

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES AND MINERALS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5357
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2000
STRIKE BY STAFF OF SINGARENI COALMINES COMPANY
CHELLAMELLA SUGUNA KUMARI

Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the employees of Singareni Coalmines Company Limited went on strike in the month of February, 2000;
- (b) if so, the details of their demands and agreements made with the management before calling off the strike; and
- (c) the steps being taken to avoid such strikes in future?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINES & MINERALS

(SMT. RITA VERMA)

(a) The Singareni Collieries Workers' Union (SCWU), a recognised Union, organised a strike through out the Company from first shift of 09.02.2000 to 21.02.2000.

(b) Major demands of the Union were as under :- 1) Early finalisation of National Coal Wage Agreement-VI, 2) Payment of House Rent Allowance @ 10% of basic pay to the employees living in 3 'C' class towns, 3) Confirmation of 117 acting clerks as Clerks, 4) Providing alternative employment to the workmen declared unfit to their original job due to reasons other than mine accidents, 5) To stop introduction of 7 day week with staggering play day system, 6) To stop introduction of staggering shifts to the Coalfillers and Coal cutters in under ground mines, 7) Implementation of Cadre Schemes for Lamproom staff, EP Tradesmen in opencast projects and providing monthly grades to Tradesmen, 8) Finalisation of pending Cadre Schemes, 9) Revision of company allowances, 10) Demands pertaining to promotion to Overmen of Mining Staff, Civil, E & M, Diploma Holders Office Supdts., EDP.Assts., stenographers to executive scales of pay, 11) Not to declare lock out to the monthly rated employees including mining staff and clerical staff in the event of illegal strikes by other section of workmen, 12) Change in the eligibility criteria for promotion to the post of Electrical Charge Hand Grade B, 13) Allotment of quarters to open cast project personnel adoption of Joint Bipartite Committee on Coal Industry cadre scheme for clerical staff, 14) To give one more opportunity to the dependants who were offered appointment as Badli filler but did not report for duty for one reason or other, 15) Regularisation of Badli Coalfillers as Coalfillers, 16) Reviewing the penalties imposed on certain employees, 17) Re-appointment of workmen dismissed on the grounds of absenteeism, 18) Providing uniform to the employees working in Longwalls /Blasting Gallary Panels, providing Excavation Plant grades to certain tradesmen working in Blasting Gallary Panel, Longwall workshops etc., 19) Re-appointment of 8 employees of Rama Krishna Puram-Mandamari who have been dismissed on the fake medical unfit certificates; and 20) Not to change the existing practice in respect of Helpers to Tradesmen, Shift timings in Open cast projects as has been the practice in Coal India Limited and recovery of electricity charges from the workers residing in Company's quarters.

The Strike Notice was seized in conciliation by the Regional Labour Commissioner(Central), Hyderabad and conciliation proceedings were held by him on different dates commencing from 11.01.2000. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh convened a joint meeting with the representatives of Management and recognised Union on 21.02.2000. As a result of this meeting, a Memorandum of Settlement was arrived at between the management of Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. and SCWU on 27 issues including almost all the above 20 demands before Regional Labour Commissioner(Central), Hyderabad on 21.02.2000. Consequent to signing of the above settlement the strike was called off by the Union from 22.02.2000.

(c) The Management has been holding periodic discussions with the Union to sort out the issues. It is being impressed upon the Union not to raise any issues beyond what is provided in Nation Coal Wage Agreements for the rest of the Coal Industry. It is also proposed to organise training classes to the managerial personnel and trade union leaders on the subject of Maintaining Harmonious Industrial Relations.