

[Shri Kalyan Roy]

ed against 15 in the same period last year. In the Central Coalfields, this year, that is, 1984, 15 persons were killed against only 11 last year. And in the Bharat Coking Coal Limited, in the six months from January to June this year, 14 persons were killed against 12 last year. Sir you have seen in the press also that in the Eastern Coalfields, only on the 18th of August, four persons were killed in two separate accidents, one in the Bankola colliery and the other in the Barmondia colliery, and 10 were injured. And I was informed that out of ten, six may die any moment. The hospitals are inadequate and there is no staff or even medicine to treat them.

Sir, it is unfortunate that the Prime Minister also defended yesterday in the other House the imposition of ESMA in the coal mines. The problem is to tackle safety which is declining, to tackle the grievances of the 7 lakh miners, which are not being tackled. Banning strikes in the coal mines under Coal India, arresting the trade union leaders and refusing to meet the trade union leaders will only jeopardise production and safety. Sir, these are all figures of the Director-General of Mines Safety. The Director-General of Mine Safety has to inspect the coal mines to find out whether they are unsafe or safe. But unfortunately the number of inspections has gone down considerably in the last four years because of shortage of staff and inadequate equipment. As a result, the employer, that is, Coal India, is playing with the lives of the miners. As a matter of fact, under the present National Coal Wage Agreement—it is written down and signed by both sides, the Chairman, Mr. Gujral and the trade unions—there should be a periodical review of the safety measures, their impact and implementation in the mines in the Joint Bipartite Committee. The agreement was signed on November 11 last

year and today is the 23rd of August, 1984. Mr. Gujral has refused to call a single meeting of the JBCCI to discuss safety because the safety regulations are being ignored and buried underground. So, through you, I request both the Labour Minister and the Energy Minister not to allow this slaughter of miners. They are mainly Harijans and others. I tried to find out the age-groups of these 68 people who were killed. They were hardly between 19 and 25. In the prime of youth they have been killed and slaughtered inside the mines, not because of their failure. They go down because they are told that the mines are safe. And the miners are being forced to work seven days a week without any rest and that is gross violation of section 28. If you ask for casual leave, you are faced with wage deduction for eight days. What kind of administration is going on? You have imposed ESMA not to tackle the safety measures. You have imposed ESMA in order to suppress the miners, who cannot be suppressed in this manner. So, instead of trying to take penal action, instead of trying to impose discipline in a crude and barbaric fashion, I would request the Minister to have a high-powered investigation into the cause of such rise in accidents in coal mines under the CIL and see that a meeting of the Joint Bipartite Committee, as per the agreement, is immediately convened to discuss this matter.

REFERENCE TO THE UNSOLD SPECIAL BEARER BONDS LYING WITH THE STATE BANK OF INDIA

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Rajasthan): Mr. Deputy Chairman, I wish to draw the attention of the Government to a very disturbing fact which has come to my knowledge. I have come to learn that thousands of blank special bearer bonds, each of the value of Rs. 10,000, are lying in various relatively insecure places like

almirahs. You know what a bearer bond is. It came to be called a black bond. Now, this lying of these bonds in this fashion, in various banks, in relatively unguarded almirahs, is an open invitation to fraud because all that is required to convert these blank special bonds into valid special bonds is a rubber stamp and a signature. There have already been enough cases of fraud in nationalised and non-nationalised banks and in many cases it has not been found possible to convict the persons involved. In this situation if any shortfall is discovered at a later stage, there will be no way to pinpoint the culprit. I would only take one more minute to emphasize to you because this graphically puts across what the actual state is. Bank sources say, in one centre alone, in the State Bank of India's Parliament Street Office, blank bearer bonds worth Rs. 68 crores were lying in two almirahs. Bank officials also fear considerable confusion when in 1991 they would have to pay out more than Rs. 800 crores. This is the existing confused state of affairs. Now, unless the Government comes out with some way of staggering the payment, there will be total chaos in 1991. I am not exaggerating. The relevance of what I am trying to put across is also accentuated by the fact that some years ago it was discovered by a bank in Agra that Rs. 42 crores of unissuable notes had been eaten away by white ants. In view of all these various possibilities involving crores of rupees because bearer bonds are just like negotiable money, if they are lying in relatively insecure places, it is only right that I raise this matter of urgent public importance in the House in the expectation that the Government comes out with some kind of security measures in this respect.

RE. THE DELHI PROHIBITION OF EVE-TEASING BILL, 1984

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. Venkatasubbaiah to introduce the Delhi Prohibition of eve-Teasing Bill...

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Rajasthan): I have an objection, Mr. Deputy Chairman. I sent you my objection and I thought you had accorded your permission to raise it. My objection to this Bill is on two grounds: One is about the powers of Parliament to enact it. My second objection is on the very nomenclature of this Bill. I take serious objection to the nomenclature, 'Delhi Prohibition of Eve-Teasing Bill.' I might refer to the honourable Minister of State for Home as 'Adam' Venkatasubbaiah if man is referred to as Adam. I cannot conceive of why such an enactment should be brought into this House in this manner. It will become a permanent measure on our statute books. My objection is not facetitious. My objection is not light-hearted. I think the word eve-teasing is so derogatory. It has the supposition of all the wrong kind of things that are now attempted to be corrected. It is graceless. It lacks in style. It appears that the whole Bill has been framed or drafted by somebody in a hurry, late in the afternoon, when he was rushing to get back home. I take serious objection to the choice of the word eve-teasing. A much better, a more appropriate word, a much more comprehensive word, is harassment to women. It is only in this country that we keep on using the word eve-teasing? Do you use the word Adam-teasing? This is very substantial objection...

MISS JAYALALITHA (Tamil Nadu): I support the objection raised by Mr. Jaswant Singh...

SHRI KALYAN ROY (West Bengal): We don't use the words Adam and Eve like this. It is an American slang.

SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): I am thankful to Mr. Jaswant Singh that he has raised this objection.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Please reflect on this; Sheilaji is here. Sheilaji, please, even you reflect on this.

MISS JAYALALITHA: I wish to express my gratitude to Mr. Jaswant