

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I think, the Coal Ministry may examine this issue, and if there is some remedy, then, it should be done.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. T. K. S. Elangovan.

Concern over withdrawal of labour cess in certain departments

SHRI T. K. S. ELANGO VAN (Tamil Nadu): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir. I want to bring to the notice of the House that certain cess collected for the welfare of the labourers, were withdrawn by the Government, particularly, cess in terms of the mica mines labour welfare, salt cess, merchant shipping, textiles committee, limestone, dolomite mines and labour welfare fund, tobacco cess, iron ore mines cess, and cine-workers welfare cess. Sir, cess is collected for a specific purpose. It will go directly to the welfare of the employees.

Whereas the Government has withdrawn or repealed the Acts, providing for such cess to employees who are working in dangerous fields, like mines; mines are dangerous places where anything may happen, and the family of the employees should be protected with this cess money.

Whereas, the Government has now given an assurance that the employers themselves should provide for a welfare fund, what is the responsibility of the employer and how the employer will provide fund is a question? When we are collecting cess for the Swachh Bharat, definitely, we cannot forget our labourers who are working in the dangerous areas. Sir, further, I think, this is, as a prelude to the GST. In such a case, I only want the Government to call various trade unions in the country and discuss with them because they are the stakeholders in this process. So, they should also be called, and their views should also be taken to protect the employees who are working in dangerous areas like mines.

This is my request. I think, the Government would definitely call the employees, as also the trade unions, in this matter.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Prabhat Jha, not present. Shri La. Ganesan, please.

Need for renaming the Islands in Andamans

SHRI LA. GANESAN (Madhya Pradesh): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, Andaman is the Punya Kshetra for all the patriots living in India. I have visited Cellular Jail many times. Whenever I went to Cellular Jail, I could not control my emotions. It is because, when I was studying in my school days, the first English autobiography I read was Veer Savarkar's 'My Transportation to Andamans'. Jhansi Rani Lakshmibai is a well-known name. She is revered in the whole country, even in Tamil Nadu. The