उत्पादन 0.94 टन है। आप लोग दिन रात धनबाद और कलकत्ता में तोड़-फोड़ करते हैं। हमारे देश में पर कीपटा उत्पादन 0.94 टन है और चीन में दो टन है। आप इसी टारगेट को पूरा करने की कोशिश कीरिये।

श्री दीपेन घोष : वेंजेज और प्रोडक्टिविटी साथ जाँड़ दी जाएँ। His wage does not conform to the productivity which he has already achieved.

श्री कल्पनाथ राय : मुझे विश्वास है कि हमारे साठे जी जो समाजवादी विचारों के व्यक्ति हैं जिनकी वर्किंग क्लास की आजादी, बहुबूदी और खुशहाली में दिलचस्पी है। वर्कर्स की खुशहाली से उनका उत्पादन बढ़ेगा। मुझे विश्वास है कि वे कोयला क्षेत्रों में काम करने वाले माफिया गैंग को जो आज एक आपरेट कर रहा है, स्मैश करने के लिए ठोस और समबद्ध कदम उठाएँगे। जितने ऐसे हमारे ट्रांसपोर्ट के साधन हैं उनके ठेके माफिया को बंद किये जाने चाहिए। माफिया गैंग में संबंधित लोग जिनको कैरेक्टर सर्टिफिकेट नहीं मिलता है ऐसे लोगों को कोयला खदान क्षेत्रों में ठेके नहीं मिलने चाहिए। आदरणीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, हमारे मजदूरों का माफिया गैंग के द्वारा शोषण बंद किया जाना चाहिए।

[श्री कल्पनाथ राय]

आदरणीय साठे जी आप जिस गतिशीलता के साथ अपनी समाजवादी नीतियों को चरितार्थ करने की दिशा में प्रयत्नशील हैं हमारा विश्वास है कि आप जैसे समाजवादी व्यक्ति कोल सक्टर को बहुत मजबूत और सशक्त बनाएंगे ताकि हम अपने मूलक के औद्योगीकरण, कृषिकरण और माडरनाइजेशन के उद्देश्यों को प्राप्त कर सकें। जितना ही कांयले का प्रोडक्शन बढ़ेगा उतनी एनर्जी बढ़ेगी और एनर्जी के माध्यम से मूलक के विकास को, अपने लक्ष्य के अनुकूल प्राप्त कर सकेंगे। इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ आपको धन्यवाद।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. KAUSHIK): Now, Mr. Sushil Chand Mohunta. Please take only five minutes. Please co-operate.

SHRI S. W. DHABE (Maharashtra): But Mr. Kalpnath Rai did not co-operate with you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. KAUSHIK): That is because Mr. Dipen Ghosh interrupted him. Yes, Mr. Mohunta.

SHRI SUSHIL CHAND MOHUNTA (Haryana): Sir, a lot has already been said about the condition of the miners and there is no doubt that they are very pitiable. But very little has been done to improve their lot. Their working conditions are hopeless. What the Government should have done when it nationalised the coal industry was that it should have first taken notice of the pitiable conditions of the workers and tried to improve them.

Now, coming to the Bill as such, Sir, I am really surprised to note that the honourable Minister has been very quick, I should say, to see that the Housing Board and the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund are abolished. He also says that the Government of India, because this has become a Government of India Undertaking, will automatically assume the responsibility for the welfare of the workers. I only want to say that if you had something like that in mind, if you had wanted to abolish one thing, then you must have thought about the creation of

another, whether it is under the Government of India or whether it is under the Undertaking itself. Whatever amount you want to give, there must be some executing agency to utilise that money to provide housing facilities to the workers and also for seeing to their welfare, their educational facilities, medical facilities, etc. This you should have considered side by side. You abolish this; but you create another. It may be under the control of the company or the Government. I have no objection to that. You could have as well asked the company to donate largely and liberally, to donate large sums of money, to these already existing Fund and Board. This could have been done. Even now the company is going to spend on its own and it would have spent from the Housing Board Fund. There is any difference. But there should be some security provided under the Bill. Under this Bill, there is no hope for the worker. You may decide to do something for them and you may decide not to do anything for them. It all depends on you. But there is no assurance given to the workers through this Bill. I only wish that you had created an alternative agency, an alternative mechanism, for providing the various facilities to the workers. If they want medical facilities, you should have an alternative or ready mechanism. If housing facilities are to be accorded to the workers, there should have been a mechanism for that and also there should be workers' participation in the enjoyment of those benefits. This should also have been safeguarded. Without the workers' participation if the money is to be spent for their benefit, then, I think, there is no noble idea behind this. I do not know how the honourable Minister thinks that the conditions of the workers will improve as a result of this Bill. I do not find anything. Rather the main thing on which special stress was made was to provide an alternative mechanism for the benefit of the worker, which he has not brought out. (*Time bell rings.*) I hope, either through the amendment to this very Act itself or through a separate legislation or separate Rules or through directions to the Company, this object

will be achieved. Otherwise I can say that he may be a progressive minded or of socialist mind but it is not reflected in this particular Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. KAUSHIK): Shri Gurudas Gupta.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): I am Das Gupta, not..

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. KAUSHIK): I am very sorry. (*Interruptions*) He is double Das.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : Sir, I am ready to respond to the request made by Mr. Kalpnath Rai and I am also ready to cooperate with the ex-Socialist Energy Minister in the Government of India ...

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: And ex-Socialist Kalpnath Rai...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: ... so that coal production picks up. Mr. Dipen Ghosh, will you kindly allow me to speak?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. KAUSHIK): Six O'clock is coming very fast; we are very near to that. Please take 5 minutes. Then I will ask the Minister to ...

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): How can he reply today? According to the List of Business ...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. KAUSHIK): He is supposed to complete by 5.55. He is the last speaker.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I am ready to cooperate with Mr. Kalpnath Rai and with the Energy Minister who happens to be an ex-Socialist to ensure that production picks up there. (*Interruptions*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. KAUSHIK): Please let him speak. No interruptions.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Provided, Sir—I hope the Minister

knows—the Government of India gives up its policy of confrontation with the coal workers. I am reading only one passage of the statement jointly issued by the AITUC, CITU and INTUC and other Central Trade Unions. They are just declaring, after the completion of one day strike—I quote:

"We hope that the management of Coal industry would fulfil and implement the National Coal Wage Agreement *in toto* and refrain from taking any type of punitive action against the miners, failing which the miners will be forced to take to bigger struggles."

I accuse, Sir, the Minister or the Government of India or Coal India—I do not know who is superior—under whose direction a policy of nearly declaring a war against coal-miners is being adopted. The strike had to be called because you had violated the bilateral agreement. Please understand the danger inherent in it. If the Government or the Government organisation violates the bilateral agreement, then it is not the responsibility of the labour union to abide it. Therefore, they must be ready for the consequences. The workers had to go on strike because you have violated some of the provisions. That the violation was there, which is clear from the report of the Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Labour that met today morning.

Secondly, Sir, there was a strike for one day. Imagine the Coal India—under whose authority, I do not know—issued a Notification asking the subsidiaries to deduct wages for 8 days according to a law which was enacted by the British imperialism in 1936. Could the Minister tell me in which area, in which sector, in which industry a single day's strike tantamounts to deduction of 9 or 8 days' wages? (*Time bell rings.*) Not only that, Sir. There is a categorical statement in the notice of the Coal India that deduction notice should not be given to female workers. I can produce it for the information of the Minister the

[Shri Gurudas Das Gupta]

notice issued in Patmohana colliery against the female workers. I possess such a copy. Therefore, there is no law in collieries. I accept of course that there are mafias, but this is because of the mafia policy being pursued by Coal India. Rather the hon. Minister happens to be the greatest patronage of the mafia policy of Coal-India. Therefore, I appeal to them just to put an end to it. Imagine that the Government and the Coal India cannot stop accidents . .

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. KAUSHIK): Please conclude now.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I beg you to give me two minutes more. I am representing AITUC in the Coal India which happens to be strong and I have something to tell you. We do not get a chance to speak to the Minister. It is only here in the Parliament that we can speak to him directly. I take this opportunity to ask him whether he is ready to state here categorically that bilateral agreement will be carried out. I ask him whether he is ready to consider that this notice given for deduction of 9 days' wages will be withdrawn. I ask him to tell us why this notice was given when a case is still pending in the Calcutta High Court. I want him to tell us why the recommendation of the Fifth Miners' Safety Commission was not implemented. What is the report of the Sixth Safety Commission? The Sixth Safety Commission says that the measures that were suggested as far back as 1980 had not been carried out. What is the result? The result is that the Satyop colliery that was closed for one month, opened on 9th April, and the next day there was an accident and four miners had died. You are refusing even to take into employment the kith and kin of those who died in harness. Is it not a fact that the colliery miners are going on strike because they want employment for all the dependents of the deceased who died while in work? You are refusing to employ even the people who are dying in harness.

Lastly, what are the statistics about accidents? I give a simple figure about the accidents and how safety is being neglected. You want the workers to pick up production. But you will not make arrangements for workers' safety. You will not give them quarters. You will not give them schools. You will not even give them drinking water. Neither you will give them protection. After death, even their family members will not be given employment. They meet accident underground and their dependents are not given employment. The workers on their part are ready, more than Mr. Sathe and more than Mr. Kalpnath Rai, to increase production. But they must be given a chance to increase production. There must be a fair deal. There must be an end to the policy of confrontation. Sir, according to Government statistics, 56 per cent of the accidents underground have taken place because of inadequate support. Not only that. 67.3 per cent of the underground accidents in 1984 were due to fall of side and roof. Well, in the whole world, the accidents due to side fall and roof fall are declining. That is increasing here in India. How are you going to save the workers from men made accidents? I also want the Minister to tell us categorically whether he is going to change this policy of confrontation, whether he is going to restrain the people whom he has entrusted with the job of Coal India. I want the hon. Minister to tell us whether he is going to abide by the bilateral agreement. I want him to tell us whether he is going to make arrangements for safety. I want him to tell us whether he is going to ensure better human living conditions for the coal miners. If this is done, then definitely, the coal miners will be second to none in ensuring increased production in the collieries.

I hope Mr. Sathe will be categorical in his reply. He will not evade. Otherwise, I may tell him that he will have to face a united struggle of red and tri-colour flags in the coal sector and face the united might of the coal miners.

That struggle will be against your policies. That will bring a change if good sense does not prevail upon you.

SHRI S. W. DHABE: Mr. Vice-Chairman, my friend was speaking with emotion.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. KAUSHIK): Emotions are to be restrained.

SHRI S. W. DHABE: He has got a different language and we have got a different language. When you were here, you were speaking the same 6.00 p.m. language. Sir, one of the causes for which the strike took place was like this, and I request the Minister to reconsider this seriously. The agreement was that the relatives of those who died on duty will get the job. It has been replied in this House on the strike question that it is unconstitutional. I don't think that it is unconstitutional. It is a reasonable classification. A man works for 25 years or 30 years as a coal-miner. If he is working as a coal-miner, his one foot is already in the trap ...

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Sir, I am on a point of order. It is already 6 o'clock and according to the order of Business, we should take up this Short Duration Discussion on the recent killings of Harijans in Arwal in Gaya district. And naturally I would appeal to you to have the discussion on this Bill adjourned and let it be spilled over to tomorrow and let us now take up the Short Duration Discussion.

संसदीय कार्य (राज्य सभा) विभाग  
में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सीता राम केशरी):  
मेरी आपसे रिक्वेस्ट है, फिर  
आप ऐसा कहेंगे हम आपकी  
बात टालेंगे नहीं ... (व्यवधान) ...  
सुन तो लीजिए। प्रार्थना भी तो सुनी चाहिए  
कि मैं क्या कह रहा हूँ। मेरा आप से  
निवेदन है कि 10-15 मिनट में खतम हो  
जाएगा, नहीं तो फिर 12 तारीख को  
जाएगा। जैसा आप कहें। देखिए एकमडेट  
करने की बात है। आप जो कहेंगे वही  
करेंगे। मगर यह रिक्वेस्ट है 15 मिनट  
के लिए।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. KAUSHIK): Let us finish it today. He is the last speaker. (Interruptions).

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: The last speaker may be allowed to speak. But the Minister's reply will have to be tomorrow.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY (Tamil Nadu): Don't yield to it. It is the privilege of the Opposition.

SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Not tomorrow कल दूसरा बिल आ रहा है। फिर सण्डे को आएगा। . . . (व्यवधान) . . . घोष बायू सुनिए। आपसे रिक्वेस्ट है मेरी।

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: The Minister will have to reply tomorrow.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. KAUSHIK): I request you that it will hardly take 15 minutes.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: They do not permit even a single minute for the Opposition when the Government Business should be finished.

श्री सीताराम केशरी : मिस्टर गोपालसामी, आप चिल्ला सकते हैं। लेकिन हम आखिर एकमडेट करते हैं . . . (व्यवधान) . . .

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: The Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs assured us that he would take care of his Members so that they could finish it in one hour. When we wanted more time to be allotted for this Bill, the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs assured us that he would take care that his Members do not take much time.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. KAUSHIK): That has been done.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: No. Let the Member complete his speech. But the Minister's reply has to be tomorrow. (Interruptions)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. KAUSHIK): Please sit down. I may tell the hon. Members that whatever assurance the Minister has given in the meeting, that has been fully complied with.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: How much time have they taken?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. KAUSHIK): The Congress Party has taken 33 minutes.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Out of one hour.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. KAUSHIK): The total time allotted to the Congress Party was near about 42 minutes, and only two Members were allowed to speak.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: The Minister will reply tomorrow.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: May I make a submission? Let Mr. Dhabe complete his speech today. I will reply on Monday.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Tomorrow.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Not tomorrow. Tomorrow there is another Bill coming. I will reply on Monday. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: On Monday we are going to debate another important thing—the Education Policy. For your information, for the Muslim women Bill, we are devoting only one day. For educational policy we have decided to devote two days. That is the kind of importance that we attach to the education policy. If you take away some time from that day, that will also not be fair. This is for your consideration.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. KAUSHIK): Let us finish this today.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Shall I not reply? When do you want to hear me?

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: We want a specific reply.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: I am bringing this to your notice implicitly for extending the session of the House by another day so that everybody can be accommodated.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: In any case it has to be. The Lok Sabha has been extended by another day.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. KAUSHIK): My request is that either we complete the Bill today or it will be continued on Monday.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Tomorrow.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. KAUSHIK): Not tomorrow. It will be done on Monday.

SHRI S. W. DHABE: Then I will speak on Monday.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. KAUSHIK): All right.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Mr. Dhabe, you speak today.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. KAUSHIK): He does not want to speak today then. All right, we will take up the Short Duration Discussion now.

#### SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION REGARDING RECENT KILLINGS OF HARIJANS IN ARWAJ IN GAYA DISTRICT OF BIHAR

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, with a heavy heart I raise a discussion on the recent mass killings of Harijans in a place which is associated with the name of Mahatma Gandhi. It is extremely painful to raise such a discussion when we are celebrating the hundredth year of India's freedom movement. Perhaps, Sir, it is quite consistent with the tradition of the national movement that the Members present in the House shall unanimously from all sides seek to disown and condemn all that happened in Arwal.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, it will be better and helpful for me to go into the problem if you will kindly remove the people standing around you while the proceedings of the House are going on. That will be quite helpful. (*Interruptions*). But he is your colleague, please allow him.