

[Shri P.V. Rajeshwar Rao]

servicing, retired Officers and sons of dead soldiers should be given priority. This rule was actually not followed. It has also come in the newspaper that Subedar Subhash Kushwal, who was the recruiting authority there, had taken Rs. 1,40,000 as bribe.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Rao, this is a matter regarding corruption in recruitment to the Army. It would be better if you write to the hon. Defence Minister about this. This is not a subject to be raised in the House like this. Please make your submission very brief.

SHRI P.V. RAJESHWAR RAO : Sir, this is the submission that I wanted to make.

This has been going on there and an inquiry has also been ordered in this case. I want to bring it to your notice and to get the attention of the House and the hon. Minister in this regard.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Sir, recently, on the 11th of April, 1997, the Government of India and the Department of Mines have revised the mineral and metal royalty rates in a very clandestine manner. When on the 11th April, 1997, we were discussing the Motion of No Confidence here. It was kept concealed till three days back. This is going to have deep implications on the various States which are naturally endowed with mineral, such as Orissa, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and West Bengal.

Sir, the implications are that the last revision was done in the year 1992 in the month of March. It should have been revised under the MMNR&D Rules of 1957 on the 22nd of March, 1995. In spite of delaying it by two years, by the Ministry of Mines, these royalty rates have been revised for all the important minerals with the exclusion of coal. Orissa is one State which has 95 per cent of the chromate area in the whole of India. The consequences of the 1997 order are that Orissa will get Rs. 18 lakh less than what it was getting in 1992. Revision are made to help the States to augment their resources and not by cutting them down. They have been done in the various minerals. Somewhere it is Re. 1, somewhere it is Rs. 1.50, and somewhere it is Rs. 2. This has created a lot of problems for these four or five States.

We hope, through you, to prevail upon the Government to reconsider this revision. Otherwise, most of the States which are always suffering from resource constraints are going to be in deep trouble. We should not barter away the interest of the States at the altar of commercial

considerations for supporting a particular viewpoint which is the private sector. . .(Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Is it on the same subject ?

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We will call those who have given their names first.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Sir, I have given a notice.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will call you after him.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Hon'ble Chairman Sir, I would like to submit my views on the points which have been raised by Hon. Member Shri K.P. Singh Deo. The royalty on minerals have been fixed through Government of India i.e. on dt. 11 April, 1997 I think recently the royalty have been reviewed. There has been some delay in this regard and also It has not been done justified. In three-four states, the royalty considered as main sources of income. In Bihar, income comes on large scale by the mode of royalty. Bihar, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh are such states, where the main source of their income is royalty on the minerals. The justice which has been done by the Government would deteriorate the financial conditions of these states.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are many Members who have given their names to speak on this subject. Please be brief.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : I would like to request you that Bihar and Orissa are poor and backward states. They don't have any other source of their income. They can improve their financial position only on the basis of royalty on minerals, but Central Government is not paying any attention in this regard. The rate, which has been fixed, is not on the basis of prices. There are many minerals like lime-stone, Bauxite, domolite, Grafite on which royalty has not been fixed.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please understand that you are not listening to others. You are only speaking. Please understand this.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is this ?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : I am concluding, Royalty should be fixed on the basis of the prices of the Minerals, so that the state whose main source of incomes is royalty, should get benefit.

The rate of royalty should be fixed 40% for the states like Bihar, Orissa. We hope that it will improve the financial condition of the state and the people living there would get relief. So, I would like to request the Government of India, through you Sir, that justice should be done and attention should be paid to improve the financial condition of the backward states like Bihar and Orissa; Therefore I, request that if royalty is fixed at 40% then financial condition could improve . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is on the issue of royalty. We will allow members who have given notice on this question. Let us finish it.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Sir, there was a reference to Orissa's poverty, reported starvation deaths, starvation conditions like that . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Panigrahi, it is not like this. This is only on royalty. Now, you are going to the drought situation etc. Please do not do it.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : It is an irony that mineral-rich States like Orissa, Bihar, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh are the most backward and the poorest of the poor States in our country are in the national map.

The royalty on minerals is a major source of income of these States. Naturally, these States look forward very anxiously and hopefully to the enhancement of these rates. These rates are subjected to revision once at an interval of three years' period. But, in this case, the last revision took place in 1992. They had revised these rates five years ago in such a way that they are unreasonable and arbitrary. There is only a very meagre increase. In all, there is around ten per cent increase. What is the inflation rate ? It is very high . . . (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Panigrahi, you have made the point.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Much injustice has been done. The inflation rate is higher than the rate of

increase of this royalty. . . (Interruptions). It is arbitrary and unreasonable that injustice is done to the mineral-rich States.

The hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is here. He should give an assurance that these rates will be revised upwards in consultation with the concerned States. We want an assurance from the hon. Minister.

SHRI ANADI CHARAN SAHU (Cuttack) : Sir, Orissa is a mineral-rich State. There should be a substantial support from the royalty of the minerals.

The hon. Members who spoke just before me have already communicated what has happened so far as bauxite is concerned. The royalty fixed in 1991-92 was Rs. 34 per M.T. It was raised to Rs. 41 per M.T. But the State of Orissa had asked for Rs. 54 per M.T.

As far as Chrome ore is concerned, 95 per cent of it comes from Orissa. They have fixed *ad valorem* rate which is not acceptable to Orissa. There are different rates. I would request that this matter should be looked into properly.

As far as manganese ore is concerned, the rates which have been fixed are not acceptable not only to Orissa but also to Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan.

The rates have come down so far as gold is concerned. Orissa is likely to produce gold in another one or two years. This is a very partisan attitude of the Department of Mines. The sustainability of the economy of Orissa depends on the royalty. So, I would request that the Government should come out with an assurance immediately that the rates would be increased at once. . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Sir, I would like that Hon. Minister should give his reaction to it . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please, there is no reply in Zero Hour. There are many other topics. Do not encroach into the time of the other Members.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : Sir, I will certainly bring the issue which has been raised by

[Shri Srikanta Jena]

the hon. Members from Orissa, Bihar and other States, to the notice of the concerned Minister and I will request him to consider whatever has been suggested.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (Karad) : Sir, not only this but all important issues that have been raised should be brought to the notice of the concerned Ministers . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not take it like that.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAGWATI DEVI (Gaya) : Hon. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards Rajasthan. In Jaipur in Rajasthan, Acid was thrown on the face of a girl. The person who had thrown acid was the son of a Minister of Rajasthan Government . . . (Interruptions)

Leader of opposition Shri Vajpayee ji or your any other leader has not paid any attention towards this issue. Whether she is not a girl ? Whether throwing acid on face of girls is justified or reasonable ? People talks about Bihar, If such type of incidents occur and sons of the Ministers are involved in such acts then what will be its reaction in the whole country and how the honour of the poor could be saved . . . (Interruptions) If Shri Vajpayee ji expressed his views on this issue then people take the imfussion that Vajpayee ji is the leader of the poors. If any powerful person is involved in such acts and no action is taken against him and if any poor person is involved then he has to go the jail and also other action would have been initiated against him. In the present case the culprit is the son of a Minister so he need not be go to jail. The acid was thrown on the face of girl mercilessly . . . (Interruptions). There is the Government of B.J.P. in Rajasthan and it is not paying any attention towards this issue . . . (Interruptions).

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : Sir, our party's name has been taken. I wish to strongly deny what she is saying. It is totally false. . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAGWATI DEVI : Sir, I demand from the Central Government through you that he should be sent to the jail . . . (Interruptions). Why this is happening there? They are talking about women daily. . . (Interruptions) because she is a daughter of a poor so she is being oppressed

and no attention is being paid towards this incident.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Investigation is being done in this regard . . . (Interruptions).

SHRIMATI BHAGWATI DEVI : Such incidents are taking place there. I demand that punishment should be given to them.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, everyday such incidents are happening. No action has yet been taken against the culprit in the present case. No action has been taken because the culprit is the son of a Minister of Rajasthan Government . . . (Interruptions). This is a serious question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are wasting your own time.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing is going on record. Nothing will go on record until I call the next Member.

(Interruptions)\*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat

(Interruptions)\*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Acharia, that point has already been made. That issue is raised in the House. Let us give time to some other Members.

(Interruptions)\*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The point is already made. Let us give time to others. Many Members are waiting.

(Interruptions)\*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : This matter relates to Jaipur and such type of incident not take place there. Even though Hon'ble Chief Minister has ordered an enquiry whosoever, found guilty will be punished.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please, you have raised an issue. You should be satisfied with this. Ram Kripal ji, please. Shri Vijay Goel ji, you have given a notice.

\* Not Recorded.