

[Shri Bhupesh Gupta]

it is behaving in this manner and not even carrying out its pledges to the Government? What is the difficulty in taking over the entire industry and putting it in the public sector ?

PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD :

Sir, in the public sector we have already the Cement Corporation and there we are trying to see that the Corporation has as many factories as possible. As far as other units are concerned there is no proposal before the Government to nationalise or take them over.

REFERENCE TO THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS OF INDIAN INDEPENDENCE

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, I have taken permission from you. All over the country this year the twenty-fifth anniversary of independence will be celebrated and plans are being made. Only yesterday there was a meeting of the committee, of which the Prime Minister is the Chairman, and which I attended and my friend also attended. How Sir, in this connection, I would like to make only one suggestion which I could not make there for lack of time and besides the suggestion will be made public here. On this occasion, there should be a general amnesty of detenus, political detenus and other political prisoners. All the State Governments should consider such a proposal constructively and sympathetically with a view to declaring amnesty to political prisoners, be they detenus or other-wise convicted for political offences. I would also like to ask the Governments of all the States to commute all death sentences. In this connection I would ask the Central Government to show the lead because it is within the power of the Central Government to advise the President to commute death sentences. As you know, a Naxalite prisoner, a Naxalite political worker, Nagabhushan Patnaik, is under death sentence in Andhra Pradesh. This sentence should be commuted by the Government immediately on this occasion and also similar other sentences. Commutation of death sentences is one of the ways of marking this occasion. Besides, I should also like the Government to draw up plans for helping in a more suitable and on a

permanent basis the political sufferers. During the days of the British they and especially their families suffered. These are the suggestions I have to make. I am sure you, Sir, share the sentiments. I would request through you Mr. Mirdha and the Government that the matter should be taken up with the State Governments along with other plans, the plan for the commutation of death sentences and to begin with the sentence on Nagabhushan Patnaik and also others. Measures for the amnesty of detenus and political prisoners should be worked out, so that we can in a befitting manner mark the celebrations.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No doubt the Government will consider the suggestion.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI OM MEHTA) : I will convey it to the Government.

REFERENCE TO LABOUR SITUATION IN THE RANIGANJ COLLIERY BELT

SHRI MONORANJAN ROY : (West Bengal) : A serious situation has developed in the Raniganj colliery belt where all the central trade unions working among the colliery workers have given notice of a strike to be effective from the 12th of this month. Now, we know the serious situation. If the strike goes on it is for an unlimited period. Their demand is for the payment of variable dearness allowance of which the majority of the workers are being deprived. Again and again the attention of the Ministry of Labour has been drawn to this by various means. Nothing has been done yet. We find that political workers are being arrested under MISA on a police inspector's report, but when the workers are being deprived of their dues, this Act is not being applied against the employers. Now they can apply DIR on the employers. They can apply MIS. They can be arrested thereby the workers who are not getting their dearness allowance could have been paid by this time. Secondly, they are being deprived of 8-1/3 percent bonus which is being paid to other workers. Thirdly, the closed mines should be reopened and taken over by the Government. Fourthly, about gratuity the Government of India's Labour

Department Is committed to it, but no action has been taken on the question of gratuity. Then, medically unfit workers who have been working in the coalmines should be taken care of. People who have the knowledge known how they- are affected with T.B. and various fell diseases. When they are medically unfit they should be given compensation, so that they can carry on with their life as long as they live. Now, Sir, gangster activities are going on. The management unofficially arm them with modern weapons and they go and kill the workers. They retrench workers en masse bringing in; through contractors, . . . new workers so that they may not pay the full amount. And in the Ranigunj coal belt alone, 2436 workers have been evicted from the different collieries. The workers who have been evicted should be rehabilitated. These are the main demands which have been put forth by the different trade unions including the CITU which is working there. Now, the Government of India is sitting tight. No action has been taken. That is why I have taken your permission to mention it. I would like to see that the Labour Minister takes immediate action; Neither the Minister of Mines nor the Minister of Labour is present here. I do not know what action they will take. But as yet, nothing has been done except that some Regional Labour Commissioner had called a meeting which had failed because the employers had want only refused. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have mentioned all that.

SHRI MONORANJAN ROY : They are not going to pay the dearness allowance arrears, the current arrears. The arrears are a huge amount. Mr. Om Mehta, please inform the Labour Minister about the serious situation that will have to be faced by the entire eastern zone if the strike takes place. It is not the strike of a particular union but a strike of all the unions, the AITU, CINTUC, CITU and HMSC.

MR. CHAIRMAN ; You are repeat-ting yourself. Please resume your seat.

SHRI MANORANJAN ROY : So, ' steps must be taken to protect the employees.

REFERENCE TO DEATHS DUE TO LOO

श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही (उत्तर प्रदेश) :
श्रीमन्, मैं आपकी आज्ञा से इस सदन और सरकार का ध्यान इस बात की ओर दिलाना हूँ कि गत दस दिनों से आप सब लोग अखबार में पढ़ रहे होंगे कि उत्तरी भारत में, विशेषकर बिहार और उत्तर प्रदेश में हजारों आदमी लू से मर गये हैं। लू से बड़ी लोग मरते हैं जिनके पेट में खाना नहीं होता है, घन नहीं होता और जिनके ऊपर छाया नहीं होती। कोई भी सम्पन्न आदमी लू से नहीं मरता है। गरीब आदमी, रिक़शा खींचने वाला और मजदूर जिनके पास खाने को नहीं होता . . .

श्री सभापति : आपने कह दिया है और अब आप खतम कीजिये।

श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही : मैं सरकार का ध्यान इस बात की ओर दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि इन गरीबों लोगों के लिए राहत के कार्य सरकार की ओर से किये जाने चाहियें। सरकार की जो समाजवादी योजना है वह थोड़ी है।

संसदीय कार्य विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्री ओम् मेहता) : लू पर काबू पाने की अभी हमारे पास शक्ति नहीं आई है।

REFERENCE TO PRAJA SAHAKARI UDYOG BHARATPUR

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR (Delhi) : Sir, with your permission, I would like to say— I am not asking about any thing new- that some days before I made a mention of a big firm which had fraudulently cheated people of lakhs of rupees and I had requested Mr. Mirdha to throgh some light on it. He promised yesterday to give some information, whatever he has. If you permit, he may please tell us something on that.