

Chavan, that no other institution is fit for the rural areas except the cooperative movement. He may be thinking of other agencies. But at the present moment there is no other institution excepting the cooperative institutions other than the pinchayats which can take care of the developmental activities in the rural areas. Therefore, this thing has got to be done, that is, coordination, and more streamlining of the co-operative structure, coordination between the Agricultural Refinance Corporation and the co-operative structure, and co-operation and co-ordination between this Corporation and the State Governments. And I would really like this area development concept to be developed more and more, because without area development, there will be distortion in our development in the rural areas. It might create tensions and disparities and inequalities and imbalances. Therefore, area development is the only answer at the present moment to bring about a balanced development of the rural sector, of the rural economy. And the small farmer, the middle farmer and the big farmer, all will be benefited. Therefore this concept of refinancing has got to be linked up more and more with the other various institutions, particularly the co-operatives in the rural sector. Otherwise, I am afraid the Agricultural Refinance Corporation will not be a big success in the near future.

I do not want this movement should be stifled merely because there is lack of coordination, lack of adjustment, lack of planning and lack of cooperation. There are resources, as I said. These resources have got to be effectively utilised.

Thank you very much.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : Sir, I have nothing to comment, I have nothing in reply. I am grateful to him for having made some good suggestions. I entirely agree with him as far as the role of the cooperative movement is concerned. At the present moment, in agricultural development particularly the cooperative movement has a big scope. The only thing is that sometimes there is a feeling of pessimism that it is not making as much progress as it should. But one should not be fatalistic. I agree with him that it should not only to be streamlined but we should try to give some sort of an impetus to the cooperative movement, and that can only be done by organising the people's activities.

Only then possibly we can do that. I hope we will succeed in that. Certainly he has made some valuable suggestions. He knows about co-operative movement. He was in charge of the Department of Co-operation here only a few months before, and I think his experience will be quite useful to us.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

THE COAL MINES (CONSERVATION AND SAFETY) AMENDMENT BILL, 1970

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS, AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI NITI RAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY) : Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill further to amend the Coal Mines (Conservation and Safety) Act, 1952, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI RAM SAHAI) in the Chair.]

Sir, clause 8 of this Act empowers the Government to levy excise duty. In exercise of the power conferred on 10-10-1968 notified to levy excise duty for subsidising rail-cum-sea routes for conservation of resources and safety in mines, and for development of coal mines of coking coal. There is provision in the Act for collection, withdrawal and utilisation of the amount. But the amounts that are being required for development of coking coal mines are getting accumulated and by the end of August 1970 as much as 233 lakh tonnes had accumulated. The amendment Bill seeks to provide for enabling the Government to move Parliament for passing this amount so that the amount could be had and made available for development of coal mines.

The question was proposed.

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN (Tamil Nadu) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the Bill to amend the present Act, the Coal Mines (Conservation and Safety) Act 1952, is sought to be amended by the introduction of this amendment Bill. Sir, an opportunity is, therefore, given

[Shri T. V. Anandan.]

by the Government to discuss this vital natural resource that is available in our country. It is good, Sir, that the Government, after having had an experience of about 18 years, thought it wise to introduce an amendment Bill today.

Sir, I may say here that for the last 18 years this natural resource of our country has not been well regulated and conserved because experience has shown that the private management, the owners have exploited this natural resource to their own ends and not the community at large. Thereby, Sir, I lay the blame at the doors of the Government that they have not cared to enforce the directive principles of the State Policy, namely, that prevention of concentration of wealth in individuals. The Government have utterly failed. In those last 18 years, it is said, Sir, that the private owners have exploited the surface coal and made the pits unusable. So all these things, I think, will be hereafter safeguarded because the Government is being empowered by the enactment of this amendment.

Sir, I may say here that the mother earth has got in store not less than 10,000 crores in tonnes of coal in this country. But how much have we exploited? You see at one end unemployment is raging the country. You are employing only about four lakhs of miners in these coal mines by exploiting about 68 million tonnes a year. You have in the Fourth Plan planned to reach a mere figure of about one hundred million tonnes whereas 10,000 crores of tonnes of coal is available. And what is your annual exploitation? Not more than 10 crore tonnes. Has it been considered, Sir, that if this natural resource, which is available in abundance in Mother Earth for her children is an exploited properly, you can give employment to another four lakhs of men? If you want to exploit 150 million tonnes instead of the 75 million tonnes to-day, you will have to employ another four lakhs of men in addition to those who are already employed. By that, can you not solve a little the unemployment problem in this country? You can do that. But you have no time to apply your mind to solving these problems. You have time for other things.

SHRI KALYAN ROY (West Bengal) : They are busy with politics,

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN : You are entirely entangled in different spheres and in a different atmosphere. How to remain in power is the only objective of yours, not how to solve the unemployment problem of this country. Or else, I do not think the Leader of the ruling party would have said in Jaipur that if the unemployment problem is not solved, there will be a bloody revolution in this country. When you have all the power, when the people of this country have given in your hands all powers, you will have to find a solution to this problem, instead of instigating the unemployed mass of this country to create a bloody revolution. The people will answer when you go and face them.

SHRI KALYAN ROY : They should die peacefully in the streets instead of making a revolution? A wonderful suggestion it is!

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN : You are right; you are quite right. We do not want violence in this country. We want this country to develop in a non-violent way.

SHRI KALYAN ROY : Peaceful death, mal-nutrition death, not bloody death!

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN : We know how to bring this country on par with other countries. Was there a revolution in Japan? May I ask my friend how Japan has grown to this extent after the devastation in the Second World War? How did West Germany develop? Did they develop through a bloody revolution? No. They developed only by regulated advancement. That is how we want to develop. It is not that there is only one country, namely Russia, which has developed to this extent. There are other countries. What about Singapore which got independence in 1965? Has it not developed now? Did it grow by violence? No, what about Indonesia? It got its freedom in 1965. How does it grow now? So, let us not blindly follow the method which had been followed in Russia. Therefore, the Government of the day, when it has got all the powers, should have thought of solving this problem, instead of propagating, sloganising and saying that there would be a revolution in this country.

Sir, now that the Railways, who are the major users of coal, are taking to diesel and electric engines, they may not

need that much coal which is now being used. Therefore, we must be very careful in regard to the use of coal. You will have to propagate and extend the use of coal to the rural population. We must educate them on the use of coal. They are now using cow dung, the natural fertiliser or the "green revolution". You should encourage the use of coal among the rural people by supplying it at cheaper rates. If you want to produce 150 million tonnes, you must find ways and means of distributing these 150 million tonnes of coal. We can also take a leaf from the U. K. How did that country grow to this level? Has it not been through coal? Was it not their main mineral in those days of old? Through coal, they built an empire. The empire may not be there to-day, but it is only through coal that they have developed. What about 5 P.M. Australia? How has it grown?

It has grown through minerals and metals extracted from it. Here in our country minerals are available in plenty. But a proper system to exploit those minerals has not yet been introduced. I think this Bill seeks to introduce it now. There should be propaganda among the rural forces to use coal also. We must apply our mind on how to convert coal into gas, coal gas. Call upon the townships and the city population to use coal gas. That is also another development. Why are you going and importing naphtha from foreign countries spending so much of foreign exchange, valuable foreign exchange, when we want to conserve it? We could have converted some of our plants into coal-based plants. We could have had coal-based fertilizer plants. Some engineers and scientists suggested it. But you did not care to give thought to their suggestions. And you are unnecessarily importing things from other countries. We have plenty of water here. We have the Ganga, the Godavari, the Cauvery, the Jamuna—there are so many rivers here. All those rivers are giving us plenty of water and you can convert coal into gas. There is no scarcity of water for conversion of coal into coal gas or coal-based fertilizers. These things must be thought of by the Government in solving the problem of unemployment. The Government should make use of the minerals that are available in this country. Industrial development and expansion in a developing country depends upon the regular exploitation of the minerals that are available. This is my submission at this hour.

Then, coming to the present Board and its functioning, it has not functioned as the Government expected it to, in the last eighteen years. Has it reduced accidents in the mines? Fatal accidents have been there in the mines. The number of accidents is increasing every year. What has the Board done? The Board has not done anything to prevent these accidents. And we have the Safety Council on a national level. But nothing has been done. If you want to pass this amendment Bill and burden the Board more, it would be a very difficult task for it. Therefore, you must take what has been recommended by the Administrative Reforms Commission. It has also made some reference to this Coal Board. Please bear all these points in mind when you burden the existing Board with all this additional work. Finally, may I not suggest that the Government should be very careful in seeing that unemployment is solved by making the best use of the available natural resources in this country? I only add that this is a good amendment Bill that has to be enacted into law and the prosecution of it is left into the hands of the Ministry. Thank you.

SHRI KALYAN ROY (West Bengal) : Sir, the Bill in its present form, while it intends to accomplish some good things, will ultimately be bad to the opposite. It will only perpetuate the rot that has set in in the coal industry in the last hundred years. The task will remain unfulfilled. The mission will not be accomplished at all. The whole thing will, as it has been framed will further lead to complete ruination of the coal industry mainly because the monies will be given to the mine-owners. It is like giving money to a hopeless drunken man who neglects his family. If you give him more money, the family will not be saved. They will be driven to the streets and will be forced to commit suicide, and the man will go on drinking at the expense of the man who gives the money. What is the aim of the Bill? The aim of the Bill is to give Rs. 14 crores annually to the coal industry including Rs. 1.75 crores for which the money is collected through excise duty. Sir, money is distributed only through the coal board and the amount of money which will be distributed to the coal industry by 1973 will go upto Rs. 17 crores. It is not one or two crores. Rs. 17 crores will be given to the coal industry by only one

[Shri Kalyan Roy.]

agency, namely, the coal board. Which is this coal industry? In the last year, out of 17 million tonnes of coking coal, the private sector produced 13.40 million tonnes of coking coal. In other words, today in the coal industry, over 90 per cent of the coking coal and over 80 per cent of the metallurgical good grade coal is in the hands of the private sector. The money first of all will go to the private sector. That is not all. That is only the superficial view. If you go deeper, you will find that in the private sector there are 20 to 30 companies which control 95 per cent of the coking coal and 90 per cent of the metallurgical coal. In other words, money will be going to these companies. The Minister knows that and I can even name them :

- (1) Andrew Yule, a British dominated Bengal coal company.
- (2) Bird & Co.
- (3) Equitable Coal Company.
- (4) Turner Morrison, which is controlled by the Mundhras.
- (5) Karamchand Thapar.
- (6) Chanchanis.
- (7) K. Wohras.
- (8) Birlas.
- (9) Tatas.
- (10) Indian Iron & Steel Company.
- (11) East Indian Coal Company.
- (12) Jardins.
- (14) Coal mines belonging to Jalan family.
- (15) Coal mines belonging to Goenka family.
- (16) Balarpur coal company in Madhya Pradesh and some others.

These are the concerns which will be getting Rs. 14 crores and which are getting today nearly Rs. 14 crores. This is only one side of the story.

Only a few months ago, the Chairman of the Indian Mining Association, Shri V. K. Poddar, said that in between 1961-69 the coking coal price has gone up by 77 per cent and the non-coking

coal price by 60 per cent. It is not a question of loan at a less interest, it is not a question of assistance in any other form. The money will be going straight into the hands of these 20 to 30 companies and I will come a little later to their history, performance and activities. I do not mind if the money is given for good purposes. According to the Minister, it will be given for good purposes. The question is : Has the money been utilised so far for conservation? I hope the Minister will reply to this point. Has the money given so far—which comes to nearly Rs. 12 crores—been utilised for safety? Has it been utilised for development? I will only try to draw the attention of the House to the statement of the Minister who was in charge of this subject before Shri Niti Raj Singh took over. When serious allegations were made on the floor of the Rajya Sabha that mines are being slaughtered by the mine-owners, that there is no scientific mining at all, that there is no conservation, that there is no proper planning as a result of which the condition of the mines has become worse day by day, Shri Jagannath Rao made a statement. I shall quote what Shri Jagannath Rao, who was then sitting in the same position where Dr. Triguna Sen is sitting today and Shri Nitiraj Singh is listening. He said : "I Entirely agree with the hon. Member that there is no scientific exploitation whatsoever". After making this statement on the floor of this House, you are now going to give them more and more. I can only applaud this government as I applaud some good clown in the Raymon Circus. Shri Jagannath Rao, in the annual meeting of the Indian Mines Federation only five months back severely criticised the mine-owners saying that they are only interested in getting higher and higher price for their coal and they are only interested in getting more and more assistance without devoting any attention to the building of the coal industry. If this is the record, then what is the point of giving another 10 crores or 5 crores or 6 crores? What is the point in it? Sir, Mr. Jagannath Rao himself said very categorically—I will quote—"the time has come for the need for the re-organisation of the Jharia coal field". So, he thinks of re-organising the Jharia coal field which supplies 80 per cent of the coking coal, by giving to the mine owners who are not developing scientifically the coal mines. Sir, we must be like Alice in Wonderland to

believe that the Minister can hope to achieve the purpose by this. The House will be staggered to know who pays this sum of Rs. 14 crores. Sir, this 14 crores is paid by the people of India, because, whatever coal is produced in the country, 32 per cent is consumed by the railways, 2 per cent is consumed by the steel plants and 17 per cent consumed by the thermal power stations and so, 82 per cent of the total coal is paid for by the public sector. We pay the taxes. In other words, the public sector pays the money of 14 crores, 82 per cent of the 17 crores, to give to private sector. Have you ever found such a fantastic picture in any other industry? The public sector which buys 82 per cent of the coal gives money to the Coal Board in order to hand over the money—I have placed the figures, Sir, here in this House earlier—to the Birlas and the Tatas and the Mundhras. Sir, as I was saying earlier, the mines are not being developed; conservation has been a dead letter; safety, we need not probably talk about it. Then what happens when the private sector and these few companies are not developing scientifically? Can you check corruption? Can you check malpractices? Can you check the deplorable and the sordid state of affairs in the Coal Board? Disease is in the inherent structure of the coal industry. It is not merely by reshuffling the Coal Board that you can stop corruption today. The Coal Board is under the hands of these twenty companies who actually decide the policy of the Coal Board. Whatever the Minister may say, the Coal Board today is the tool of the private sector in order to squeeze the money from the Government. It is a Board which does everything in order to please the twenty or thirty concerns so that they can get this 14 crores and if the private sector or the monopoly sector can get 14 crores or 12 crores per year, why then spend two or three lakhs on each member of the Coal Board?

Then, Sir, I go to the next point. What was the Coal Board constituted for? It was constituted, Sir, according to the Report for 1969-70 of the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals and Mines and Metals, "to grant all financial assistance to the collieries for stowing which continues to be one of the main activities of the Board". Sir, besides this payment for stowing, the Coal Board also pays for the alleged adverse factors. Sir, I have got the

figures which were given on the 16th of December 1969 by the hon. Minister. According to these figures, in 1967, Sir, 5.50 crores was paid for stowing; in 1968, 5.40 crores was paid; and for the first six months of 1969, 1.70 crores was paid. In other words, for stowing purposes, in 2½ years alone, the Government of India, through the Coal Board, made over 12 crores of rupees. That is one part of it. Now, take the adverse factors. The hon. Minister said on the 12th of August in this House that in 1967-68, over Rs. 1 crore and 40 lakhs were paid for adverse factors, in 1968-69, Rs. 1 crore and 75 lakhs and up to September, 1969, Rs. 84 lakhs were paid. In other words, for adverse factors, the Government of India paid to the coal industry four crores of rupees. And added to that Rs. 12 crores, already mentioned, Sir, it comes to Rs. 16 crores to the private sector. The public sector money is given to the private sector coal industry. What does the NCDC get? I have got the figures for the NCDC for the adverse factors. In 1968-69, the NCDC got only 32 lakhs out of one crore and seventy-five lakhs to the private sector. In other words, if you take the total subsidy for adverse factors, the public sector, NCDC coal mines, get less than ten per cent. The NCDC is being starved by the Government of India in order to boost the private sector, whose record, as Mr. Jagannath Rao said, is absolutely unsatisfactory. The public sector is being deprived of or debarred from getting money which is collected from the public sector! Have you ever found a more sordid picture? When it comes to the question of distribution, the NCDC gets less than 15 per cent! Seventy-five per cent goes to whom? Birlas, Mundhras, Tatas, Karamchand Thapars, Goenkas, and so on.

Sir, what is the purpose of the Coal Board? According to Mr. Nitiraj Singh, its purpose is to conserve coal so that we can go on getting coal for many years to come. And here is a reply by Mr. Jagannath Rao on the 3rd March, 1970, where it gives the names of four coking coal mines with 28 million stock of coal which have been closed down. Under the same question he gives the names of another 14 non-coking coal mines which had been closed down and he has given for all of them the total amount of stock which is there underground. The mines

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are not working. The total stock comes nearly to 68 million tonnes. Why did the Coal Board allow these mines to be closed? In reply to my question as to how many non-coking coal mines have been closed down and what is the stock underground, it is stated: "N.H. Ojha & Co.—Not available, Brahm Dutt Sharma—not available, Dilli Collieries Assam Ltd.—Not available..." What is the Coal Board for? They do not know how much coal stock is there? Why are they given money? I will come to the fantastic picture today. In the Coal Board that a mine which has been closed down is getting money. Saltore Colliery which had been closed down in 1968-69, in the same year they got 17 lakhs of rupees. They got the money and closed the mines. The Coal Board does not know how much stock is there.

I was given the answer to the question I asked on the 3rd March, 1970. They have not been able to prevent the closure of coking coal-mines. What is the Coal Board meant for?

It is a sad thing for me to remind the Minister that only on 25th November 1970 the Minister said here that after the imposition of the President's Rule in West Bengal it has come to the notice of the Government that three collieries, Benali, Saltore and Selected Karjora-Jambad have closed down in the Assansol belt. According to the rules under the Act which he is piloting in this House, the mine-owners are supposed to give 90 days' time. What is the reply of the Minister? These coal-mines have given no notice to the Coal Board as required under Rule 40 of the Act. The Benali coalmine has got 20 to 30 million tonnes of coal inside. Saltore is producing one of the best coking coal which got money from the Coal Board for stowing and it closed down and they do not even are to inform the Coal Board with whom they have very good friendly relations that they are closing down. The Coal Board knew that it was closing down and in spite of that they gave to the 2 or 3 collieries Rs. 50 lakhs. Is there any other example of looting and daylight robbery in this country? A mine which has closed down is getting fabulous sums of money for development or for stowing. Is there any shame on the part of the Government? Public sector money is allowed to go to the

private sector so that some private sector monopolist can get the money and spend it on something else except investing in the coalmines. The Saltore colliery of Bird and Company closed down last year. Last year they got Rs. 16 lakhs. This list is incomplete. Even the Coal Board does not know how many coalmines have been closed down. After getting the reply I wrote to the Minister saying that the Coal Board does not know anything. It is not only these three coalmines. Three more have closed down and one is the Kali Pahari coalmine. This year and last year together they got Rs. 5 lakhs. You will find that the coalmine owners are continuing the closures but money is being paid to them. The money is given for stowing and for checking the underground fire which consumes millions and millions of coking coal and non-coking coal in Bengal and Bihar. Have you been able to stop the underground fire which is today consuming vast amount of coal? Anybody who goes to Calcutta by train from Dhanbad to Durgapur will see on both sides mines on fire. Have you been able to stop it? I challenge the Minister to say whether any assessment has been made or any systematic study made by the Coal Board so far to measure the extent of loss of coal by underground fire? You have no figures. The Coal Board has no figures. Only last year Mr. Jagannath Rao suddenly went to Asansol to see the underground fire near Asansol which has spread to 15 coalmines producing the best grade of coal very near the J. K. Aluminium Factory. Money is given for blanketing the fire but no blanketing is done. Unfortunately this continues. Let us look at Jharia. The Jharia Town is surrounded by a belt of fire. Mr. Jagannath Rao said on 17th November 1969 that the fire was in existence since 1964. In September 1969 smoke and flames were detected in Jharia. Why? He said: "Because unauthorised extraction of coal-pillers have caused the fire in the Jharia coalmines." The mine owners are extracting pillers underground in Jharia town. The same mine-owners are getting the money and causing fire. You plan to stop the fire. The mine owners are getting money in order to have more fire underground. Subsidence is causing all over the coalfields. The coalmines which get crores for stowing purposes do not do proper stowing. The result is in the mine area

villages are getting unsafe. This was pointed out by the Chief Ministers of Bengal and Bihar but no action has been taken. will give one name—Bhalgora. The Director General of Mine Safety is prosecuting that coalmine—why?—I am quoting him:

“Because of unauthorised cutting of coal beneath the Jharia town in violation of the rules and regulations.”

A case is going on by the Department of Mines and the same Balgore mine is getting money from the Coal Board.

It is getting the money for cutting pillars underground in Jharia town. I am quoting from the figures which have been placed before Parliament. (Time bell rings) Six minutes more, Sir.

What about the rate of extraction? It is unfortunate, Sir, when in all other countries the rate of extraction of coal is 60 to 70%. In other words, you cannot get all the 100% of coal out of any particular mine although every Government tries to see that more coal is extracted, and very little is left. India is the most unfortunate country, because our rate of extraction is only 50%.

SHRI M. N. KAUL (Nominated): Why?

SHRI KALYAN ROY: In other words, Sir, whatever coking coal we have got, we won't be able to get more than one thousand million tonnes because, as Dr Lahiri, who is the Director of the Fuel Research Station, has pointed out, it is being done in a selective manner. And the selective manner is a horrible thing, Sir. You have three types of coal in a particular coalmine, and you are supposed to take out all the layers of coal. But the big monopoly concerns, what they do is this. Because the better grade coal fetches a better price, naturally they somehow take out only the better grade coal and leave the rest, and then the mine is closed down. And you have not been able to save it. Another great performance of the Coal Board is that they have built a ropeway.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: (SHRI RAM SAHAI): Please complete your speech now.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: Sir, I am concluding. I will take just five minutes. Please do not be so harsh to me.

Sir, the Coal Board spent Rs. 1,17,00,000 in 1968-69 on the Central Ropeways Scheme. The Central Ropeway is to carry coal through the ropeway to the various coalmines, and the budget provision for 1969-70 was Rs. 2,41,00,000. And what is its performance? The working of the ropeways of the Board will show that the ropeways worked much below the target. It has been a miserable failure because, Sir, by 1973-74 some seven million tonnes will have to be got through stowing operations in Jharia alone. Sir, the mine-owners are trying to manipulate the cost to increase the cost of stowing, squeeze more money, and you have been paying more and more money. You have paid Rs. 3,70,00,000 in 1966-67 in order to get coking coal through stowing, and you have paid Rs. 5,25,00,000 in 1967-68 to get coking coal. But, Sir, the rate of increase is very little. Spending Rs. 3,70,00,000 in 1966-67 you have got 3.27 million tonnes, and in 1967-68 you got only 3.71 lakh tonnes. So, Sir, (Time bell rings). I am finishing, Sir. In other words, this is the picture that your stowing expenditure is going up but the amount of coal you are getting is not proportionately increasing. The stowing performance is not increasing. I will give two or three figures and then I will sit down. There is the Equitable Coal Company. What is the . . . (Time bell rings). I am finishing, Sir.

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRI RAM SAHAI): You have taken twenty-five minutes.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: I am finishing now, Sir. Please have patience for one or two minutes. Now, Sir, what is the performance of this Equitable Coal Company which is getting money from you? This Company has not paid the provident fund amounting to over one crore of rupees, but they have got from the Coal Board over Rs. 98,00,000. Karamchand Thappar have not paid the provident fund amounting to over Rs. 57,00,000 but they have got from the Coal Board over rupees one crore seventy lakhs. Bhattura group of coal mines have not paid the provident fund of over Rs. 9,00,000 but

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yet they have got financial assistance from the Coal Board over rupees eight lakhs. The same thing you will find about Dalmia Jain Company and about other companies also. I am not having the time and so I shall not be able to give all the figures pertaining to all the defaulting companies. Out of the total of rupees 12 crores for sand stowing between 1967 to middle of 1969. Andrew Yule alone got more than rupees one crore and fifty lakhs. This is the unfortunate position. What I am saying is that, if this is the position, the conservation has not been done. The underground fire has spread. And yet you have not been able to do anything. The ropeway is collapsing. You are not getting more coking coal. Still you are giving them more and more money and to handful of companies. Why? For what purpose? (*Time bell rings*). I am finishing. At least please have that patience which you showed to Mr. Rajnarain when he was speaking without permission on an earlier day.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI RAM SAHAJ): That was on a Motion, as you say; it was a Half an Hour Discussion, I think. Here it is the Bill.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: Sir, I do not want that much indulgence from you which you showed to Mr. Rajnarain that day, but show some at least.

What I was trying to point out is this. Even Mr. D. C. Driver—a man of the Tatas—when he was the President of the All India Consumers Association has said that “nationalisation of coal is no longer in the clouds of theoretical possibility. As the public sector consumes 60% of the total coal, why then the Government is delaying nationalisation?” So you cannot change the heart of the coalmine owners. As I have said, they are the mine barons. They are called dacoits. They are worse than the dacoits in the Chambal valley. They are looting in collusion. They loot. But why you become a tool in their hands?

Why do you collude with them? I will give you one simple fact; I do not want to take up much of your time. Now, you are talking of development. I would like Mr. Nitiraj Singh to see that latest circular of the

Director-General of Mines Safety. It is addressed to the Managers of collieries:

“Your attention is invited to the provisions of Regulation 33 of the Coal Mines Regulations whereby after 30th December 1966 every coal mine is required to employ an engineer possessing necessary qualifications but despite the passage of nearly four years since the coming into force of this statutory provision qualified engineers have yet to be appointed at several mines. It need not be stressed here that non-employment of competent personnel is prejudicial to the interests of safety in mines.”

Sir, when the mineowners are not appointing engineers and the Director-General of Mines Safety is sending circular letters ever since 1966, you want to give them Rs. 17 crores. No wonder the Coal Board is a cesspool of corruption. You want to give the Coal Board Rs. 17 crores for doing nothing. It is bound to become corrupt. I charge the Government that by passing this Bill, however holy their intention may be, the result will be disastrous. If not today, in 30 years you will have to explain to the people and whatever revolution you may talk about, it is a tragedy that we are not being able to bring it about quicker.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (West Bengal): I will be very brief because much of my burden has been lightened by my young friend, Mr. Kalyon Roy. Sir, India is rich in natural resources and coal is one of our natural resources which can be exploited for the development of our country. Sir, it has been found that there is a monopoly over the coal industry of our country as a whole and they are also getting assistance from the Government in different ways. They are wresting one concession after another but these concessions are not being utilised for the basic purpose of safety of the mines, for the conservation of coal and for the development of the coal industry. Most reluctantly I have to say that these coal mine owners are being rewarded for violation of the law of the country and it is the workers of the country, particularly the coal miners, who are being punished for their labour. Sir, recently I had been to Mr. Nitiraj Singh's place, Madhya Pradesh,

and there somebody told me that recently a survey was conducted and it had revealed that there is a lot of coal reserves in the Chhindwara District, particularly in the Parasia belt. Now it is the duty of the Government to see that the scope of the NMDC is expanded. Instead of expanding the scope of the NMDC in order to exploit the coal resources of our country the Government is putting more and more money into the hands of these monopolists who are not utilising that money for the development of the coal industry, as has been narrated by my friend, Mr. Kalyan Roy. Not only that, I have got certain instances to show that certain colliery owners are not even giving the due salaries, the due wages to the coal miners. I would particularly mention the name of Damuakali Chapi colliery where the workers have not been paid wages, for the last two years they are not being paid the benefits of the Coal Wage Board Award. They are not being paid the benefit of the increase in dearness allowance; they are not being given the benefit of quarterly bonus which is legally due to them. Those companies are also being given money from these resources and these are primarily being derived from the public sector industries. Therefore, the time has now come when the Government will have to decide on a new method of developing the coal industry of our country. We cannot leave the coal industry at the mercy of these monopolists. It is because of their greed for profit that the entire natural resources in the form of coal are being slaughtered, as has been mentioned by Mr. Kalyan Roy. Therefore, it is high time that the Government had a new coal policy. The Government should not rely on the kind of Coal Board, which is nothing but a handmaid of the monopolists of the coal industry, for the further development of the coal industry. It is after all the responsibility of the Government to develop the coal industry and for that purpose I think the scope of the NCDC has to be expanded and more and more coalmines have to be opened under the auspices of the NCDC, so that the natural resources may be exploited for the good of the country and for the industrial development of the country. It is amazing to note that, while more than eighty per cent of the coal of our country is being consumed by the public sector industries, the

coal industry is still being retained in the hands of private ownership. Why should not the Government take a bold step and nationalise forthwith the coal industry as a whole? That will not only develop the coal industry as a whole. That will also create a conducive atmosphere for the development of other public sector industries, as for example, steel, thermal plants, etc. These are all correlated and, therefore, I would urge upon the Government not to rely on this Coal Board in the matter of development of coal-mines, nor in the matter of conservation of the coal reserves, not to speak of and never to rely on them for undertaking safety measures. They are not capable of doing that, because they are more after profit. Their entire interest is to earn profit. Their interest is not to develop the industry as a whole. Therefore, in the interests of the workers, in the interests of the country, the Government should now take a bold step with regard to the coal industry. They should not waste time and they should not waste the resources of our country by handing over these resources to the private owners who are working for more profit instead of in the interests of the coal workers and the coalmines themselves.

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद साथुर (राजस्थान) :

उपसभापति महोदय, इस विधेयक को देखते हुए आश्चर्य होता है कि सरकार किसका विकास करना चाहती है, किसकी सुरक्षा करना चाहती है और किस कीमत पर करना चाहती है। सरकार जिस फंड का निर्माण करना चाहती है, उस फंड में जो रुपया आयेगा उस धन्धे से जो लोग पैसा कमा रहे हैं उनकी कमाई के आधार पर यह निर्माण नहीं होने वाला है। सरकार को जो एक्साइज ड्यूटी मिलने वाली है उसमें से फंड का निर्माण हो कर के उसका उपयोग किस काम में होगा। जो उद्देश्य इसमें वर्णित किया गया है इन कामों में उसका उपयोग होगा। एक बात अगर माननीय मंत्री महोदय कहते कि हम कोयले के अनुसंधान के लिये यह करना चाहते हैं, अनुसंधान के लिये फंड का निर्माण करना चाहते हैं और उस सम्बन्ध में सरकार को यह संवर्धन हाउस दे तो एक बात समझने आ

[श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर]

सकती है लेकिन जो लोग इससे पैसा कमाते हैं उनके लिये हो और वह पैसा भी किस रूप में कमाते हैं और वहाँ श्रमिकों की क्या क्या स्थिति है जिसके बारे में श्री कल्याण राय ने बताया था उस स्थिति में अगर उन लोगों को सरकार के फंड में से पैसा देने की सोचते हैं तो यह किसी प्रकार से भी वाजिब नहीं है। मजदूरों के कल्याण के नाते अभी पिछले दिनों आपके द्वारा जब कच्चे लोहे के बारे में सेस के सम्बन्ध में एक विधेयक लाया गया था तब उस पर सेस लगा कर उसमें से आपने श्रमिकों के कल्याण के लिये फंड बनाने की बात कही थी। सदन ने इसका समर्थन किया लेकिन वह बात यहाँ पर नहीं है जिसको स्पष्ट रूप से आपको बताना चाहिये कि किस प्रकार से आपके जो बड़े बड़े माइन-ओनर्स हैं उनको कितना रुपया देंगे, एक बोर्ड जिसका आपने निर्माण किया है उस बोर्ड के कौन सदस्य हैं और कहीं इन्डसक्रिमिनेटली फंड का अलाट-मेन्ट तो नहीं करेंगे। तो इस बात से आप आज इस सदन के सामने जो विधेयक लेकर आए हैं इसमें मुझे लगता है कि आपकी मन्शा स्पष्ट नहीं है। इसके पीछे कोई दूसरी भावना है। यह जो बड़े बड़े कोल की माइन, कोयले की खान, चलाने वाले लोग हैं उनसे एक प्रकार से समझौते के रूप में है, ऐसा लगता है। उनको जिस प्रकार से पैसा चाहिए वह पैसा देंगे और आप उनसे कोई सूद लेंगे नहीं, कोई टैक्स लगाएंगे नहीं, तो उतना आप अपनी कमाई से कोयले की माइन्स के डेवलपमेन्ट के लिए रखेंगे और बोर्ड के अधीन वह रखा जाएगा, बोर्ड जिस ढंग से चाहेगा खर्च करेगा। मेरी समझ में नहीं आता कि एक किसान जिसके 5 बीघे खेत हैं, वह उसको डेवलप करना चाहता है, क्या सरकार उसको कभी पैसा देगी, उसको उधार देगी, उससे व्याज वसूल करेगी। अगर कोई छोटा कारखाने वाला है जो छोटा कारखाना लगाना चाहता है, उसको जब पैसा चाहिए डेवलपमेन्ट के नाम पर, तो सरकार कोई सबसिडी नहीं देती है, उसको

लोन दिया जाता है। छोटे छोटे उद्योग धंधे करने वालों को रुपया उधार देती है लेकिन बड़े बड़े कोल-माइन्स को सरकारी धन से पैसा देना चाहती है। मेरी समझ में नहीं आता इसके पीछे कौन सा आपका तर्क है या कौन सी संगति है। केवल यही बात हो सकती है कि आने वाले चुनाव में माननीय मंत्री जी समझौता करके, जिस प्रकार पूंजीपतियों को एक तरफ से देती है तो दूसरी तरफ से पैसा खींच लेती है, तो उसी तरह इसमें भी पैसा लेने की बात है कांग्रेस को चुनाव में वोट लेने के लिए क्योंकि आज ही उनके डेवलपमेन्ट के लिए कौन सी आवश्यकता आ पड़ी थी...

श्री कल्याण चन्द (उत्तर प्रदेश) : जन संघ वाले फंड नहीं लेते।

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : इसका मतलब मैंने जो आरोप लगाया वह आपने स्वीकार कर लिया है। हमारी बात को तो आपने मान लिया। बाकी जांच आप करते रहें। अरे, हम फंड इकट्ठा करते हैं, आप अफंड इकट्ठा करते हैं।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं इसी संबंध में माननीय मंत्री जी का ध्यान एक कोयला खान की तरफ दिलाना चाहता हूँ, जहाँ का कोयला बहुत अच्छा समझा जाता है। बीकानेर रियासत के जमाने से पलाना नामक जगह में कोयले की खान चलती है। वहाँ के कोयले से बिजली-घर चलता था, रेल चलती थी। लेकिन राजस्थान में विधान सभा की जो इस्टीमेट कमेटी है उस में यह मामला गया है क्योंकि वहाँ पर जो माइनिंग डिपार्टमेंट है, उसमें इस बात का झगड़ा चल रहा है कि इस खान से कोयला किस तरीके से निकाला जाए। अभी तक उसके तरीके के बारे में झगड़ा चल रहा है। जैसा मैंने कहा, वह बहुत अच्छा कोयला वहाँ पाया जाता है। अगर सरकार खुद अपने हाथ में लेकर उसको अच्छी तरह से चलाए तो उसमें कोई आपत्ति नहीं है। वहाँ की इस्टीमेट कमेटी ने भी एक राय दी, हमने भी अपना समर्थन

दिया कि इस प्रकार का खनिज भंडार राजस्थान में है, जहाँ की दूसरी इन्डस्ट्री कोयले के अभाव में पनप नहीं सकती, तो राजस्थान के इलाके में इस कोयले को सप्लाय किया जा सकता है—वहाँ की इस्टीमेट कमटी ने भी राय दी—लेकिन सरकार की ओर से कोई कदम नहीं उठाया गया। राजस्थान में और बहुत सी खानें हैं उनबे बारे में उनका ध्यान जाता है लेकिन जो कोयले की, पलाना की खान है वहाँ का कोयला बहुत अच्छा है, सरकार अपने हाथ में उस खान को ले, हमें आपत्ति नहीं है, जिससे वहाँ का जो एक अच्छा खनिज भंडार है, जिसका उपयोग नहीं हो रहा है, वह ठीक से चालू होना चाहिए।

यह जो विधेयक लेकर सरकार आई है इसका समर्थन इसलिए नहीं किया जा सकता क्योंकि इसकी गियत के बारे में संदेह पैदा होता है और ऐसा लगता है कि इसमें फंड का दुरुपयोग होगा। इसमें श्रमिकों के कल्याण की बात कुछ नहीं है। सिर्फ इसमें सैफ्टी की ही एक बात कही है लेकिन वह भी मजदूरों की सैफ्टी पर एक पैसा भी खर्च करने वाले नहीं है। अगर इस सारे विधेयक में श्रमिकों के कल्याण के लिए कुछ भी व्यवस्था की होती तो मैं अपना समर्थन देता लेकिन जिस रूप में यह पेश किया गया है, इसका मैं समर्थन नहीं कर सकता।

SHRI G. A. APPAN (Tamil Nadu) :
Mr. Vice-Chairman, I support the Bill. I will speak on certain points not covered. Mr. Vice-Chairman, I do not think there can be anybody here really rational to oppose the Bill, subject to the following. Who can say that we do not want money for any development or safety? Any development or safety needs money. Any constructive work needs money. Where can we go for money unless there is a fund created? No doubt this Bill seeks to create a safety fund, a development fund. And the difficulty here is that the money is to be given to the Coal Board to spend it for administrative purposes and things like that. Sir, I should thank Mr. Kalyan Roy for the very good lesson that he

has given to this Government today. He has opened the eyes of the public. I wish many Members were present here to hear the good lesson he gave and the economics and lapses on the part of the Coal Board and the coal-mine owners. He has said that the Bihar coal-mine owners have failed to pay to the Government Rs. 63 crores and that likewise the coal-mine owners in other States have also not paid the money to the Government on the dates due. If the money is given to the people who forget their own responsibility, who have failed to discharge their obligations, what will they do with the money entrusted to them? Why should the Central Government give the money to the Coal Board? And in that Coal Board, how many people represent the workers? Sir, the wearer knows where the shoe pinches. You cannot have a jackal to guard over the intestines and to safeguard the flesh. One man's meat is another man's poison. I feel that the Coal Board should consist of people—one from the Government, one or two representing the coal-mine owners and more people from the labour and some social workers. This will certainly help putting this fund to good use and benefit the workers. In how many coal-mines or in the coal-mine areas do they have creches? Is there any scheme for the educational development of, and welfare services to, these people? I have heard some of my friends who studied with me social service and who are there as welfare workers saying—that once they become social workers employees they have to dance to the tune of the coal-mine owners, or else they cannot get their promotion. And who will be so unselfish as to fight for the cause of the poor people? I have been putting them questions, "My dear friends, you are there as social workers, welfare workers. But how is it that you tell me all those awful tales that the management is not able to do its job out of the money that it gets, which duty they owe to the workers?" They said, "What can we do, Sir, Our position is like that. So, we cannot do anything." Of course, I do not think that the Government could refute the number of statistics that Mr. Kalyan Roy gave. When the hon. Minister replies, I would request him to tell the House the number of people in the Coal Board—those who represent the mine-owners, the Government and the workers, and the amount of money

[Shri G. A. Appan.]

that they spend on each item of social service programmes, housing, sanitation, education, creches, insurance and things like that. It is reported that separate accounts will be opened for the development fund and safety fund. If there are separate accounts for those two items there will be two separate establishments. Cannot one establishment do? The ledger account and the journal account can be there. Why should there be two establishments? I do not think it is necessary to have two establishments for this simple work in one sector.

One more charge that Mr. Kalyan Roy made against the Government was that even when the mine owners did not pay provident fund to the Government, the Government has been giving them grants or loans or aids. For these things it is high time that the hon'ble Minister constituted a small committee. This small committee will be able to examine the whole thing without prejudice or bias rather than so many people joining as too many cooks spoil the broth.

With these words I support the Bill. Let me add that the money collected under these accounts should be properly and judiciously spent for constructive programmes or work, for the welfare of the workers, for the development of colliery as industry, for the safety of coal-miners and coal industry and for the conservation of coal. I also request that the Government need not sleep over the huge natural resources that we have. Let us try to extract as much as possible to make this country rich and self sufficient sooner than later. Rather than trying to import coal from other countries we should try to produce more and reduce the cost of coal.

With these words I support the Bill and request the hon'ble Minister to answer the charges or the points that Mr. Kalyan Roy and other friends, including myself made.

SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, various points have been raised. At the outset I admit that I am shocked to hear certain things that have been said by my friend, Shri Kalyan Roy, about the Coal Board which is functioning and about other things. Before I reply to the points raised by him, I would like

to say that I am already seized of the matter. The Administrative Reforms Commission has made certain recommendations which are being pursued. For implementation, for giving effect to the provisions of the Act certain organisation is needed, be it a Coal Board, be it a Coal Controller or whatever the name. In any case, we have to work through an organisation. I, therefore, feel that with the reorganisation that we are taking up things should improve. In case they do not, we shall take further steps.

Shri Kalyan Roy specifically said that when 72 per cent of coal consumption is by the public sector why so much subsidy is being paid to the private sector? This is unfortunate but the fact remains that production of coal is more in the private sector than in the public sector. He has himself quoted figures. This thing can be wiped out if public sector production is increased which is gradually being done. The N.C.D.C. is gradually taking up further mines so that the public sector production goes up.

SHRI KALYAN ROY : You are giving so much subsidy to 20 concerns in the private sector.

SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY : About payment of subsidy to 20 concerns, he named 14 or 15 of them, and they incidentally happen to be the main producers in the private sector.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : It is a fact that they control the entire industry.

SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY : I am not opposing that position. But, incidentally, at the moment they happen to be the main producer. Under the provisions that we have today, whether it is the Coal Board, or we may wipe off this Coal Board, we have to have some organisation that has to do it. So, as I said, the Government is taking steps to reorganise the Coal Board, amalgamate the Coal Board and the Coal Controller's Organisation and do something which will really improve matters. If that also does not improve matters, some very drastic steps will be taken.

Then it was said that even though there is non-payment of provident fund contributions, non-payment of wages,

non-payment of bonus and non-payment of variable dearness allowance, yet the subsidy is being paid. This is really very painful. All these affairs are being looked after by the Labour Ministry. We have already taken up the matter with them and, if need be, we will take steps by which subsidies will not be paid, if these amounts are not paid, these subsidies should not be paid if these amounts are not paid.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will you take steps to see that those who have not complied with the provisions of the law in the matter of wages, provident fund, etc., will not be given subsidies? Do I have an assurance from you in this respect?

SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY: We have taken up the matter with the Labour Ministry. We are requesting them to take steps and, if need be, we will request them that this be done. About ropeways and its functioning below target, I had been to that area and I have seen it for myself. It is so. Some steps are being taken to see that its working improves.

A charge was made that false stowing charges are paid when really stowing is not done. We have a double check. The quantity that is taken is measured; the quantity that is supplied is measured; and the area that is stowed is measured. Only when they tally, the amount is paid.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: I specifically mentioned the Equitable Coal Company, you are paying Rs. 18 lakhs per year to two companies. All the villages around are affected and subsidy is taking place.

SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY: About the coal companies to which Mr. Kalyan Roy made a specific reference, I will take up the matter and I will get an explanation from the Coal Board and see what the real position is. And if payments have been made to them unauthorisedly and illegally, then steps would be taken against those persons who are responsible for it. And we shall inform Mr. Kalyan Roy about it.

Then, coming to mine safety, I am in agreement with my friends, but unfortunately I cannot help it. In regard to mine safety, there is one very great snag. The persons who are responsible

for safety are responsible for investigating whether safety has been properly organised. That is to say, the person to do it and the judge are the same. I am having that difficulty. I am pursuing that matter.

Then he referred to certain mines that have been closed without giving notice. I may inform him that prosecutions have been launched against two and again others, steps are being taken to prosecute them.

Mr. Chitta Basu referred to Parasia coal reserves and their exploitation. I know that area very well. I had been there. I have asked the NCDC to see that if there is the quality of coal in which they are interested, they should do it; otherwise, I will ask the Madhya Pradesh Government, who are putting up a super-thermal station, to take it up and develop the area, so that the labour which is likely to be thrown off gets employment.

Mr. Mathur made a reference to coal deposits in Rajasthan. I will get that matter examined and if it is feasible, I will try to see that it is taken up.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI RAM SAHAI): The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Coal Mines (Conservation and Safety) Act, 1952, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI RAM SAHAI): We shall now take up the clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 to 8 were added to the Bill

Clause 9: Amendment of Section 12.

SHRI KALYAN ROY (West Bengal): Sir, I move:

1. "That at page 2, line 33, the word "coking" be deleted."

2. "That at page 3, lines 8 to 10, for the words "organisations, local authorities and owners, agents or managers of coal mines" the words "organisations and local authorities" be substituted."

3. "That at page 3, lines 14 and 15 be deleted."

4. "That at page 3, lines 20 and 21 be deleted."

The questions were put and the motions were negatived.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI RAM SAHAI): The question is:

"That Clause 9 stands part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 9 was added to the Bill.

Clause 10 was added to the Bill.

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

SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be passed."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI RAM SAHAI): The House stands adjourned till 11 A.M. tomorrow.

The House then adjourned at two minutes past six of the clock till eleven of the clock on Tuesday, the 8th December, 1970.