

**Title:** Introduction of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill, 1999.

1455 hours

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House will now take up legislative business.

Item no. 22. Shri Naveen Patnaik.

THE MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957."

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Sir, I rise to oppose the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill, 1999. In the name of delegating powers to the State Governments to allow mining operations, the Government proposes to open the mining sector of our country. Nowhere in the Bill there is a mention of any restriction for the multinational companies. If this Bill is passed, then there will be a scope for the multinational companies to plunder the mineral wealth of our country.

">Two new terms, in place of exploration of mineral resources, have been added in this Bill, namely, reconnaissance operation and reconnaissance permit. This is a new methodology or, maybe, a new technology in regard to mining operations, exploration and exploitation of our mineral wealth.

">What are the problems that the Government is facing in order that a new measure is proposed to be undertaken? I would like to know whether the existing law which was enacted way back in 1957 is not sufficient to take care of illegal mining.

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">\* Published in the Gazettee of India, Extraordinary PartII-Section 2, dated 30.11.99

">Sir, we all know that we discussed the problems of illegal mining a number of times in this House. I do not know whether by bringing in this Bill, which seeks to delegate powers to the State Governments, the Government would be able to prevent illegal mining and plundering of our mineral wealth. Rather, on the contrary, there would be sufficient scope to plunder our mineral wealth. That is why this Bill is not in the interest of our nation and in the interest of the people of our country. I oppose the introduction of this Bill.

">SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK : Sir, I would like to clarify that amendment to this Act is a progressive legislation in tune with our times. This will open the mining sector to more investment which is required. It would also make the laws for illegal mining more stringent. At the time of consideration of this Bill ample opportunity would be given to the hon. Members to discuss the merits of this Bill.

">SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (CALCUTTA NORTH WEST): Demerits also.

">SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK : Much needs to be done in this field. As I have already said, it is a progressive legislation.

">15.00 hrs.

">MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

">"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957."

">The motion was adopted.

">SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

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