

[Shri Bhupesh Gupta]

6 o'clock the other two Bills are taken up, and this Bill will not come.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Then you sit down, please sit down.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: We made a suggestion, all of us . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have taken over half an hour over this. This matter could be disposed of in five or ten minutes. This is the twelfth time you have stood up.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: You have made me stand up for the twelfth time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are repeating it.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I have got up 12 times, I may not get up at all. Why are you saying that? So, today it should be taken up?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, please sit down.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: We do not accept your suggestion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may not accept it.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: We do not accept that it should be taken up today. We oppose it. We do not accept it. All right, you have it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Shah Nawaz Khan.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: We record our protest against it; we think you have given a wrong direction. It is virtually having your way. Rules are waived and you stand by it.

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN (Tamil Nadu): It is casting an aspersion on the Chair. He must withdraw it. He

cannot say that you are taking a wrong decision. It is not a wrong decision.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: What is it?

THE MINES AND MINERALS (REGULATION AND DEVELOPMENT) AMENDMENT BILL, 1972

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair]

The Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act was enacted in 1957. Fifteen years have since gone by in the course of which mineral development of the country has, on the one hand, made significant strides and on the other, the need for streamlining the legal and institutional framework in the field of mining has also been increasingly felt. National income from the mining sector rose from Rs. 129 crores in 1960 to Rs. 314 crores in 1971, while national income as a whole rose from Rs. 13290 crores to Rs. 31170 crores at current prices during the years 1960-61 to 1969-70. However, the task before us during the Fifth Plan is going to call for mobilisation of national resources in men and material on a much bigger scale than hitherto, and in this context, an attempt has been made to bring about some changes in the law relating to the regulation and development of mines and minerals. While most of these changes have arisen from the deliberations of the Mineral Advisory Board held annually for the last 18 years, yet others are the result of suggestions made by various State

Governments who, under our Constitution, carry the primary responsibility for administration of the law. At least two of the amendments, however, are being proposed at the initiative of the Central Government itself in view of the need to ascertain in greater depth the reserves of various minerals available in the country, as well as to do away with obstacles to the growth of the public sector of industries and mining presented by individual interests. However, even these amendments—and here I refer to clauses 2 and 11 of the Bill before the House—have been framed after consultation with the State Governments.

In presenting the Bill to the Lok Sabha, I had explained the Government's desire to adhere more strictly to the Industrial Policy Resolution of 1956 in the matter of regulation and development of mines, consistent with the obligation to maintain close touch with the State Governments in providing the institutional framework through the relevant laws. The development targets likely to be adopted for the Fifth Plan in the fields of electricity, steel, cement, chemicals, fertilisers, aluminium, copper, zinc and other metals will demand a mighty effort on the part of all concerned, but the main thrust, as always, will have to come from the public sector under the Central Government. The amendments now being proposed in this Bill seek not only to remove certain lacunae noticed in the administration of the Act during the last decade and half, but also introduces new concepts in the regulation and development of mines in the national interest. The most important requirement felt during the last year or so has been the absence of powers in the hands of the Central Government to enable mining leases being granted in favour of a public sector undertaking. The lack of this power has slowed down the implementation of

important projects in the fields of iron and steel and non-ferrous metals. I invite the attention of Members to clause 2 of the Bill as amended by the Lok Sabha in this connection. This clause relates to the termination of mining leases. Under the existing law there is no provision for premature termination of mining leases. We have felt from our experience that great obstacles are being created in the way of development of public sector where mines have been leased out for very long period to parties who are not able to exploit them very satisfactorily. Sir, the intention is to make that possible both for major minerals as well as for minor minerals so that the areas which are required by the public sector or by the Central Governments undertakings or by the State undertakings can be acquired.

SHRI T. N. SINGH (Uttar Pradesh): On a point of information. Did the Central Government seek the approval of the State Governments before making this provision in this Bill?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Yes, Sir.

SHRI T. N. SINGH: Have all the State Governments agreed to the proposal?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Yes, Sir, all State Governments consulted have agreed.

SHRI T. N. SINGH: Have you secured their consent?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Sir, we have had extensive consultations with the State Governments and it is only with their concurrence that we have come forward with this legislation.

Sir, I would like to make it clear that the grant of mining leases vests in the State Governments itself. The State Governments grant the mining leases on

[Shri Shah Nawaz Khan]

the recommendation of the Central Government. Even in case of termination of mining leases the State Government, after it is requested by the Central Government will take necessary steps to terminate it. So the power vests with the State Government and remains there. Only they have to do it in consultation with the Central Government.

Clause 11 is also a very important clause that deals with the Geological Survey of India or any other agency duly authorised by the Government to enter upon areas which are held by private parties under mining leases. Previously we were unable to enter areas which were held by various parties under mining leases. This clause would make it possible for the Geological Survey of India or any other agency duly authorised to enter areas and carry out prospecting even if they are held under private lease.

Sir, this clause 2 can be said to be the king-pin of the entire Bill and, therefore, request the House to strengthen the Government's hands by passing this Bill expeditiously.

The question was proposed.

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर (राजस्थान) : उपसभापति महोदय, सरकार खानों के संबंध में एक राष्ट्रीयकरण की प्रक्रिया लागू करने के लिए आई है। आज मैं अपनी ओर से सरकार को एक दावत दे रहा हूँ एक खान के राष्ट्रीयकरण करने के सम्बन्ध में। एक इतना बड़ा मसला है जिस को जानबूझ कर सरकार ने बड़ी बगलिंग की है। एक बहुत बड़ा उद्योग है जिस से सरकार को लाखों रुपये का घाटा हो रहा है और केन्द्रीय सरकार और प्रांतीय सरकार ने मिल कर के एक इतनी बड़ी बगलिंग की है जिस की ओर मैं आप का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहूंगा। उपसभापति महोदय, राजस्थान में झामरकोटड़ा की खान है और राक फास्फेट वहां निकलता है और आप जानते

हैं कि राक फास्फेट केमिकल्स के लिए और फर्टिलाइजर के लिए बहुत उपयोगी वस्तु है। बहुत बड़ी संख्या में वह वहां निकलता है, लेकिन राजस्थान की सरकार ने, जैसा कि मंत्री जी कह रहे हैं इन का रेगुलेशन करेंगे, उसका मैं एक उदाहरण दे रहा हूँ। राजस्थान की सरकार ने मिल कर एक बीकानेर जिप्सम कंपनी है, उस को राक फास्फेट खोदने का, निकालने का ठेका दे दिया है और जो शर्त कंपनी के साथ तय की गयीं थीं उन में एक शर्त यह भी थी कि सारा माल उदयपुर स्टेशन पर डिलिवर किया जायेगा। उस कंपनी ने वहां के खान मंत्री श्री हरिदेव जोशी से मिल कर उस में यह किया है कि जो माल उस को उदयपुर स्टेशन पर डिलिवर देना पड़ता है उस के लिए राजस्थान सरकार उस कंपनी को 24 रुपये प्रति टन देती है और यह 24 रुपये प्रति टन कंपनी को इस लिए मिलता है कि वह माल उदयपुर स्टेशन पर डिलिवर किया जाय। आज कल माल ज्यादा नहीं निकलता है। एक शर्त उन्होंने यह भी तय की थी कि एक हजार किलोमीटर के अंदर इस खान के जो भी कंपनियां होंगी उन को यह खान ही माल सप्लाई करेगी। वहां एक कंपनी है डी०एस०एम०, दिल्ली की, दूसरी है फर्टिलाइजर काम्प्लेक्स, बड़ोदा और तीसरी है केमिकल्स इंडस्ट्रीज, सूरत। इन तीन कंपनियों को यह कंपनी माल सप्लाई करती है। इन तीनों कंपनियों को माल उदयपुर स्टेशन पर नहीं मिलता बल्कि वे तीनों कंपनियां माल खान पर से ही उठा लेती हैं और उस के बाद भी राजस्थान सरकार प्रति टन पर 24 रुपये इस कंपनी को इस बात का देती है कि माल उदयपुर स्टेशन पर डिलिवर किया जायगा। मैंने हिसाब लगाया इस कंपनी के फायदे का। इस कंपनी की उत्पादन क्षमता 1 हजार टन की है और एक हजार टन माल प्रति दिन डिलिवर होता है और 24 रुपये के हिसाब से अगर हिसाब लगाया जाय तो प्रति दिन राजस्थान सरकार को 24 हजार रुपये का घाटा होता है। अगर यह एक दिन का घाटा है तो साल भर का हिसाब

जगाये तो वह 87 लाख 60 हजार रुपये का घाटा होता है एक आइटम पर, राक फास्पेट पर। कंपनी कहती है कि आज कल माल ज्यादा नहीं निकल सकता। माल की कमी नहीं है। राक फास्पेट इतनी बड़ी मात्रा में वहां है कि हिन्दुस्तान की सरकार का जां खाद का काम है जो नये कारखाने खोलने की बात है, केमिकल इंडस्ट्रीज को बढ़ाने की बात है उस के लिए राक फास्पेट वहां से ही मिल सकता है और निकाला जा सकता है। लेकिन एक कंपनी जिस में राजस्थान के एक मंत्री का हिस्सा है वहां कंपनी मोनोपोली क्रिएट कर ले जिस के कारण सारे देश की जनता को, सारे देश की सरकार को घाटा हो रहा हो 24 हजार रुपये प्रति दिन का और पिछले 6, 7 साल से वह कंपनी काम कर रही है तो आप सोचें कि इतनी भयंकर मात्रा में यह घाटा देश को लग रहा है तो मैं माननीय मंत्री जी को बताना चाहता हूं कि सरकार इस को देखे यह कंपनी सारे देश की दृष्टि से ठीक प्रकार से नहीं चल रही है और इस के कारण देश के साधनों का दुरुपयोग हो रहा है। मुझे यह भी पता लगा है कि इस खान में काम करने वाले मजदूरों को मिनिमम वेजेज भी नहीं दिये जाते। मिनिमम वेजेज ऐक्ट वहां लागू नहीं किया जाता। जब मजदूर उस के लिए मांग करते हैं तो कहा जाता है कि यह केन्द्र सरकार का मामला है। केन्द्रीय सरकार का लेबर डिपार्टमेंट यदि हस्तक्षेप करे तो ही वहां पर मिनिमम वेजेज लागू हो सकते हैं नहीं तो नहीं। तो मैं मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूं कि इस खान के संबंध में वे क्या कर रहे हैं। जनसंघ के लोगों के लिए तो वे कहते हैं कि वे राष्ट्रीयकरण के पक्षपाती नहीं हैं, लेकिन मैं इस खान के लिए कहूंगा कि सरकार इस को ले, वह ऐसा मॉटेरियल है कि जो देश के उद्योगों के विकास के लिए रा मॉटेरियल के रूप में इस्तेमाल होता है। आप पाइराइट की खान जो राजस्थान में ही दूसरी जगह निकली है उस का विकास कर रहे हैं, लेकिन राक फास्पेट जो इतने ज्यादा कामों में आता है उस को लेने में आप

क्यों हिचकिचा रहे हैं और मैं इस विधेयक का तभी समर्थन करने के लिए तैयार हूं जब कि आप इस खान का राष्ट्रीयकरण करने के लिए तैयार हों।

उपसभापति महोदय, आज देश के अन्दर खानों के सम्बन्ध में जो स्थिति है और खनिज उद्योगों के विकास की दृष्टि से केन्द्रीय सरकार सारी बातों पर विचार करे। केन्द्रीय सरकार पूर्ण रूप से इस मामले में सम्बन्धित है और यह जरूरी है कि हमारे देश में जो खनिज भूगर्भ सम्पदा है, सारे देश में जो भूगर्भ सम्पदा है और विशेष तौर से राजस्थान और मध्य प्रदेश के इलाके में जो भूगर्भ सम्पदा है उसका सरकार सर्वेक्षण कराये। सर्वे तो बारबार होता है लेकिन सरकार को चाहिए कि इसका सर्वेक्षण करा कर यह देखे कि किस प्रकार से इनके आधार पर उद्योगों का विकास किया जा सकता है।

इस के साथ ही एक बात और कहना चाहता हूं और वह यह कि जहां पर खान निकलती है वहां पर ही उस के साथ में ही उद्योग भी, उससे सम्बन्धित उद्योग भी स्थापित किया जाय। तो खान मंत्री महोदय इस बात को भी देखे कि जहां भी खान निकलती है वहां ही सम्बन्धित उद्योग की स्थापना हो। खान निकलती है राजस्थान में और उसी खान से सम्बन्धित उद्योग दूसरी जगह स्थापित किया जाता है। जैसे कि खेतरी का कापर प्राजेक्ट बहुत बड़ा है लेकिन उसका सेंट्रल आफिस कलकत्ता ले जाया जाता है। तो इस कारण से जिस क्षेत्र में खान निकलती है उस क्षेत्र के लोगों को विकास करने की पूरी सुविधा और रोजगार के साधन उपलब्ध नहीं हो सकते। मैं चाहूंगा कि विकास की दृष्टि से जहां खान निकले उससे सम्बन्धित उद्योग वहां ही स्थापित किया जाय। जैसे कि कहा गया कि राक फास्पेट के ऊपर इतना ट्रांसपोर्ट चार्ज लगता है तो उससे सम्बन्धित उद्योग उसी क्षेत्र में खोला जाय तो मैं समझता हूं कि सरकार को

[श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर]

कम घाटा होगा और उद्योगों के विकास की दृष्टि से भी अच्छा रहेगा। एक फ्रांसफ्रेट के मामले में एक भयंकर भ्रष्टाचार हुआ है और रात-दिन लाखों रुपये की हानि हो रही है। अन्त में मैं फिर कहूंगा कि जिस उद्देश्य को लेकर सरकार यह बिल लाई है उस उद्देश्य की पूर्ति के लिये ही मैं सरकार से यह मांग करूंगा कि झंकार कोटडा की खान का वह राष्ट्रीयकरण करे।

SHRI T. N. SINGH : Our resources in mineral wealth are extensive and spread all over the country. It has been a matter of concern to all who are in any way interested in the development of mines and efficient exploitation of minerals to see that the Government take measures in the right direction and in the proper manner. We have had two institutions created by the British, the Geological Survey of India and the Indian Bureau of Mines. The first did the initial surveys and the other undertook the proving of reserves as to how much mineral wealth is available in a particular area. Thereafter, the whole information was available to the private sector in the past to exploit these mines as they wished. Now the point is: Are we today also allowing indiscriminate exploitation of the mines or not? According to me, though it cannot, be generally said about all minerals and mines, there has been indiscriminate exploitation of our mineral wealth, in the public sector as well as in the private sector. That is unfortunate. Take, for instance iron ore. Now, iron ore mines, most of them, a majority of them, are being run under Government control and supervision. Again in Delhi, Rajhara and other places where iron ore mines exist a lot of blue dust is accumulating, the best ore is being exploited and transported to the Steel Plants and inferior ores are being left to be exploited later. In the

beginning we had no sintering plants in our steel plants to make use of the left-overs of the ores. We have been indiscriminate in this regard. In our attempt to export this commodity now we are going in a big way for exploitation of iron ore mines. I am sure, if you go on in the manner in which we have been going on so far it will lead to serious loss of our very valuable resources. Today it is said that we aim at exporting more than 40 million tons of iron ore in the near future and though our iron ore resources may be good, may be extensive, they are not unlimited and inexhaustible. And if our steel plants go up to 100 million tons capacity which in course of time we should, that will mean about 160 million tons of iron ore consumption internally every year, assuming that the iron ore that we get is at least of 60 per cent grade. If it is not, then we will require at least more than 200 million tonnes of iron ore for our 100 million tonnes steel production. This is the position. How are you going to remedy the situation? I am sorry that the intensive and deep thinking which is necessary for bringing about a radical reform in the field of mining and geology is not to be seen anywhere in the Government. They themselves are guilty of ineffective, bad and wasteful exploitation of our mineral resources.

Take another instance that of lime stone, Steel smelting grade or flux grade lime-stone which is of great importance to us. Unfortunately, flux grade lime stone is not available in large quantities in our country according to the geological information so far available. Therefore, we have to conserve our high grade lime-stone reserves very carefully. But I am sorry to say that even in lime-stone mines which are under Government control there has been wasteful exploitation. I think that one of the main purposes of this Bill is to prevent this wasteful exploitation. When the

Government are guilty of it themselves how can then prevent others? I will be constructive, I am not going to be destructive in what I say on this subject. I want the mineral industry to come under Government control. That should have been done long ago according to the Industrial Policy Resolution. Mines are reserved for the public sector. But all these years we have been systematically allowing indiscriminate exploitation of our mines both by the public and private sectors. This is what has been happening. Whatever you are going to do under this measure is not going to meet the needs of the situation. There is something very much wrong with the mining organisations which the Government controls today. That has to be reformed.

Take, for instance, the coal industry. All the time coal mines have been wastefully exploited. What has been the record of the NCDC itself? NCDC is one of the big failures of Government undertakings. It has not been able to either conserve or exploit the coal mines efficiently, scientifically and effectively. That is the position in regard to NCDC. The story is the same with regard to pyrites. In Amjore we discovered sulphur ore or pyrites. This was in 1956. Today, even after sixteen years, we have not been able to extract a tonne of sulphur from that mine. We must have spent crores on this . . .

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN : We are making sulphuric acid from that.

SHRI T. N. SINGH : Our original intention was to produce sulphur. If you look at the papers you will see that that was the project report. I, as Member of the Planning Commission, suggested that you cannot have sulphur from the ore at Amjore. Then a Muslim Officer was suspected of passing on information to me and that man was in difficulty. This is the attitude of the Government of India. I am saying this from personal knowledge. That particular officer was taken to task and

I think he had finally to leave the Corporation. That is what happened. He was a very knowledgeable I.P.M. chemist. The trouble is that in this case I expressed my views regarding non-availability of elemental sulphur from the advice which I had received in the Planning Commission itself. I did not go to that particular officer to seek this advice on that point and yet, he was suspected. I have seen such things happening in other Government Departments also. The bureaucracy has a way of functioning in this way. My point is: You are extending your responsibilities to conduct extensive mineral operations in the public sector, but have you got the ability to do so? Have you got the necessary knowledge and experience? Are you doing everything to make the best use of the knowledge and experience you have? These are the things which are lacking today. I want that the Government should appoint somebody to go deeply into the functioning of the mining industry in the public sector. I can understand the anxiety of the private sector to get away with as much as possible, because, after all, mines are a wasting asset, the total reserves are continuously reduced over a period of time and his interest is to make as much profit as he can today. We say that the public sector has also to make profits. Yes, it should make profits. But, you are incurring losses all the time in the NCDC and the Pyrites and Chemicals and such other organisations that you have set up in the public sector. And, Sir, the exploitation also has been inefficient and the whole functioning of these units has been in a disorganised way and there has been more wasteful operation in our mines. This is what has been happening. Therefore, I suggest that you should overhaul all state owned mines first.

Now, what has been done by the various committees which have been set up from time to time? The Esti-

[Shri T. N. Singh]

mates Committee and the Public Accounts Committee have made a number of suggestions and many of them have not been implemented so far. There were suggestions that there should not be any wasteful exploitation by the Coal Inquiry Committee. But, Sir, I find that the implementation has been very dilatory. There are vested interests also in the Government itself which prevent the implementation of the right proposals and taking of right remedial measures.

Now, this measure can in certain respects, be said to be a measure in the right direction and you may produce some results. But, we must ensure a thorough overhaul of the administrative machinery in the projects and at the secretariat level where the various proposals from the various organisations in the mining industry are processed.

Secondly, you must develop a large cadre of experts for this purpose, a body of expertise. It is a tragedy that there are geologists today who are unemployed. Yet, we have got so much need to exploit our mineral resources. There are mining engineers who are unemployed. Sir, I know of persons who say that they do not want to go to Government service, but prefer private service. This is because, Sir, there is not much scope for progress and future. There is so much of intrigue going on in pushing up this man or that man in the pay scales and emoluments and many deserving persons are pushed down. So, we have got to make a thorough overhaul of the administration.

Thirdly, Sir, the entire concept of public sector has to undergo a change. Today if you go to a public sector project, a hierarchy of classes of officers has come into being. There is the superior officers' class, which is a class by itself. Even in the officers' class there are different categories. There are also classes of foremen and workers. The

worker is treated as low down proletariat. He is an untouchable. That is his position. I have seen that. Even the Government are responsible for constructing exclusive clubs for superior officers. They are subsidized by Government. Why should there be exclusive clubs which are subsidized by the Projects? One cannot easily become a member of the club. This is the position in public sector projects, whether it is N.C.D.C. or Pyrites or any other State Project. How will you get efficiency in such circumstances? You have to thoroughly change the whole environment. Work in mines is very hard and strenuous and the life and conditions in which the worker works have to be fully taken into account. Unfortunately, his conditions of work today are very unsatisfactory.

I have had an occasion the other day to say that it is all right for you to talk of 'garibi hatao'. But what about 'amiri hatao' in the bureaucracy and in the public sector projects and other parts of the country? That is much more important. Where is the reason for allowing ministers and bureaucrats free use of cars and air-conditioned rooms? All sorts of perquisites are made available to private sector executives and public sector executives, Government servants as well as Ministers. There are very few Ministers who believe in simplicity. I knew Lal Bahadur Shastri, for a very long time till he fell ill he refused to have an air-conditioner in his room. That is the approach which you should have. You have to 'hatao' the 'amiri'; this 'amiri' must go. This leading of a life of affluence and luxury must cease. Without that nothing will come up in this country.

Therefore, whatever the intentions of this measure, I am sure you will not succeed in your objective unless you make a radical approach and bring about a thorough overhaul (a) in the administrative set-up, (b) in the functioning of various public sector mining

and other projects, and (c) in your own outlook which is much more important. You must have the outlook to give up the easy way of life. These comforts of life which we seem to be sticking to are not conducive to efficient work by our people. For God's sake, do not create classes as they have arisen in public sector projects. These conditions should cease. In the name of efficient working, let us not provide too much of an easy life.

Mr. Shah Nawaz Khan is here before me. He is a seasoned worker. I am sure he believes in simplicity and a simple way of life. He will kindly enforce my slogan of 'amiri hatao'. Let us really bring about an egalitarian society. Let us make a beginning in the public sector projects which we administer, which we control and which we regulate.

Thank you.

श्री जगन्मोहि प्रसाद यादव (बिहार) :
जीमन, लच नहीं है, तो कोरम भी नहीं है।
पहल कोरम पूरा कर लीजिये।

SHRI T. N. SINGH : You have to call quorum. The Members must come here. Official benches are completely vacant.

(Quorum bell rings.)

SHRI DHARAM CHAND JAIN (Bihar) : Sir, the amendment as suggested in section 4A creates a very big fear in the mind of the mining sector. Especially those whose properties are developing in a very fast way fear that probably when their properties are developed, Government might have an eye on the same and they might acquire the property under section 4A. This mischief probably may play a big role for various reasons. This clause actually should not be there or there should be an assurance from the Government that there would be no misuse of this particular clause.

Then the other point is that the properties might have developed for better reasons but the Government may come forward with the idea that this is the property which they needed and, therefore, may take over for working in the public sector. They may say that in this way it will work more efficiently than in the private sector . . .

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Order please.

SHRI DHARAM CHAND JAIN :
Amendment of section 6 is a right approach for reduction of the holdings of the mining leases and we hope the Government will see that this is maintained.

Then, there is another fear about clause 3. In this clause section 6 of the principal Act is sought to be amended as under :

“(3) For the purposes of determining the total area referred to in sub-section (1), the area held under a prospecting licence or mining lease by a person as a member of a co-operative society, company or other corporation, or a Hindu undivided family or a partner of a firm, shall be deducted from the area referred to in sub-section (1). . . ”

This is something very vague. Suppose, an individual is a shareholder of the Tatas and the Tatas may be holding thousands of leases. In this case, an individual applying for a lease will definitely be hit. What will be the safeguard against this? This is not clear at all. There should be a safeguard in regard to this.

With these words, Sir, I am supporting the Bill and I request the hon. Minister to take care of the suggestions made by me.

Thank you.

SHRI M. S. ABDUL KHADER (Tamil Nadu) : I welcome the Bill. I

[Shri M. S. Abdul Khader]

extend my supporting hands and congratulate the hon. Minister, Mr. Shah Nawaz Khan for introducing the Bill and at the same time I wish that this Bill ought to have been passed long ago.

Now I am glad to see that the time has come when all the mining industries should be nationalised and I am of the opinion that no private individual should be given lease in the mining industry. It is because the private industrialists do not seem to observe any labour laws nor do they actually desire for increased production.

In 1949 the Mineral Concession Rules were framed in order to give concession to the mining industry so that it could come forward but some people unfortunately went in a wrong way and those rules were not properly implemented with the result the production of non-metallic minerals could not increase. Further the fundamental reason for low production is due to the defective industrial policy of the Central Government.

A suggestion is prevailing that the ceiling of 50 sq. k.ms. to prospecting licences should be further reduced. Does not the small ceiling hamper the development of mines? Even allowing the 50 sq. k.ms. ceiling what would happen to the existing licences for more than 50 sq. k.ms.?

It is very unfortunate indeed that some persons are extracting minerals from mines in Salem District and Madurai District in Tamil Nadu and in some parts of Bihar and Rajasthan without proper licences. Sir, I venture to call them thieves although they are big industrialists. I find no reason why the Government cannot take proper action against these persons. We have invested huge amounts for mineral development in the Five Year Plans. In spite of that the mineral production

has gone low. During the course of the past few years the production of some important minerals has gone down which ought not to be. The Government is not able to meet the increasing demand for steel products inside the country. Of course we may earn foreign exchange by exporting iron ore but have we taken adequate steps to meet the indigenous demand for the steel products?

What about the coking coal mines? We have nationalised them recently but since the Government mine-owners do not care to exploit the minerals in the interests of the nation we have to arrive at this amending measure.

RE. EXTENSION OF THE SESSION BY ONE DAY

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA (Orissa) : Sir, I have a submission to make. The list of business that is before the House is more than what we can cope with on Saturday. Therefore I think we have to sit on Monday also. We from the opposition would like to impress on the Government that the Government should agree to the sitting on Monday so that we will not have to rush through with the business. And today we can have half-an-hour lunch interval. I would like to make this request through you to the Parliamentary Affairs Minister and I would like to know their reactions.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI OM MEHTA) : Sir, we have no objection. There are three or four Bills which are to be passed in this session. One is the General Insurance Bill. The other is the Supplementary Demands for Grants which will come before this House and which we have to return to the Lok Sabha. Then there is the Copper Corporation Bill and the ICS Bill, if passed by the Lok Sabha. These are the