

[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the Central Coordination Committee which the Government announced last Friday must be withdrawn.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

financial progress. It clearly shows the extent to which we are becoming inhuman after acquiring more and more money. The House should ponder over this issue.

Sir, besides, two more facts have come to light. Two more causes are deeply associated with this tendency. One of these is the male ego. That the men would not go to anyone else's home to press for the rights of their daughter, prompts them to kill the girl children. The second reason that emerges is that safety of girl children cannot be ensured.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to elaborate the second point. There was on unseen passage in the question paper of Delhi Board examination wherein it was asked as to why the girls do not go to school. It is because their parents are apprehensive about the possibility of their ravishment on their way to school or at the hands of their teachers or class fellows. That their daughters are not safe is the underlying message that emerges and surfaces in that passage also. This is a very serious matter. I would like to make an appeal to the House and the Government not to leave this matter to the State Government. I would like to ask Shri Jena to send a team from the centre in order to conduct a sample survey in Bihar and also in other states where a large number of such murders were committed earlier but now the killings are continuing clandestinely. This is an alarming situation for U.P., Rajasthan and other areas. The Union Government will have to take same strict steps to prevent such killings.

A report has been published in the today's newspapers wherein it has been stated that atrocities on women top the crime charts in Delhi. This report is also alarming and a special discussion should be held in the House on this report as well. I would like to request that one hour discussion should be held on the issue of atrocities on women and especially the killing of girl children in Bihar. In this fiftieth year of Independence, we should bring forth a bill with this resolution in mind that the killing of girl children is stopped...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I shall call out the names of all the members one by one.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am going to invite you to speak shortly. Are you still not satisfied ?

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (Agra) : A grand music concert is being held in the vicinity of Taj Mahal in Agra in the third week of March with the co-operation of the Government of India. People from throughout the country and other foreign countries would arrive there. Shri Jena is present here. The National highway running through Agra-Fatehpur Sikri is in such a dilapidated

condition that accidents take place there very frequently and several tourists are either injured or even killed in such accidents. A meeting was held in this regard but the Union Government has not got the road repaired as yet. No action was taken despite the personal request made by Shri Jena. Please issue orders to get the Agra-Fatehpur Sikri National highway repaired. A concert of Musician Yanni is being held there and ten to eleven thousand foreign tourists are expected to attend the concert. The road is not being repaired. Infact even the plan has not been sanctioned as yet. The concert is being held on the shores of Yamuna and Taj is in the striking zone hence it is in danger. There are four or five colonies viz. Chandni, Kachpura etc. which are not properly lit. Hence the ISI agents could use this opportunity to cause damage to Taj Mahal and it could result in a heavy loss which would never be compensated. The people of that area are also making a demand that power should be provided in those areas. The Government is deceiving us. The poles have been installed but electricity is not being provided. In view of the Grand Taj Music concert, the Governor had also announced certain proposals in order to repair the roads of Agra which are presently in dilapidated condition but no funds are being released. 40 lakh rupees were released yesterday for the rural areas for repairing of the roads damaged by rains. This amount is very meagre. The people of Agra are deeply pained to note that the Governor makes the announcements but the bureaucrats do not act upon these announcements. They do not release the funds. Same is the case with the announcements made regarding Agra barrage and other projects. As Agra is infested by mosquitoes, the tourists and the local residents face problems on this count also. Since a concert is being held on such a large scale, I would like to urge upon the Union Government that required funds should be provided by the Central Government, Planning Commission and the State Government to meet the needs and requirements that could arise there so that the tourists do not face any problems; no accident takes place there and the Taj also remains safe.

*[English]*

SHRI SHIVANAND H. KOUJALGI (Belgaum) : Sir, the Television Centre at Gokak in Belgaum is ready for commencement. But as the staff is not sanctioned, the posting of staff has not been done for the last one and a half years. The honourable Minister for Information and Broadcasting had directed his Ministry to post or depute the staff till permanent staff was sanctioned. In spite of that, the Ministry has not posted the staff there. Hence, I request you, through you, that necessary direction be given to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to post the staff or depute the staff at the TV centre so that the TV centre may be opened immediately...*(Interruptions)*