

and as far as I can see, that policy is the correct one. I do not think of that policy as an absolutely firm policy, but on the whole, it seems to be a correct policy. Otherwise, difficulties arise. In the present case of the Goan satyagrahis, there is no difficulty about helping them. It is a question of how to help them.

SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY: May I know if the Government of India is against rewarding the political sufferers?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: No, I did not say that.

SHRI JASPAT ROY KAPOOR: May I know what is the total number of persons killed so far according to the latest information of the Government?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I think it is over 17 or 18. At the moment I am not quite sure. But it is not more than 18. I think it is probably 17.

MISMANAGEMENT IN TALCHER COAL-FIELDS, LTD.

*363. SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY: Will the Minister for PRODUCTION be pleased to state whether Government have received any reports and complaints regarding mismanagement in the working of Talcher Coalfields Limited?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR PRODUCTION (SHRI SATISH CHANDRA): No report has been received regarding mismanagement in the working of the Talcher Coalfields Ltd., which is a private colliery. Certain complaints made by the workers were, however, received in 1953. A statement showing the main complaints made and the action taken is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Action taken on complaints made by workers of Talcher Coalfields, Ltd.

1. Staff numbering about 1158 who were retrenched in November 1952 have not been entirely re-instated; about 300 still remain to be absorbed.

This was investigated by the Coal Commissioner. The position is that there was a general strike by the workers in November 1952, when even the essential workers were withdrawn resulting in many of the existing working places getting drowned. It was not, therefore, possible for the management to re-employ all the men when work was resumed. It is reported that only 120 workers still remain to be re-employed. This was brought to the notice of the Labour Ministry who have referred the matter to the Chief Labour Commissioner. The present position about this matter is, however, not known.

2. *Insanitary housing arrangements and lack of proper amenities for the workers.*

According to the Coal Commissioner, the position regarding housing is unsatisfactory while the sanitation in the labour area is reported to be satisfactory. The number of taps is reported to be insufficient but the management has promised to provide more. The Labour Ministry are reported to have a scheme under consideration for the construction of one lakh houses in coal mines directly from the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund which is expected to cover the Talcher Coalfields, Ltd. As regards water supply, a scheme is also reported to be under preparation of the Orissa Government.

3. *Non-payment of bonus and food-grain concessions to workers.*

This was also investigated by the Coal Commissioner who has reported that the bulk of the payments has already been made but that the failure of the management to pay the balance is due to the fact that the colliery is running at a loss. The management is however reported to have undertaken to pay the same as and when the financial position of the colliery improves.

SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY: Has not the Government received any complaint in the month of July 1955?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: We have not received any complaints.

SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY: As regards the complaints received in 1953, may I know why this Government is not in a position to tell us why these 120 people are still unemployed and the management has not taken them back since 1953?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: Sir, this is a private colliery. I said in the very beginning that the matter had been referred to the Chief Labour Commissioner and it is for him to make adjustments between the workers and the owners.

SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY: When was this matter referred to the Chief Labour Commissioner?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: I cannot give the definite date. But it was a long time ago that the matter was referred to the Labour Commissioner who has made certain investigations in this connection.

SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY: In view of the fact that Government has appointed a Coal Enquiry Commission to go into the conditions of certain factories in Bihar, would the Government consider the necessity of including this colliery also in that enquiry?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: At present there are only three collieries in Orissa, two of which belong to the Government. This is the only colliery in the private sector. I do not think that a committee could be appointed to look into the affairs of a single colliery.

SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY: But has there not been a persistent demand for nationalising this single privately owned colliery, because there are in Talcher two other collieries which are State-managed and also because this private colliery is not running properly?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: The whole question about the future of collieries is being considered in a broad

way, and that particular colliery might probably fit into the larger picture somewhere.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: After the Constitution amendment, I think it is possible to take over the collieries which are not run efficiently which are very badly run.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Statement of Policy by Mr. Bhupesh Gupta; not a question.

LOW INCOME GROUP HOUSING SCHEME

*364. DR. W. S. BARLINGAY: Will the Minister for WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representations to the effect that the rate of interest, which a prospective house-builder has to pay on loans granted under the Low Income Group Housing Scheme, is very high; and

(b) whether the rate of interest on loans under this scheme vary from State to State?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): (a) Some representations to that effect have been received.

(b) The rate of interest on loans granted by the Centre to the State Governments under the Scheme is uniform. The State Governments, however, charge an additional interest of $\frac{1}{2}$ percent to 1 percent per annum to meet their administrative expenses and, therefore, the rate of interest charged by them varies slightly from State to State.

DR. W. S. BARLINGAY: Is it not a fact that in the ultimate analysis, the person who takes the loan has got to pay as much interest as the amount of the loan itself?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: It is quite an obvious proposition. If a loan is not paid for a very large number of