

order to make these units viable provided they fulfilled certain conditions. 264 looms were distributed to 33 existing co-operative societies.

2. The West Bengal Government is at present considering revival of the District-level Committees and formation of Selection Committees in districts where no such Committee has been constituted and completion of the selection of applicants for power looms expeditiously.

**STATEMENT BY MINISTER RE
STARRED QUESTION NO. 396
ANSWERED ON THE 4TH
DECEMBER, 1969**

PRIME MINISTER'S APPEAL TO MINISTERS TO
USE SMALL CARS.

THE MINISTER OF STATE
(SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY):
Sir, in the statement laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha in reply to part (c) of the Starred Question No. 396 in the Rajya Sabha in connection regarding the make and price of the imported staff cars purchased in different Ministries/ Departments during 1968-69 was furnished. This was based on the information received from the various Ministries/ Departments.

श्री राजनारायण (उत्तर प्रदेश) : तीन, चार गुलाम यहाँ बहुत बड़े हैं।

SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY: The Ministry of Defence has now intimated that through a misunderstanding they had earlier not given...

(Interruptions)

श्री राजनारायण : जगजीवन राम जी सब से हाथ मिलाते जा रहे हैं। यह कहां का संबन्ध एटीकेट है कि मिनिस्टर जाने समय आप को पीठ दिखाए।

श्री जीलमद्र यादव (बिहार) : आप से सब अच्छा जानते हैं।

श्री अवधेश्वर प्रसाद सिंह (बिहार) : आप को शर्म नहीं जाती है हम लोगों का सिर नीचा करते हुए। आप ने हमारा सिर नीचा किया है सभा के सचिव की कुर्सी पर बैठ कर।

श्री राजनारायण : एक साहब थे उन के लघु भ्राता को बिहार मंत्रिमंडल में जगह मिल गयी। अवधेश्वर प्रसाद जी को भी हल्ला करने से कोई जगह मिल जाती है तो हम को कोई ऐतराज नहीं है। (Interruptions) सुनिये, वे कह रहे हैं कि आप चेयर पर जा कर बैठें। आप तो उन को सुनते नहीं। वह हम को सजेस्ट कर रही हैं, श्रीमती चतुर्वेदी कि हम आप की जगह आ कर बैठें, बनर्जी की जगह नहीं।

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Reporters, please do not record this.

Shre Rajnarain : (Spoke).

SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY: The Ministry of Defence has now intimated that through a misunderstanding they had earlier not given information regarding the three foreign-made cars purchased during 1969 for the use of the three Service Chiefs, Accordingly a revised statement giving the information asked for by the Member is added.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO A
MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC
IMPORTANCE**

**REPORTED LAY-OFF OF 1,50,000 WORKERS
IN ASANSOL AND JHARIA
BELTS**

• SHRI KALYAN ROY (West Bengal): Sir, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals and Mines and Metals to the reported lay-off of 1,50,000 workers in about 90 coal mines in Asansol and Jharia belts and apprehension of further lay-off of another 50,000 workers owing to nonavailability of explosives and stoppage of coal production.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS, AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI NITI RAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY): Sir, there has been a strike in the factory of the Indian Explosives Ltd. at Gomia from 1-8-1970. The State Government had taken necessary steps to arrange for reconciliation between the management and the employees of the factory. The minister for Labour of the State Government was, personally present at Kothara in an endeavour to find solu-

[Shri Niti Raj Singh Chaudhary] tion for the problem. However, all attempts for ^conciliation are reported to have failed. The strike was declared illegal by the Government of Bihar on the Saturday night 8-8-1970). Necessary police protection was also given to prevent any untoward incidents. The dispute is reported to have been referred for a.ljudication. Further efforts for terminating the strike are still being pursued.

Out of the stock of 1,375 tonnes, on nth and 12th * August, about 82 tonnes have been removed. The remaining quantity is also expected to be moved out progressively. It is understood that while movement of the Indian Explosive Ltd. vans is not being permitted by the strikers, there has been no obstruction to vans of consumers and others. This quantity of explosives is expected to keep the coal mines of Bengal and Bihar for another 10 days or so. If during this period the production of explosives at Gomia is not resumed then the present difficulty will reappear after 10-15 days.

As a consequence of the scarcity of explosives, many coal mines in the Bengal-Bihar area had to close down and lay off their workers. From available reports, a very large number of labourers have been laid off though the precise number is not yet known.

The Chief Secretary of the Bihar State Government has been contacted and the grave situation arising out of the large scale lay off of labourers from the Bengal-Bihar coalfields has already been communicated to him.

SHRI KALYAN ROY : There are two points in this answer. Unfortunately he has repeated what he said in the Lok Sabha yesterday. He had no other information to give us. Sir, this is the most colossal lay-off since the last twenty years affecting not only coal mines, but also mica mines, iron ore mines and manganese mines. It is a shame .the Minister because till today he could not say how many lakhs of workers have been laid off in Bengal, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh. Would you please try to find out today and lay it on the Table of the House as to how many workers and their families throughout the country have been affected by this ? Is it half a million or 400,000? Nearly 600 collieries have been affected. He must place it on

I the Table of the House as to how many workers are affected. Otherwise he cannot be allowed to continue in the Ministry of Mines and Metals.

Is it not a fact that this is not a sudden development? There is a sort of conspiracy between the I.G.I, which is the only manufacturer of permitted explosives in the country and the colliery and mine owners to create this; problem in eastern India. Is it not a fact that the mine owners have the explosives registers and they could have anticipated this shortage. These explosives registers are supposed to be checked by the Chief Inspector of Mines who is at Dhan-bad. Is it not a fact that out of 212 collieries in West Bengal, 113 collieries have never paid any royalty and according to the present estimates ?hout Rs. 14 crore are due to the Government of India ? Is it not a fact...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please shorten your question.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: Is it nor a fact that because of the surplus coal which they are not able to despatch early, they, in collusion with the I.C.I., have laid off such a large numbei of colliery workers? Is it not a fact that these mine owners are tryng to pressurise the Government of India to give them mors foreign exchange so that they can import spare parts as well as explosives? Would the hon. Minister assure the House that they are not going to import a single tonne of explosives in order to create a buffer stock?. They can easily get it from the ordnance factories and other factories in this country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put your question now.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: Sir, this affects the workers with whom I share everything. My last question is this: As most of the explosives are required in West Bengal which is mainly using permitted explosives because of depth of gaseous mines, would you set up the e explosives factories in this Fourth Five Year Plan in West Bengal so that this question does not arise every day? So, my first question is about the number of workers affected by this lay off. My second question is about the conspiracy between the explosives factory owners and the mine owners with the collusion of some officials of the Mines Department and my last question was about setting up of explosives factories in West Bengal.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (DR. TRIGUNA SEN) : Sir, regarding the first question, what is the total number : I have not got the exact figure with me. But, from the report—I heard from the Chief Minister last night that it would be more than a lakh, more than a lakh of people and it will be still more in the mine .

AN HON. MEMBER : More than a million?

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : No, more than a lakh only, not a million.

Now, actually in Bihar collieries that have been affected because of the shortage of explosives are in Bihar and West Bengal—Asanjoal and Jharia fields.

Regarding the second question whether there is a sordid conspiracy between the I.C.I. and the private mine owners, Sir, it is very difficult for me to know that.

The third question is whether the private collieries will be allowed to import explosives. My answer is 'No'.

The fourth question is whether the government will set up an explosive factory in the public sector. My answer is 'Yes'.

SHRI KALYAN ROY : In West Bengal ?

AN HON. MEMBER : What about West Bengal?

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : That we cannot say as yet.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, he cannot say where and what they will do. Now, Shri Chitta Basu

SHRI CHITTA BASU (West Bengal) : Sir, it appears from the statement of the hon. Minister that the collieries of West Bengal and Bihar have been affected by this particular situation. How is it that the collieries of Madhya Pradesh, the collieries of Andhra Pradesh, the collieries of the other part of the country and also, as far as I remember, the collieries in Bihar in the public sector, have not been affected in any way by this situation? Is it not going to prove that there has been some kind of a conspiracy between the authority which is in charge of distrib-

uting the explosives to different private sector mine owners and the private sector mine owners? In this connection, I want to know particularly the distributing agents of the Indian Explosives Ltd. at Gomti. There is a sordid conspiracy and will the hon. Minister kindly enquire into the matter as to whether there has been any conspiracy between the private sector collieries and the distributing agents of the Indian Explosives Ltd. at Gomti? I want to know whether he will institute an inquiry.

My second point is this : How is it that the ICI, which is a monopoly concern in the matter of manufacturing these explosives, has been allowed to continue the manufacturing operation of these strategic articles which are so much needed for the operation of mining? In view of this particular experience we are now having, will the hon. Minister assure the House that the ICI management would be taken over by the government before setting up a public sector unit for the manufacture of the same?

I want an assurance on the third point : Now, it has been told that the workers of the collieries are not at all responsible for this situation. Why should they not be assured of the full payment for the loss of work? This is the question I want to be replied to.

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : Sir, it was assumed, it is rather assumed, that all the mining industry has got some buffer stock of explosives, because explosive is a vital item for the mining industry. Those collieries, perhaps in Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and others, it is presumed, have buffer stock to carry on. It was expected that the mine owners in West Bengal and Bihar would have also buffer stocks. It is difficult to say.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : There is an element of conspiracy.

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : No, I do not think so. Let me clarify the position. It is not very difficult anyway to work in other mines without explosives to some extent. But, so far as the mines in the Jharia coal fields are concerned, in West Bengal and Bihar, the mines are generally gaseous. It is very difficult, it is rather

[Dr. Triguna Sen] dangerous, to work in the mines at the bottom without the use of explosives. So the situation is concentrated or centred in that particular area.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will he enquire into the matter as to why this has happened here and why not in other parts of the country?

DR. TRIGUNA SEN: Now what we have done is that we have taken two measures within the last few days. As a short term measure we have arranged for the import of 1500 tons of explosive from Poland and we are taking all the necessary steps on a top priority basis for expediting the receipt of this supply. Again, Sir, there are some problems. The port authorities are able to clear only 100 tons at a time at each port; we cannot take out all the explosive at a time from the ships and a ship brings not more than 500 tons in one trip. We have approached the Defence Ministry also whether as a very special case they could make special arrangements to unload 500 tons from the ships. We have also placed orders for another 1500 tons of explosives and a further supply of 1200 tons of ammonia nitrate is being cleared just now. Why we want to do this is because explosive is a vital element for the mining industry as such, we want to create buffer stocks ourselves in different parts of the country so that in emergencies that can be used. This is a short-term step that we have taken immediately. As far the long-term step, I agree with the hon. Member that perhaps it was not very wise to entrust it only to one firm. Actually there are two firms. One is in Gomia and another in Rourkela which has not yet come on stream. But I thought since it is a vital element for the mining industry for which this Ministry is responsible, we must have an explosives factory in the public sector. Though it is not provided for in the Fourth Five Year Plan we have asked our people to prepare immediately a project report and we shall negotiate it in the Planning Commission so that it could be started within the Fourth Plan period itself. So we have taken these two steps, short-term and long-term, because we are very much worried about the mining industry and coal depends not only on thermal power stations but on so many other factors, e. g. cotton mills, jute mills, cement mills, etc. So we are not just sitting tight but we are trying to expedite the matter for creating buffer stocks also

श्री राजनारायण (उत्तर प्रदेश) : श्रीमन् मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि केन्द्रीय सरकार को इस हड़ताल की जानकारी कब हुई। गोमियाँ में हड़ताल कब से चल रही है। यदि सरकार को इतने दिनों से जानकारी थी तो इस सरकार ने इस हड़ताल से जो दिक्कतें पैदा हो गई थीं उन दिक्कतों का सामना करने के लिए समुचित कदम अब तक क्यों नहीं उठाये ?

यह सही है कि 7 तारीख को मैं आमनसोल और धनबाद में था। उस समय वहाँ के लोगों ने मुझे इतनी प्रेबिटी नहीं बतलाई थी। जब हम 9 तारीख को वहाँ पहुँचे तो हमारे पास तार और टेलीफोन वहाँ से आये। हमने कल भी आपको बतलाया था कि हमारे पास वहाँ से तार और टेलीफोन आ रहे हैं और हमने इस संबंध में मंत्री जी से सबरे छः बजे टेलीफोन पर बात की। हमारे पास श्री रणदेव, जो असिस्टेंट सेक्रेटरी, हिन्दू मजदूर पंचायत के हैं, उनका तार आया है जो इस प्रकार से है :

"Collieries closing for want of explosives. Thousands of coal-field labour forced idleness, coal output suffering seriously. Great national loss involved. Immediate intervention solicited."

यह तार हमने आपको बतला दिया था तो मेरा प्वाइन्ट यह है कि क्या सरकार को इस बात की कोई भी जानकारी हुई है कि जो 1400 टन एक्सप्लोसिव वहाँ पर पहले से था उसको आई० सी० आई० ने कुछ कोयला खदानों को दिया है। मेरी जानकारी है, श्रीमन्, आज मुंबई के। एक तो बंगाल कोलियरी है जो विदेशी है, एक और विदेशी कोलियरी है इन दो विदेशी कोलियरीज को आई० सी० आई० ने एक्सप्लोसिव दिया है। अब इससे दो नतीजे हो रहे हैं। जो इन दो कोलियरीज के मजदूर हैं वे सन्तुष्ट हो जाएंगे, लेकिन बाकी कोलियरीज बन्द हो जाने के कारण जो मजदूर बेकार होंगे उनमें उत्तेजना और बेचैनी बढ़ेगी। तो मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार इस बारे में क्या कदम उठाएगी कि जो वहाँ पर एक्सप्लो-

सिव था 1400 टन उसका बंटवारा समुचित ढंग से हो ? इस 1400 टन का बंटवारा जिस कोलियरी की जैसी आवश्यकता हो उसको देखते हुए समुचित ढंग से हो, यह नहीं कि मैनेजमेंट अपनी चहेती कोयला खदानों को दे दें और बाकी खदानों को न दे तो फिर वहाँ के मजदूरों में असंतोष हो जायगा ।

इसी के साथ साथ मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि केन्द्रीय सरकार का क्या कोई शेयर इस कम्पनी में है ? अगर केन्द्रीय सरकार का भी कोई शेयर है तो इससे कितना लाभ हुआ इसकी कोई जानकारी सरकार के पास है ? सरकार ने बहुत सी सफाई कर दी, उसके बारे में मैं नहीं जाऊंगा, मगर जहाजों के जरिए शीघ्रता-शीघ्र विदेशों से एक्सप्लोसिव भी मंगाया जा सकता है या नहीं या और किसी दूसरी जगह से भी मंगाया जा सकता है या नहीं या केवल पानी के जहाज पर ही हम निर्भर रहेंगे, पानी के जहाज पर ही निर्भर रहेंगे या कोई व्यवस्था करेंगे, मिलिट्री से सम्बन्ध स्थापित करके, डिफेंस डिपार्टमेंट से सम्बन्ध स्थापित करके जल्दी से जल्दी एक्सप्लोसिव मंगाएंगे और तमाम कोयला खदानों को भेजेंगे ? इन तमाम चीजों को करने में मंत्री जी क्या समझते हैं कितनी देर लगगी ? हमारी जानकारी यह है कि 8-10 दिन इस तरह की स्थिति चलेगी तो वहाँ एक दुपरे डेग की स्थिति पैदा हो जाएगी, एक लाख, डेढ़ लाख मजदूर बेकार होकर सड़कों पर घूमने लगेंगे तो उनका नतीजा क्या होगा इसकी कल्पना की जा सकती है । वह देश के लिए बहुत ही दुर्दिन होगा ।

चौथी बात हमारी यह है कि आई० सी० आई० में माइनारिटी शेयर, हमारी जानकारी है, केन्द्रीय सरकार का है । एक फारेन कोलेबोरेशन में माइनारिटी शेयर इस सरकार का क्यों है ? यह सरकार अपना शेयर बढ़ा कर इस सम्पूर्ण कन्सर्न को अपने हाथ में लेने से क्यों हिचकती है जबकि यह इतना जबरदस्त साधन है जिससे कोयला खदान बन्द हो जाय,

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अवरक का उत्पादन बन्द हो जाय, रेल का चलना बन्द हो जाय और अनेक उद्योग-धन्धों का चलना बन्द हो जाय जिसका सम्पूर्ण राष्ट्र पर असर पड़े, बंगाल से लेकर तमाम बिहार, मध्य प्रदेश तक सारा मामला ठप्प हो जाय । इसलिए मैं कहता हूँ कि सरकार शान्त क्यों है ? इस कारखाने को पूर्ण रूप से अपने हाथ में लेने के लिए सरकार आगे क्यों नहीं बढ़ी और अगर अभी तक नहीं बढ़ी तो आगे बढ़ेगी या नहीं ?

DR. TRIGUNA SEN: The strike was called on 1st August. I am told that it is over the appointment of one Assistant Security Officer who was on probation and the management did not like to make him permanent. At first the officers went on a strike and then the workers also joined.

SHRI KALYAN ROY : Which was the union and to which Central organisation is it affiliated?

DR. TRIGUNA SEN: Is it not your union ?

SHRI KANLYAN ROY: No.

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : If it is not yours, it may be Mr. Rajanarain's, do not know. We came to know about it on 2nd and on 2nd itself the Coal Controller and all the officers there in the Coal Board had been to this place. The Government of Bihar was alerted. The labour Minister himself was there and on 7th or 8th morning when you rang me up early in the morning, I contacted the Chief Minister also and had a talk last night with him and he said that he was seized of this problem. All of them are trying their best to negotiate a settlement with the workers. I am told in this concern the Government of India has got 12 per cent shares.

SHRI T.N. SINGH (Uttar Pradesh): Fifteen per cent.

DR. TRIGUNA SEN: I am sorry. I am subject to correction. He knows because he made this contract perhaps.

SHRI T. N. SINGH : No. I was not the Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals.

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : It is not the Minister of Petroleum who controls it. That does not matter. Since you say it is

[Dr. Triguna Sen] 15 per cent. I accept what you say because you were a part of the Government and you know more than I do. About the fourth question, we tried our best also to airlift the explosives. But they refused to airlift the explosives. So the only way is to bring them by ships, which we have done.

श्री राजनारायण : हमारे एक सवाल का जवाब नहीं हुआ कि क्या सरकार को पता है कि दो विदेशी कोल कंपनियों को जो 1400 टन वहाँ कोयला था उस में से इस मैनेजमेंट ने दिया और उस मैनेजमेंट ने जब उन को दे दिया तो दूसरे लोगों को क्यों नहीं दिया ?

DR. TRIGUNA SEN: I am told the factory had 1,375 tons m stock and they wanted to bring them out. Naturally, the workers resisted bringing them out of the workshop. Only the day before yesterday they allowed them to be taken out, and the Bihar Government in the Labour Ministry has asked all the collieries to send their trucks so collect the explosives from the mines.

DR. TRIGUNA SEN: I am not aware of it but I will surely have a talk with the Chief Minister again on whether they allowed only these two particular collieries and deprived the others of getting the explosives out of their stock. I will talk to him again.

श्री राजनारायण : क्यों ? मेरी जानकारी है कि बिहार गवर्नमेंट ने इन दो कोल कंपनियों से कुछ लेनदेन किया है । सवाल तो यही है कि बिहार गवर्नमेंट ने इन्हीं दो को क्यों माना और इन्हीं दो कोलिरीज को क्यों दिया गया ? सारा मामला इसी लिए उठता है । आज सुबह मेरे पास जानकारी आयी है कि दो कोयला मालिकों से बिहार सरकार का कोई सौदा पटा इस लिए बिहार गवर्नमेंट ने उन्हीं को दिया । इस से वहाँ अनरेस्ट है इस की जानकारी क्या सरकार करेगी ?

SHRI D.THENGARI (Uttar Pradesh): Is the Government aware—the Government must be aware—of the fact that the conspiracy referred to by Mr. Kalyan Roy that I.C.I. is not an isolated affairs and that it is a link in the chain of the genera/

policy of coal employers themselves following the practice for long of manoeuvring strikes, even by offering money to labour leaders just to bring about strikes or manoeuvre situations leading to layoffs or manoeuvre situations leading to strikes whenever they feel that there is over-production, or the production—whatever the production is there—cannot be disposed of. So it is being felt since long that a standing machinery should be set up to investigate into every case of lay-off and strike in the coal industry, and whenever it has been established or it is found that the coal employers have themselves been responsible for strike or lay-off, they should be brought to book and a heavy penalty should be imposed on them. Will Government consider this proposal to setting up such a standing machinery to bring to book such employers who bring about national losses?

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : I fully agree with the hon. Member. Firstly, I cannot imagine that a particular industry can arrange a strike so that its factory...

SHRI D. THENGARI: What I have said, I have said j from personal experience.

DR. TRIGUNA SEN: I understand your point of view. I will surely talk to the Labour Minister today whether what you have suggested can be implements!. I will discuss with him.

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair]

श्री प्रेम मनोहर : (उत्तर प्रदेश) : सरकारी क्षेत्र में विस्फोटक कारखाना खोलने का सरकार ने निश्चय किया है । तो मैं एक सीधा सा प्रश्न यह पूछना चाहूंगा कि सरकार के पास क्या गारन्टी है कि इस विस्फोटक कारखाने में स्ट्राइक नहीं होगी । क्योंकि यह जो स्थिति निर्माण हुई है वह गोमिया के कारखाने में स्ट्राइक होने के कारण से निर्माण हुई है । इस का हल निकालने के लिए सरकार ने निश्चय किया कि हम एक विस्फोटक कारखाना लगायेंगे । 1500 टन इम्पोर्ट भी करेंगे और करोड़ों रुपया एक्सपोर्ट में भेज देंगे, लेकिन यह काम नहीं करेंगे कि स्ट्राइक को किसी तरह से जल्द से जल्द खत्म किया जाय, उस को इल्लीगल डिक्लेयर

करिये, उस को समाप्त कराइये, अगर उस के लिए उन को कंपेंसेशन देना हो तो एक हजार, दो हजार, दस हजार या पचास हजार उन को दीजिए लेकिन स्ट्राइक समाप्त कीजिए। आप के पास क्या गारन्टी है कि जिस तरह से गोमिया में स्ट्राइक हुआ या दुर्गापुर में या कलकत्ते की आर्म फ़ैक्टरीज हैं, वहां कम्युनिस्ट यूनियन्स हैं या दूसरी यूनियन्स हैं, वह लोग वहां स्ट्राइक कराते हैं और वहां आ कर उन लोगों का नारा बुलन्द करते हैं, इस हथकण्डे को रोकना चाहिए। जो गवर्नमेंट का कारखाना वहां लगेगा या आप लगाने जा रहे हैं उसमें इस तरह की स्ट्राइक नहीं होगी इस की क्या गारन्टी है ?

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : How can the Government guarantee or how can anyone give a guarantee that there will not be any strike ? I agree that there are so many political parties and if they are interested to agitate and create strikes by inter-union rivalry or other causes...

SHRI NIREN GHOSH (West Bengal): He is speaking on behalf of the employer.

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : ... It is very difficult to give any guarantee that there will not be any strike in any factory.

SHRI N. G. GOVIL (Maharashtra): I would like to have clarification on two points. During the Question Hour we heard about the union carbide and we were told that because they are the only people who can supply carbons necessary for the cinema houses a very precarious situation has arisen. Now we are hearing about the IGI. I was however pleased to hear from the hon. Minister that they are thinking of setting up another factory which will be producing explosives but that will take a long time. Therefore I would like to ask him two questions. One is, if this situation has arisen because of the appointment of a particular man in the factory to which the labour was opposed, is it really beyond the competence of the Government to bring about some sort of a settlement by having negotiations with the labour leaders and to see to it that the appointment of a single officer does not hold the entire industrial complex in the area to ransom. That is one thing.

The other thing is I was very surprised that the Minister said that he did not know to which particular political party the union belonged. I think it is his duty to know that.

SHRI KALYAN ROY : That shows the competence of his staff in the Department.

SHRI N. G. GORAY : Because, Sir, all the political parties are here in this House or in the Lok Sabha and he should have taken care to contact them and to appeal to them that such a grave situation has arisen and therefore it is in the interests of the nation as well as in the interests of the labourers to see to it that this dispute is closed. Will he contact the concerned political party and talk with their leaders so that some way out could be found ?

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : Sir, I...

SHRI KALYAN ROY : You admit the incompetence of your staff which has not been able to give you any information.

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : It is not a question of our staff. As soon as there was strike the Labour Minister of Bihar was personally there. He himself tried to negotiate to come to a settlement and when that failed this dispute was reported to have been referred for adjudication as has been told by my colleague in the statement. Yesterday as a matter of fact in the Lok Sabha I did appeal, not once but many times, to the labour leaders. Since this is a vital industry for the development of all mining industries I requested and appealed to them to please go and see that somehow a settlement is arrived at and the strike is called off. I did so to all the labour leaders.

SHRI N. G. GORAY : Not a general appeal; did you contact them, did you talk to them in your chamber ?

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : I have not.

SHRI N. G. GORAY : Please do it.

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : All right; thank you.

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमन्, एक सुझाव हमारा है कि ले-आफ के कारण जो मजदूर बेकार हुये हैं उनके लिये क्या यह सरकार वहां

[श्री राजनारायण]

के कोयला मालिकों से यह कहेगी कि लेआफ करने के कारण आपके जो मजदूर बेकार हैं उनको उन दिनों की तनख्वाह भी वाक़ायदा मिले क्योंकि जैसा कि जो प्रश्न हमारे मित्रों ने पूछा है उससे ऐसा लगता है कि कभी कभी कोयला खदान के मालिक आपस में मिल कर ऐसा करते हैं। तो केन्द्रीय सरकार यह जिम्मेदारी ले कि ले-आफ करने के कारण जो मजदूर बेकार हों उनको बेकार न माना जाय, उनको बगर सर्विस के न माना जाय और उनका जो वेतन बगैरह है वह उसी प्रकार से मिले, उनको कोयला खदान मालिक वेतन देते रहे। इसकी जिम्मेदारी सरकार को लेनी चाहिये। तो क्या सरकार इसके लिए कोई व्यवस्था निकालेगी।

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : I will try to do so in consultation with my colleague the Labour Minister. I shall discuss it with him.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : It was on the question of appointment of an officer who was on probation. His appointment as a permanent hand was due but the company was not prepared to appoint that person. That is what I can see from your reply. If that be so, why does not the Government of India make an appeal to the company itself to appoint that person and settle the dispute ?

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : How can I ? A man is appointed on probation. I do not know whether he is efficient or not. How can I force the company to appoint him and make him permanent ?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Let him complete his question.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : When a person is on probation his appointment as a permanent hand is due; that is the general practice. The company for some reason or other is not so far appointing that person and is thus provoking a crisis. I see the other way round. In the face of this situation why should the Government sit with folded hands ? Is it because it is a British concern, this ICI, that you are trembling in your shoes and you cannot even make that appeal ?

Patently the company is in the wrong. They are in the wrong. That is one question. Secondly, he said he presumed that the collieries should have a buffer-stock. Have the Government ever examined the quantum of manufacture, the quantity that is required for coalmining and other purposes and from that what is the excess from which the buffer stock can be built up ? Why did they presume it ? Why did not the Government have any machinery to look into it ? Thirdly, since a British company can hold the entire economy of our country to ransom—he has not answered the question—may I know whether the Government would consider the question of taking over the management of the company before you start an explosive factory in the public sector ? It would be a national scandal, it would be a dishonour and it would be subservience to the British interests if you do not consider the question of taking over the management of the company. Fourthly . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : How questions you are putting ?

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : Since the workers have been laid off for no fault of theirs, for which other reasons operate they should be given full compensation and not mere lay-off benefits. It may also be true that the colliery owners, or at least a section of them, are in collusion with the British management. I have seen coal stocks accumulating at the pitheads before this crisis. I have personally seen that. It is very likely that the entire thing is part of a conspiracy between the ICI and a certain section of the colliery owners.

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : Regarding (the cause of the strike, as I said, I was told that it was for a particular person who was on probation, but since the Labour Minister of the Government of Bihar is handling this, he is the proper authority to do it. I have no information actually why they failed to come to a settlement. As I said, we presumed that all the collieries had got reserve stocks. I do not know if we have any machinery to check whether they have got the reserve stocks.

SHRI KALYAN ROY : The Chief Inspector of Mines and Explosives is expected to check every week, every month the stock of explosives kept in the explosives room of each collieries.

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : The Chief Inspector of Explosives is not under my Ministry. He must be under the Labour Ministry, they must be knowing it and they must have the details. Now so far as payment to the workers, who have been laid off, is concerned, as suggested by Mr. Jajnarain, I will take it up with the Labour Minister. Thirdly about the taking over of the management, it is a big question. We will have to study all the pros and cons and see what can be done.

SHRI G. A. APPAN (Tamil Nadu): May I know from the hon. Minister the capital of the explosive factory which he says he is going to set up for the manufacture of explosives? The Government has a plan to start an explosive factory in the public sector May I know from the hon. Minister the extent of production of the Gomia factor, the capacity of the next factory proposed to be set up by the Government, what are the components for the manufacture of these explosives how much is being imported, what is the requirement of explosives for the whole country and what are the factories or industries that use them?

I want to know whether the Government will see that the raw materials that are imported for the production of these explosives would be tapped here in India. I feel, Mr. Deputy Chairman, that sulphur is also one of the vital raw materials for the production of these explosives. If that be the case, in how many places do we have sulphur reserves in our country? What is the estimate of sulphur resources? In Ramnad district in Tamil Nadu, in Pudupatty near Watrap in Srivilliputtur Taluk, there are potential resources of sulphur. I want to know whether the Government will see that they will send somebody to explore the possibility of finding whether there is sulphur could be tapped there and be utilised to save a lot of foreign exchange for our country.

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : The factory at Gomia produces 28,000 tonnes per year. We import about 5,000 tonnes every year. The third question is about the industries who use explosives. All mining industries have to use explosives. India is short of sulphur. The GSI is trying to find out, is carrying out surveys all over the country. We do import sulphur not only for explosives but also for fertilizers.

SHRI A. D. MANI (Madhya Pradesh): What is the total internal production?

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : Very little.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Chandra Shekhar.

SHRI G. A. APPAN : What is the requirement for the whole country? Does not the Minister have the figure? That is a vital question. How much is required and how much is produced?

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Uttar Pradesh) : I should like to know only one information. There is rumour, and I do not know how far there is justification for that, that these coalmine owners have got explosives in their stock but only just to harass the workers they have resorted to this layoff. Will the hon. Minister take the trouble to send an inspector or an officer from his Ministry or from whatever Ministry he may belong to enquire into it. and if this complaint is justified, such mine owners should be penalised heavily and they should be given exemplary punishment if they have deliberately created this difficulty.

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : I will surely do so. I will send an officer immediately to the Inspectorate of Explosives, as Mr. Roy said that they have always monthly returns with them. If we find that they have got in stock some explosives but still they are making layoff, Government will not hesitate to take any action that is possible to take.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Papers to be laid on the Table.

**PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE
AUDIT REPORT (1968-69) ON THE ACCOUNTS
OF THE CARDAMOM BOARD,
ERNAKULAM AND RELATED PAPERS**

**बंदेशिक व्यापार मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्रीधरी
राम सेवक) : मैं निम्नलिखित पत्र सभा पटल
पर रखता हूँ :**

**(क) निम्नलिखित पत्रों की एक एक प्रति
(अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में) :**

1. 1968-69 के वर्ष के लिये इलायची बोर्ड, एरनाकुलम के लेखाओं पर लेखा परीक्षा प्रतिवेदन। (Placed in Library.
See No. LT-4004/70)