

SHRI SITARAM KESRI (Bihar): What about those two points raised?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI U. K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA): I have already said, they would be looked into. If there is any thing unparliamentary or derogatory, I can tell the hon. Members that it would be expunged.

(Several Hon. Members rose.)

SHRI KALYAN ROY (West Bengal): If anybody wants to walk out, please walk out.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI U. K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA): It is not a walk out. Order, order. Shri Kalyan Roy.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: Shah Commission has totally upset the mood. I am not in a mood.

श्रीमती सरोज खापर्डे . उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय,  
शाह कमिशन की रिपोर्ट को आप सीधे बेंस्ट  
वेपर बास्केट में फेंक दीजिए ।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI U. K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA): Will the Lady Member kindly sit down and cooperate with the business of the House? It is not the Shah Commission, but it is the Coal Mines Bill. Shri Kalyan Roy.

# **THE COAL MINES NATIONALISATION LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1978—contd.**

SHRI KALYAN ROY (West Bengal): The Shah Commission has upset all of us. The Commission should not have been set up at all.

I would not take up much time of the House. The last point I was dealing with was that you are starving the Coal India. The prices are going up and you should give a fair raise in the prices. I would only summarise

my entire speech in 5 or 6 minutes. The second point I would like Mr. Ramachandran to note is that Rs. 92 crores has not been paid to Coal India so far by the public sector organisations. He says that Coal India will survive. How is it possible when Durgapur Steel, the Railways and the thermal power stations are not paying for the coal they are buying? Last session the hon'ble Member put the figure at Rs. 99 crores. Now he has reduced it to Rs. 92 crores. It is a shame that the public sector buys coal but they do not pay for it.

I am just summarising the points. Similarly, I would like to know about the fight going on between the Steel and the Coal Ministries. Only the other day the Minister stated that Coal India is able to supply all the needs of steel plants. The steel plants need 41,000 tonnes of coal per day. You also said that you are in a position to give them good coal as per quality control. But the ash content is not as much as Mr. Biju Patnaik wants to make out. On the other hand, the Steel Ministry is day after day propagating that the ash content is going up. Therefore, they have no alternative but to import coal which means an addition to coal cost. So this tussle between the two Ministries should be solved. The Coking Coal Ltd. is in a position to supply coal provided the price is paid whereas Mr. Biju Patnaik says that the Steel Ministry is going to buy coke oven coal. The entire washing plants are under Mr. Ramachandran. He should have looked into the functioning of the coking coal plants.

My third point is about distribution for which the Coal India cannot be blamed. The machinery should be controlled and distribution should be taken over from the hands of ex-miners and distribution should be made by the Coal India Ltd. itself. They should see to it that price of soft coke which is used by the ordi-

nary people should not go up. The condition of coal is in a very bad shape, as I said in the beginning. The entire administration has come to a standstill. The entire leadership is totally incompetent. It has taken over the work of 75 companies. Huge offices of Coal India are there, hundreds of them. But there is no work. So I would like Mr. Ramachandran to let us know what is being done about it. There is no planning in the Coal India Ltd.

Sir, previously our target was 135 million tonnes. Then it was reduced to 130 million tonnes. Then we reduced it to 104 million tonnes. What is that target finally? Are you sure about your target because you have no fixed target? Workers have developed hostility towards their organisation. Nobody knows where they are going. As a result the target in the various coal belts has not been reached. As a matter of fact, I find that in the Raniganj belt there have been 180 strikes after the Janata Government took over minor issues. There is a kind of bitterness. 600,000 miners go down underground every day. Here also Mr. Ramachandran should be concerned about. The miners should be given two pairs of boots a year. When I asked a question as to how many pairs of boots have been given, it was found that only 60 per cent. in some concerns, 40 per cent. in some other concern and only 30 per cent. in some others have been issued the miners' boots. Who will be responsible if some very serious accident occurs?

Similarly, about quarters. There was an agreement—Mr. Ramachandran knows it—in 1975 that Rs. 5 crores should be set apart for building quarters for coalminers because the Government has admitted that in the private sector 85 per cent. of the workers have no quarters at all. They just live like slaves. After you took over so many years have passed from 1971 to 1978. What is the rate of satisfaction? Mr. Ramachandran replied that previously only 20 per cent. workers were provided with quarters. Now

the percentage has gone up to 35. Are you happy with the performance? I have no time to go into his reply. The building of quarters is going down in E. C. L., C. C. L. and W. C. L. The number of quarters which were built in 1976 was not more than 77. In 1978 the position is still worse. So I would like to know whether you are actually spending the Rs. 5 crores for building quarters which is part of the agreement between the trade unions and the coal companies. The workers' feeling is that the Welfare Fund is being drastically cut, whatever money is being paid for the supply of water, for medicines, for hospitals and ambulances has been cut. It is a matter of shame that you have so many guest houses in Calcutta—three guest houses. You pay about Rs. 7 lakhs as rent for five big buildings in Calcutta. But you cannot afford to give ambulances to each coal mine and you cannot afford to have a doctor for each coal mine. I know case after case where workers who were injured have been left on the mine surface for hours together because there was no taxi or ambulance available. When we ask for ambulances you say you are short of finance, when we ask for doctors you say you are short of finance, when we ask for quarters you say you are short of finance, when we ask for safety measures you say you are short of finance. There is no shortage of finance in relation to non-productive jobs but there is shortage of finance in relation to workers' amenities.

In spite of difficulties, in spite of non-cooperation from the bureaucracy, in spite of the hostile attitude of the officers and in spite of the rise in accidents—of course, there is a little drop this year—workers' productivity has gone up and you should take pride in the fact that the workers who were producing 71 million tonnes before the take-over are now producing 103 million tonnes. Now you wanted the workers to produce 135 million tonnes and the workers also want to produce 135 million tonnes. But you have not started the work, why? And you have

[Shri Kalyan Roy]

talked about some 71 projects and we see them only on the paper. I have got a list of these 71 projects but they are not coming up. As I said, there has been a decline in the rate of production. Productivity is going up but there is a decline in the rate of production.

Today Mr. Ramachandran should know that all the figures he is getting are not correct because the underground production is going down. The major production is coming from OGP—OGP stands for overground production. In each coal mine, if you take the underground mines, the major quantity of production was coming from underground. But what is happening now? Underground production is falling and quarry production is going up. There is a lot of manipulation in quarry production and that is why they are trying to show that the production is going up. As a matter of fact I would like the Government to have a deep probe into the production figures.

Then, Sir, the next point is about the rampant corruption and there is no doubt about it. Corruption is increasing in wholesale, in purchase. A lot of officers, whose incomes are disproportionate to their salaries, have built houses. And cases are lying here. As a matter of fact I am forced to bring to the attention of this House the shameful fact that even the cases which were given to the Government are lying neglected for years together. There are vigilance Departments but there is no action. There is the CBI but the cases are piled up there. I would point out to you from memory—I have not been able to find the exact papers here—that out of 200 cases in BCCL, 75 cases are still pending. Again, there are 600 cases regarding corruption in five companies. I scanned the figures. Four hundred cases are pending for the last five years and no action has been taken against officers guilty of corruption. The result is that those officers try to white-wash the inquiry and they remain there. This is an-

other point I am bringing to the attention of Mr. Ramachandran.

Sir, corruption and safety go together. I have been telling this Hosue again and again that there are double standards. I can give the figures but I am not going into that. Accident after accident takes place in the mines and the General Manager, the Agent or the Manager is found guilty. In some cases the workers are found guilty. The workers are suspended and their services have been terminated. But the General Manager who has been held to be guilty by the Director-General of Mines Safety has been promoted—Mr. A. D. Patro. He has been held guilty in the worst accident in the Ranipur colliery because there was an explosion due to use of unsafe machinery. In the case of an ordinary worker earning Rs. 10 a day, 3.00 P.M. if he is found guilty, immediately his services have been terminated. I have got the list, but I do not want to read the whole of it. A worker found committing a theft of two baskets of coal—action taken; services terminated. An officer found to have disproportionate property, an officer found to be indulging in malpractices, an officer found to be making illegal money—action taken; warning. Is it justice? Mr. Ramachandran, you have to prove it. The coal-miners went through a lot of suffering during the Emergency when strike were banned, when meetings were banned. In Madhya Pradesh alone, you should know, when you are talking of the Emergency, 1,000 workers of the All-India Trade Union Congress were arrested on a single day, and they were released after six months. In spite of these horrible sufferings, even 8 per cent bonus was taken away. I find there is rumbling in the coal-mines because officers are getting their upper hand. They have formed an association and they are trying to blackmail them. The safety side is lacking. Target is uncertain. So the situation is deteriorating very fast and you should immediately take steps to prevent further deterioration.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI U. K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA): You should wind up.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: Another thing I want to submit in this connection is that, as you are aware, the central trade unions came into an agreement with the Coal India Limited in 1975 for a rise in wages. In England, the Heath Government collapsed because the miners refused to accept the wages offered by him. They said, "If Mr. Heath had to go down the mines, he would have demanded more wages." A coal-miner has to get down to 2000 ft. depth and he does not know whether he is going to come up the mine or not. Every day, 300 persons are killed and every year 3,000 persons are seriously injured. Such is the inhuman terrible condition under which a miner has to work in our country. And in that background, we came to an agreement in 1975 for four years, about wages, about amenities, about sick wages—all those things. The Government unilaterally modified that agreement. In spite of that, some agreement was reached. Wages went up. It was for four years. The four-year period is going to be over on 31st December, 1978. Mr. Ramachandran is very much aware of it. It is not a matter for a joke. It is a complicated task involving over 600,000 of miners of various categories—overmen, mining sardars, surveyors, electricity department people, mechanical department people, etc. All kinds of people are there. Head office, sub-office, group office, underground, surface people. What are you going to do about them? Would you like to have a strike there? The situation is burning.

One last thing. Mr. Carter had to invoke the Shaft Heartly Act to force 300,000 coal-miners of the United States to go back to the pitch. They refused. As a result, the big mine-owners, particularly the United Steel Company, had to accept the wages which were demanded by the coal-miners of the United States. In India, Sir, a textile worker earns more than

what a coal-miner does. A jute worker earns more than what a coal miner does. A steel worker earns more than what a coal worker does. So, what are you going to do about it? Would you wait for a strike notice? Demonstrations are going on from colliery to colliery. One-day strike had already been planned. Before things get out of your hands, I would request Mr. Ramachandran to please call the central trade union leaders, sit together and evolve a wage negotiating body taken from all the trade unions, and settle it before 31st of December, 1978. I say this, not as a threat but as a warning, that if things are not settled by 31st of December, the 600 miners will follow the footsteps shown by the U.K. and USA miners. There is no other way out because they refuse to work in the sluggish conditions created by the Government. This sort of situation cannot be tolerated any more.

श्री प्रणब चटर्जी (बिहार) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, इस संशोधन बिल का उद्देश्य कोयला राष्ट्रीयकरण अधिनियम के अन्दर जो वृत्तियाँ हैं उनको दूर करना है। जहाँ तक वृत्तियों को दूर करने का सम्बन्ध है, यह संशोधन काफी दूर तक उस अभाव की पूर्ति करेगा। जो सूद के आधार पर रुपया पुराने मालिकों को दिया गया है और उनका जो दावा है उस दावे को कम सूद के दर पर उनका निपटारा किया जा सकेगा, यह संशोधन उस उद्देश्य को पूरा कर सकेगा। मजदूरों का जो बकाया है उसका भुगतान पूर्ण रूप से जल्द से जल्द हो, यह भी एक उद्देश्य है। इस संशोधन के द्वारा उसकी पूर्ति की जाएगी।

परन्तु मैं आपके द्वारा सरकार की दृष्टि इस तरफ खींचना चाहता हूँ कि क्या वजह है कि जब दुर्गापुर, बोकारो, रुड़कला या भिलाई के कारखानों की कोयले की खानें नहीं हैं, तब टाटा को क्यों सुविधा दी गई है कि उसकी अपनी खानें हों, जिनका राष्ट्रीयकरण नहीं किया गया है? टाटा काफी हद तक उसका शोषण करता है और आये दिन छोटे से छोटे बहाने पर मजदूरों को नौकरी से निकाल देते हैं। जो ट्रेड यूनियन वहाँ काम करती हैं, उनके ऊपर प्रहार होता है। टाटा सिर्फ उस ट्रेड यूनियन को कर्ज देता है जो उनके माकूल हैं। तो मैं अनुरोध करूँगा कि टाटा के अन्दर जो कोयले की खानें हैं उनका राष्ट्रीयकरण कर लिया जाए।

इसके बाद जो गैर-कानूनी कोयले की खानें पर काम होता है उन्हें बन्द करने का उपाय हो। इस संशोधन में यह भी जोड़ दिया जाए

[श्री प्रणब चटर्जी]

कि जो कोयले का धन है उसका स्वामित्व राष्ट्र को है और किसी भी निजी कोयले की खानों के मालिकों को कोयला निकालने का अधिकार नहीं हो। पूर्ण रूप से यह कानून बनना चाहिए। कोयले की जो अवैध खानें हैं, वह कानून के नुक्स सहारे कि पूरे कोयले का राष्ट्रीयकरण नहीं हुआ है जो कम्पनियां राष्ट्रीयकृत हैं, उन्हीं खानों का कोयला राष्ट्रीयकृत है, कोयले का अवैध व्यापार करती हैं।

इसी प्रकार मान्यवर, अभी जो राष्ट्रीयकृत कोयले की कम्पनियां हैं जैसे भारत कोकिंग कोल या ईस्टर्न कोल फील्ड या और भी हैं वे अभी तक दो प्रकार की ट्रेड यूनियनों को अपना श्रेय देती रही हैं—एक आई० एन० टी० यू० सी० और दूसरी ए० आई० टी० यू० सी०। मेरा निवेदन है कि सभी ट्रेड यूनियनों का राष्ट्रीयकृत कोयला खानों के समान बराबर का दर्जा होना चाहिए चाहे वह कोयला मजदूरों की यूनियन हिन्द मजदूर सभा के अन्तर्गत हो, आई० एन० टी० यू० सी० के अन्तर्गत हो या ए० आई० टी० यू० सी० के मातहत हो। सबको बराबर और समान रूप से बढ़ने का मौका मिलना चाहिए।

पिछले 20 महीनों में जब इमरजेंसी थी ती आई० एन० टी० यू० सी० को मदद करने के लिए कोयला खानों से दूसरे कोयला खानों को मजदूरों का तबादला कर दिया गया। मेरा अनुरोध है कि उनको वापस होना चाहिए। इसके लिए धनबाद में मजदूर नेता राम अयोध्या सिंह ने अनशन भी किया था। फिर भी उनका तबादला नहीं हुआ। मेरा कहना है कि आई० एन० यू० सी० के कहने पर इमरजेंसी में जिन मजदूरों को बतलाया गया था वह वापस होना चाहिए।

जैसा कि पूर्व-वक्ता ने कहा है कि खानों में पूरी सतर्कता नहीं बरती जाती है जिससे आये दिन काफी एक्सीडेंट्स होते हैं। इसके लिए पहले जैसे राष्ट्रीयकरण होने के पहले कोयले के उत्पादन में वैज्ञानिक नजरिया नहीं रखा जाता था—आज भी वही हाल है आए दिन जिसकी बजह से दुर्घटनाएँ होती रहती हैं। एक एक दुर्घटना में काफी कीमती जाने जाती है। अतः यह कोशिश होनी चाहिए कि राष्ट्रीयकृत कोयला कम्पनियों में कम से कम दुर्घटना हो। इसकी जिम्मेदारी केवल कोयला सेप्टी रंगटन की ही नहीं, बल्कि कोयला इनर्जी विभाग (ऊर्जा विभाग) की भी जिम्मेदारी होनी चाहिए।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं इस बिल का समर्थन करता हूँ।

SHRI VITHAL GADGIL (Maharashtra): Sir, this Bill is the latest evidence, if any evidence was needed, of the wide gap between the promise and the performance of the Janata

Party and the Janata Government. Not very long ago, in March last year, the Janata Party proclaimed inside the House, outside the House, on the platform, in the press conference, in manifestoes and press statements their great concern for the rule of law, for an open society, for the independence of the judiciary, their concern for the common man, for efficient running of public enterprises and what have you. Now, if you examine the clauses of this Bill, they give a complete lie to all these tall claims which have been made over the last one year.

Take the first—an open society. Now, there are 20,000 shareholders, small shareholders and they have alleged that the amount of compensation that was fixed has no rational basis, no scientific basis and it is purely arbitrary. And their allegation is that the basis varies. In the case of Bastacolla Coal Co. Ltd., it is 126 per cent of the book value; and at the other extreme, you have D. Mondal & Co. Ltd., where it is fixed at 0.0064 per cent. Now, they want to know what the basis is. They made several representations. But the Government refused to disclose the basis on which the amount or the compensation was fixed. Yet, they talk of an open society.

Take the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary. Now, I was astonished to find that the Janata Government, which waxes eloquent about the independence of the judiciary and the rule of law, has provided in this Bill a clause which is very interesting, at least to me as a lawyer, as an advocate of some 21 years' standing. I was astonished to see clause 4. Not that it is not found in other statutes; it does appear. But it does not become the Janata Government to include this kind of a clause when they talk about the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary. What is that clause?

"Not with standing anything contained in section 3...any money

collected by the Central Government or the Government company during the period commencing on the appointed day and ending with the date specified under sub-section (3) of section 22 shall be deemed to have been validly collected by the Central Government or the Government company, as the case may be, and any such money shall be applied in accordance with the provisions of section 22."

"Shall be deemed to have been validly collected"—whether it was illegally collected or legally collected or validly collected or invalidly collected. The same party which talks of the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary, provides in a Bill that you shall not question; it shall be deemed to have been validly collected. And what is more astonishing is the subsequent clause—this is the great respect which they are showing for the independence of the judiciary.

"Any money collected as aforesaid shall not be called in question in any court of law."

This is the great respect for the independence of the judiciary that the Janata Government has shown. They used to talk from house-tops about the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary. And here is a clause which prohibits an ordinary small shareholder from questioning in a court of law whether a particular amount of money was collected validly or not. This is their rule of law and independence of the judiciary!

Now, what about management? They talk about efficient management of public enterprises. "Oh, these Congressmen for the last 30 years have spoiled everything. We are the great champions of efficient management of public enterprises." And what is the provision? The provision is that we shall not question anything. You say, we shall not give you the

audited accounts of whatever money we spend. Whether there are creditors whether there are debtors, whether sundry creditors are there, whether sundry debtors are there, you shall not know anything; no audited accounts to be given to you. This is their idea of efficient management; this is their idea of financial probity; this is their idea or attitude about a correct financial procedure. And yet they talk of efficient management. And on the top of all this, as I said at the outset, they claim they are for the small man. There are 20000 small shareholders. They have been making representation after representation on these points, and, if my information is correct, their representations are not even acknowledged. Therefore, I have given an amendment. As a lawyer I am not pleading anybody's case. As a lawyer on principal I feel that section 4 must go. What you do about compensation, whether you disclose the information or not, the basis of compensation, the basis on which you arrived at the amount, and all that, whether you disclose it or not, the people will judge whether you are for an open society or not. Then again, whether you improve the management and give audited accounts or not, the people will judge you. But as a lawyer and as a person who believes in the rule of law and independence of judiciary I beg to submit that Clause 4 must go. Therefore, I have given an amendment, a constructive amendment, which will keep the spirit of the law and at the same time uphold the rule of law. I would therefore request the Minister to accept my amendment to Clause 4. If he does not, the only irresistible conclusion the House can draw is all this talk about rule of law and independence of judiciary, about open society and concern for small man, all this is nothing but a bogus claim, a baseless claim. I would like to throw a challenge to the Minister, if he really believes in this kind of things, he should accept my amendment and see that the rule of law and independence of judiciary are upheld.

**SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN:** Mr. Vice-Chairman, I am very grateful to honourable Members for the constructive suggestions made in the course of the debate. Excepting one honourable Member, Mr. Yadav, all the other Members tried to point out constructively the defects that lie in the coal industry as such, and also tried to make some suggestions. The honourable Member, Shri Yadav, went to the extent of demanding my resignation. I do not know whether he finds it difficult to digest my being Minister in charge of the coal industry. One thing I would like to assure the honourable Member; the moment I find that I am not equal to the task of the coal industry, I would prefer to leave the industry to itself than to continue as a Minister in this House. But he was going at a tangent, trying to criticise without going into the facts of the entire industry. He was referring to a few points which may probably be discussed here or to which I may reply point by point which may apply to the honourable Members who have made similar points in the course of their discussion. Firstly, I would like to say something on production, about the targets that were set before us for production, of coal. In the matter of production I would like to emphasise that after we took over not only did we maintain production in spite of the obstacles and strains that we faced in the course of the last year, but we also tried to supply to the consumers what they wanted. Compared to 1976-77 we supplied to the consumers nearly 4.5 million tonnes extra this year. There was a strike for more than 40 days in the explosives factories. And even now there is go-slow going on in the explosives factory. Then there was unusual heavy rain in the beginning of the last year. In spite of all these things, we tried to keep the production going on and also produced almost equal quantity that was produced in the previous year in the coal industry. Not only that, we supplied coal to the needy consumers. He

was referring to some of the power stations, cement industry and steel industry which were not getting enough coal for their consumption. Excepting for one day in one particular thermal station in Koradi, throughout the year no power station, no steel industry or no cement industry closed down for want of coal...

**SHRI RAMANAND YADAV**  
(Bihar): What about Patratu?

**SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN:** Even Patratu did not suffer for want of coal.

श्री रामानन्द यादव : लेकिन पतराटू इलेक्ट्रीसिटी बोर्ड के मेम्बर ने खुद कहा है कि कोल इंडिया ने हमको कोल नहीं दिया जिसकी वजह से हम इसे जल्दी चालू नहीं कर सके और इसलिए बिजली बिहार को नहीं मिल रही है।

**SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN:** The hon. Member may listen to me. I do not know what the member of the Electricity Board has said. But I can tell the hon. Member that coal was supplied to Patratu. May be the stocks might have gone down. That does not mean that the power station stopped work in Bihar. It was not certainly due to want of coal. maybe due to other reasons.

Another point he said was about steel mills. I would like to impress upon the House that the supply of coking coal and other quality coal to steel mills continues to be satisfactory and even the lowest stock was roughly about 2,90,000 tonnes. By the end of the financial year, that is by 31st March, the coal stocks in the steel mills were about 4.5 lakh tonnes. If any-body says that coal was not supplied to steel mills, I am sorry I refute that allegation because steel mills

श्री रामानन्द यादव : श्रीमन्, मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानकारी प्राप्त करना चाहता हूँ कि बोकारो, भिलाई और राउडकेला में प्रतिदिन कितने टन कोल का कंजेशन होता है और कितना टन कोयला इन फैक्टरियों के पास घापकी रिजिम के शुरू होने से पहले था ?

SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN: Coal stocks in various steel mills varied and the lowest stocks were for three to four days in one of the steel mills. In other places it was for more than 15 days...

श्री रामानन्द यादव : उसके पहले कितना रहता था ?

How many tonnes were consumed in steel mills?

SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN: I am telling you that even in Bokaro they cannot stock for more than 8 days' consumption. They do not have enough capacity to stock. Like that other steel mills also do not have sufficient capacity. Therefore, whenever they wanted, they were supplied coal. There was constant dialogue between steel plants and the coal producers. I do not think that at any time they suffered for want of coal. I think...

श्री रामानन्द यादव : आपके स्टील मिनिस्टर ने यह कहा है।

SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN: It is all right. You do not drive a wedge between the Coal Ministry and the Steel Ministry. Do not attempt that because you will not succeed. I can assure the hon. Members that steel industry or for that matter any industry will not suffer for want of coal in the coming year.

In the current year 1978-79 we have targeted a production of 113 million tonnes of coal. Last year we produced 101 million tonnes. For the current year 113 million tonnes will suffice for the consumers as a whole in the country. We have taken into consideration the new thermal stations that are to be commissioned, the increased consumption in the existing stations and also the steel plant before we fixed our target at 113 million tonnes. Even if more coal is necessary, we will not hesitate to produce more and supply the required quantity. That is about production. Then, with regard to the other points raised. Sir, I would like

to say that there was some criticism by some honourable Members about the safety measures in the coal industry. With regard to the safety measures, I would like to point out that the year 1977-78 was the best year with regard to the lowest number of accidents that occurred in the coal industry. The year 1977-78 was not only the year in which the accidents were less, but also the year in which productivity went up. The accidents were less in number of 1977-78. But it does not mean that I am justifying the less number of accidents. But, when compared to the previous years, the accident rate was also much less and also the productivity had gone up in the coal industry. Then, some points were raised about the question of compensation and also about the number of pending cases, cases pending disposal so far as compensation is concerned. Here also, Sir, I would like to point out with figures that, after nationalisation, the total number of cases of claims that were there were about 92,000, both for coking and non-coking coal, and till we took over, the total number of cases of claims that were settled were only nine thousand. But, during the course of one year, we have 25,500 cases of settlement of inquiries, cumulative settlement. So, we are progressing very fast in this also and we have been progressing very fast in the last one year. We want to see that all the claims are disposed of in the course of the next 18 to 24 months. That is our target and, compared to the progress of cases during the last five years, you will see that we have made much progress and we have tried to dispose of the claims to the tune of 16,500 in one year while in the previous four years, the disposal was of the order of only nine thousand. In the coming 18 to 24 months, we would also like to see that all the claims are disposed of. With regard to the general criticisms about the provisions of the Bill. Sir, I would say that the honourable Members have generally welcomed most of the provisions except that some Members



[Shri P. Ramachandran]

have made certain general observations about the coal industry as such. About the other point, that is, about the nationalisation, Sir, I would like to point out here that it is not the intention of this Government to dilute the nationalisation in any manner. In fact, we have tried to bring forward this amendment, this amending Bill, only to plug the loopholes that we found in the course of the working of this Nationalisation Act. That is why we have brought forward this amendment.

Then, Sir, about the question of the illegal mining, the honourable Members have raised some points. In fact, we have made these provisions more stringent than what they were earlier. It is only to prevent the illegal mining that this has been brought forward and it has become a law and order problem mostly. In fact, we are in constant touch with the Chief Ministers of both Bihar and West Bengal to see that this illegal mining is treated as a law and order problem. Recently, Sir, the Supreme Court also held the Nationalisation Act valid and this has given us more powers to see that illegal mining is prevented at all costs. Of course, there may be some illegal mining still going on in a stealthy manner. But we have drawn the attention of the concerned State Governments to see that this illegal mining is controlled completely.

Then, Sir, about the question of arrears to be collected also, in fact, we are progressing well and we are trying to see that the arrears are kept at the lowest level and it is the endeavour of the Government to see that the arrears are collected as quickly as possible so that the coal industry can function in a viable manner.

There is one more thing, Sir. The honourable Members have mentioned here the question of the price of coal. The price of coal was increased, after

the nationalisation, twice. Here I would like to mention that the coal prices were increased only twice after nationalisation. But, unfortunately, the price of coal is fixed much below the cost of production. That is why we are facing losses in the coal industry. As some of the hon. Members have mentioned in the course of the discussion, inputs in the coal industry have gone up. Not only the inputs have gone up; the cost of production has also gone up because of wage revision that took place periodically the wage increases that take place periodically in the coal industry, the bonus that is paid in the coal industry and also various other safety measures that we are taking, on which we have to spend a lot of money. Also, because of machinery and other things, the prices have gone up. Electricity rates have gone up. All these go into the cost of production. That is why the cost of production is going up in the coal industry and we are unable to contain the cost of production because when the cost of inputs goes up, then it is difficult to make the coal industry as such commercially viable.

One of the reasons why we have not increased the price of coal is that we want to contain the inflation in the country. Coal is needed in many industries, for power generation and steel mills. That is why we try to keep the price at a particular level. In fact, recently we appointed another committee to go into this structure, and their report is expected by the end of the month. We are trying to see whether any economies can be effected at the present moment, and thereupon we will see whether prices have to be increased or not in the coming years. Unless we make the coal industry commercially viable it may continue to lose in the matter of production.

About corruption, hon. Members have made some references. It is our endeavour to see that corruption is put down very firmly in the coal in-

dustry, and whenever any specific instances are brought to our notice the Government never hesitate to take action against the erring officials at any level in the industry.

Hon. Members have pointed out certain difficulties about the provision of facilities for the workers—like roads, drinking water facilities, housing facilities and various other facilities. The Government have not only devoted their attention to make these facilities available to the workers but they are also trying to see that every year the housing facilities are increased to the satisfaction of the workers. It may be that we have not got all the housing facilities, but it is our endeavour to see that housing facilities are increased every year.

A point was raised about coal import for steel plants. I have already said in the other House, and also outside, that the coal industry is in a position to supply whatever coal is needed by steel mills, and I do not think any discussion is necessary on that. Whatever is necessary will be done in the coming years.

The other criticisms were by and large constructive and I think hon. Members were very helpful in their discussions in making this industry more and more useful to the society.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Member, Shri Gadgil, who has given two amendments, to the fact that if his amendments are accepted, the very purpose of the Bill will be defeated. That is why I would request the hon. Member not to press his amendments, because it will create more problems and complications for the coal industry as a whole. So I would appeal to the hon. Member to withdraw his amendments.

With these few words, once again let me thank hon. Members for giving constructive suggestions in the course of discussion.

श्री रामानन्द यादव : भारत कोकिंग कोल के पर्सनल डिपार्टमेंट के आफिसर्स एसोसिएशन ने अपनी तनख्वाह के सम्बन्ध में एक मेमोरेण्डम आपको सन्मिट किया था और उसमें उनकी मांग थी कि दूसरी पब्लिक ग्रण्डटैकिंग में पर्सनल डिपार्टमेंट के लोगों को जो तनख्वाहें मिलती हैं वही तनख्वाह उनको भी मिलें, क्योंकि अभी जो तनख्वाह आप उनको देते हैं वह कम है। इसलिए वह चाहते हैं—इक्विवालेट टु अदर पब्लिक ग्रण्डटैकिंग देयर सैलरी शुड बी रेज्ड। इस पर जरा आप रोजनी दीजिएगा क्या ?

SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN. The memoranda are given by various associations. As and when these memoranda are received, they are being examined by the Government and let us see what we can do in the matter.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI U. K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA): The question is:

“That the Bill further to amend the Coking Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1972, and the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration.”

*The motion was adopted.*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI U. K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA): We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

*Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI U. K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA): Clause 4—there is one amendment. Shri Vithal Gadgil is not here. So, it is not moved.

*Clause 4 was added to the Bill.*

*Clauses 5 to 11 were added to the Bill.*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI U. K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA): Clause 12—there is one amendment by Shri Vithal Gadgil. He is not here. So, it is not moved.

*Clause 12 was added to the Bill.*

[Shri U. K. Lakshmana Gowda]

Clauses 13 to 20 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be passed."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

# **THE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION (AMENDMENT AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) BILL, 1978**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): Sir, before moving for consideration the proposed Bill, as passed by the Lok Sabha, with your permission I would like to say a few words in this connection.

This Bill seeks to provide for the acquisition by and transfer to the Deposit Insurance Corporation of the undertaking of the Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Ltd. in order to serve better the need for providing credit guarantee to commercial banks.

The Deposit Insurance Corporation deals with ensuring the safety of bank deposits. It was established on 1st January, 1962 by an Act of Parliament, with the object of giving a measure of protection to depositors, particularly small depositors, from the risk of loss of their deposits in the event of a bank's inability to meet its liabilities. When the Corporation was set up, a major part of banking in India was in the private sector. The State Bank Group was also brought within the purview of the Corporation so that its membership and consequential support, by way of insurance premia, of the Deposit Insurance Corporation would ensure the stability of the private sector of the banking system. Insured banks are required to pay to the Corporation premium at the existing rate of 4 paise per annum for every hundred

rupees of their assessable deposits. The present limit of insurance cover is Rs. 20,000/- to a depositor in respect of all deposits held by him in an insurance bank.

The Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Limited was set up in January, 1971 under the companies Act, 1956, to transact the business of guaranteeing and indemnifying of loans and advances granted by the commercial banks, co-operative banks and other financial institutions. One of the objectives of nationalisation of the 14 major private commercial banks was that bank credit should be available to the weaker sections of the society, namely, small farmers, small industrialists, self-employed persons and small transport owners and workers, in a much greater degree than hitherto. While the scheme operated by the Credit Guarantee Corporation of India is optional, a bank wishing to join this scheme is required to bring its entire lending to the specific sectors within the scheme. All commercial banks have joined the scheme in view of its advantages.

As the objectives of the two corporations are cognate, in that both seek to protect banks and depositors and since the resources of the Deposit Insurance Corporation are relatively larger as compared to the risk carried by it, while those of the Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Ltd. are relatively smaller, it is considered advantageous to transfer the undertaking of the Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Ltd. to the Deposit Insurance Corporation which will be renamed as the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation.

At this stage, while commending the Bill for consideration, I shall confine myself to the relatively more important provisions. For the take over of the undertaking of the Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Ltd. by the Deposit Insurance Corporation, it is proposed to provide for the pay-