

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : That issue is closed now. Let him speak now.

[Translation]

SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT (Balaghat) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, these issues should be considered in the matters of Madhya Pradesh...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I am concluding in one line only. We the people of Madhya Pradesh doing anything detrimental to the interests of Gujarat. People of Madhya Pradesh do not want to give less water to Gujarat but the water capacity of river Narmada in Madhya Pradesh should be taken into consideration...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let the hon. Member speak. Please cooperate with me.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH (Vidisha) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, interests of Madhya Pradesh are not being protected. We also have a right to speak on this issue... *(Interruptions)* Sir, a number of villages will submerge due to the construction of this dam. Therefore we should also be given an opportunity to express our grievances...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have called him. I am sorry to say that this is not good. Please allow him to speak.

*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will allow everyone to speak on this issue if you cooperate with me.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARADHAN ROY (Asansol) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, at the very outset of the budget session, Hon'ble Minister of coal has issued a statement in the newspapers, outside the House that National coal industry is proposed to be privatised. There is resentment amongst the coal mine workers over this issue. They are prepared to take any step against this move. Secondly, earlier the coal mines were run by private owners. They carried on the work in the most illegal and unscientific manner which gave rise to the problem of subsidence of land throughout the area-in the city, the villages and the fields. Coal lying underneath the ground is aflame due to which several people have been rendered homeless and their property is being destroyed. Many have lost their lives also. The lives of all those people are in danger. In view of all such

problems, the Government nationalised this mine in 1972-73, however the lives of 15 lakh tribal people residing in the area are in danger. There is a danger to their lands. Several people have been killed there. After taking over the mine, the Government has not taken on any responsibility for the rehabilitation of those tribals, their livelihood and for ensuring the safety of their land. The Government maintains that it will not take on any responsibility for the damage caused by private mine owners. The Government is not doing anything at all. Similarly after the mine is handed over to the private party, it may also later on refuse to take on any responsibility for what has happened under the regime of the Government.

Secondly, what measures are being taken for those who have been rendered homeless, whose property has been destroyed and for the workers employed in that mine who are covered under National wage Agreement. The labourers are highly concerned about this issue. There is a resentment among them. This is a very serious matter indeed. Hence I would like to know as to what action is being taken in this regard. The case of Eastern coalfields Limited has been referred to BIFR in order to close it down by showing losses. BCCL has also been referred to BIFR. On one hand, the Government proposes to close down these mines and on the other hand, the mines which are operational are posing threat to the lives of the villagers. Their problems remain unresolved and in case this step is taken, approximately 15 lakh people will be affected.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Government's decision to open the coal mines to the private sector and also to the multinational companies is a retrograde step.

The coal industry was nationalised in 1972 and then again in 1973. We had the experience of private mining in our country prior to 1972. The coal mines were in the hands of private companies and because they undertook unscientific mining and plundered the precious wealth of our country, in 1972, the Government of India first nationalised the coking coal mines. Then, afterwards, the non-coking coal mines were nationalised in 1973.

If the private companies, including multinational companies are allowed to extract coal, then, as it happened prior to 1972-73, our assets, the coal mines will be plundered by those private mining companies and multinational companies.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government not to take such action. If any decision has been taken to open the coal industry to the private companies and the multina

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

tional companies, the Government should refrain from taking such a retrograde step.

The Government should take all steps to revive the Bharatiya Coking Coal Limited, which has been referred to the BIFR, to strengthen the Coal India Limited and all its subsidiaries so that unscientific mining does not take place in the coal industry.

I urge upon the Government not to take such a retrograde step of allowing private mining in the coal industry...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will allow all of you. I am here to take care of it.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The names of the members from both sides will be called out alternately. After a member from this side has spoken, the member from the other side would be given a chance.

[English]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I appeal to the entire House, particularly the leaders, to please support the demand that I am making...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have to take care of all the sides of the House.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, I am referring to an Act that was enacted by both the Houses unanimously. The Act is related to Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities) Protection of Rights and Full Participation Act, 1995. It was the Act of 1996. It was the first Act. Under the Act, a number of promises were made by the Government. It was promised that the Central Coordination Council will be established and that various benefits will be given to the disabled men and women. Now, for one whole year, unfortunately, the Government did not act on this.

Just last Friday, as an after thought, they constituted a Central Coordination Committee. Sir, today the disabled are holding a *dharna* in the capital. They will also be seeking to court arrest. I appeal to the Government and all sections that the minimum demands of the disabled which are not objectionable, like the contents of the National Trust for Persons with Mental Retardation and Cerebral Policy Bill be made public for consultation, should be accepted.

Secondly, the notification regarding the constitution of

the Central Coordination Committee which the Government announced last Friday must be withdrawn. I do not want to go into the details of the Bill. But it is in violation of the Bill itself. The Central Coordination Committee must be reconstituted.

Thirdly, a Chief Commissioner should be appointed. The allowances and allocations to the Welfare Ministry for the disabled of the country must be increased from a paltry sum of Rs. 28 crore. Only Rs. 28 crore has been allocated for the disabled, but the Prime Minister made a promise to allocate Rs. 100 crore. At least that should be done. Some benefits could be given to them in the railways. This is really for the disabled of the country. Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me a chance to speak on this issue...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Sir, I support his demand...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVANAND H. KOUJALGI (Belgaum) : Sir, I would like to raise an important matter...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Surely, I will give you a chance.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVANAND H. KOUJALGI : I have tried many times. But I was not getting a chance. I request you to give a chance to the new Members also...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. GIRIJA VYAS (Udaipur) : Hon'ble Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I extend my support to the raised by Shri Jaswant Singh earlier in his speech and I believe that we should consider this matter sensitively.

The entire nation was stunned after reading the news published in yesterday's and today's newspapers that even after fifty years of Independence, approximately 15 lakh baby girls are killed in Bihar every year. This fact has come to light through a survey and it has been reported in the newspapers on the third consecutive day. This news reached Rajasthan, part of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh first but this news is not related to a particular party or a particular state. It is a matter of concern for the House as to why such a large number of female babies are being killed even after 50 years of Independence.

Three facts have come out in the report. Earlier the killing of female babies was restricted to a particular upper caste community. Later on, other upper caste and rich people also started killing their girl children. But now this tendency is being noticed in those scheduled caste, scheduled tribes and dalit areas which have registered