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Title: Need to consult mineral producing States before finalisation of the National Mineral Policy.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI (BHADRAK): Sir, five hon. Chief Ministers have asked for an audience with the Prime Minister of India before adopting the National Mineral Policy. The hon. Prime Minister of India should give them audience and have interaction with them...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is for the hon. Speaker to decide.

13.34 hrs.

*At this stage, Shri Arjun Sethi and some other hon. Members came
and stood on the floor near the Table*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing should go on record.

*(Interruptions) â€ **

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions) â€ **

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: My hon. friends, there is a democratic way of doing things. You please resume your seats.

...(Interruptions)

* Not recorded

MR. CHAIRMAN: My personal request is that you resume your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is a democratic way. You can go to your seats and then speak. This is not the proper way.

I would request you to resume your seats. That is my personal request.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can write the matter to the Speaker and wait for his reaction.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would request you to resume your seats. We will conduct the remaining business.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please cooperate to conduct the remaining business.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is a solution to every issue. You please resume your seats. Anything can be discussed in this House by giving notice.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you have given the notice, the Speaker would have taken it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: My hon. friends, this is just what I have told you; you please give a notice; the Speaker will take a decision. We can discuss it tomorrow with the permission of the Speaker.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please give a notice. We will discuss it tomorrow; there is no harm.

...(Interruptions)[r24]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, it is time to take up the Matters under Rule 377. We are running the House as per the Rules of Procedure. We can discuss it only as per the rules.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, you please tell me how I can help you. Now, it is time for us to take up the Matters under Rule 377.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no provision in the Rule for taking up a discussion on your issue at this stage. Now, it is time for us to take up the Matters under Rule 377.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I can do things only as per the rules. I can follow the rules only. Please cooperate.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please go back to your seats. The hon. Home Minister is present here. He wants to reply now.

...(Interruptions)

13.42 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Arjun Sethi and some other hon. Members

went back to their seats

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (PURI): Sir, please allow us one minute....(Interruptions) We had given a notice for "Calling Attention" on this subject and it was admitted for today. The Minister deliberately avoided to respond this Calling Attention and he remained absent. Any Minister could have replied, and that Calling Attention could have been taken up.(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the Home Minister speak now.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Sir, our demand is that before the finalization of the National Mineral Policy, Government should share with the States. This is the Constitutional provision. How can the Central Government go ahead without the consultation of the States? Now, the Hooda Committee's recommendation is to take away the power of the States.(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take up your seat. The hon. Home Minister wants to speak. Please hear him.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Sir, the Government is in the process of formulating the Mineral Policy. A Committee was appointed and that Committee had given its Report. On the basis of that Committee's Report, a Cabinet Paper on Mineral Policy was prepared and it was presented to the Cabinet. Now, the Cabinet decided that because the Policy is a very important policy, it should be considered by a Group of Ministers. A Group of Ministers was constituted. I was sitting as the Chairman of that Group of Ministers and there were other Ministers – Finance Minister and other four, five Ministers in that Group. Now, that Group of Ministers had to consider the paper which was prepared and presented to the Cabinet, the Report given by the Hooda Committee and the submissions made by the coal industry, steel

industry, labour and all those things. This Policy was communicated to the State Governments and the State Governments had given their statements with respect to this Policy in writing. So, those things were also considered. Not once, but five to six meetings of this Committee took place. Later on, the hon. Chief Ministers wanted to make their presentation in person. So, they thought that they could come to Delhi and make their statement. And because the matter was before the Cabinet and because the Cabinet had constituted the Group of Ministers and the Group of Ministers had considered the views expressed by so many others, the Chief Ministers were invited by the Group of Ministers.[\[h25\]](#)

The hon. Chief Ministers of Orissa, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka and others came and presented their case. For nearly two hours, the meeting took place; and later on, they were told: "Look, you have given your views; if you want to give your views, in writing also, you would be most welcome; your officers have already given the views of the State Governments, in writing; and officers of the Government of India have been discussing this matter."

So, this matter was heard. Then, a Report was prepared and it was sent to the Cabinet. The Cabinet is going to discuss the views of all those who have expressed their views before the Committee. When the Cabinet takes a decision on the Mineral Policy, it will definitely come before the hon. Members also, and the hon. Members would be in a position to give their views on those things.

Sir, all the industries – public and private – have been consulted. The States, where the mines are there, have been consulted. The Chief Ministers have been given the opportunity to explain. The Government of India is applying its mind with the help of the experts in all those things. Over and above that the views of the hon. Members also will be expressed, and we will finalise the policy, and then that policy will come into existence. This is the situation.

They wanted to meet the hon. Prime Minister, who generally meets everybody, and we have been meeting the Chief Ministers. We have not only been meeting the Chief Ministers but whenever there is an occasion, they are asking for something or they are telephoning to us, we have been telephoning to them on certain issues, and we have been talking to them.

So, the Government of India, the hon. Prime Minister or any Minister of the Government of India is only pleased to meet the hon. Chief Ministers – not only hon. Chief Ministers but any Ministers of the State Governments, any MP from any State, any MLA of the State, and any important persons of the State. We have been discussing.

Sir, there appears to be a little bit of misunderstanding. The policy is a very important policy and we can understand the concerns expressed by the hon. Members. Before the policy is finalised and it is adopted by the Government of India, there would be occasion for you also to consider it. That is why I am making a submission that if there are any misunderstandings, misapprehensions on this, they should be dispensed.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Sir, I have a clarification...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : No discussion is allowed.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Sir, whether the hon. Minister will ensure that before the finalization of the policy, the draft will be shared by the States. The Minister should reply...*(Interruptions)* Now, they are not submitting the Draft Report to States. How will the States know as to what is going on? So, the Draft Report should be shared with the States. That is our request to the hon. Home Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Under the rules, no discussion is permissible.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : But they are not doing it. For the last four to five months, the five Chief Ministers have been requesting...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am sorry. No discussion is permissible.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions) â€*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, please resume your seats.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, the Report given by the Hooda Committee is a voluminous Report. The statements made by the State Governments are also voluminous. Then, the coal industry, steel industry and mining industry have all given their views. The documents, which have been collected for this purpose are huge, they run into a large number of pages...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : We are talking about the National Mineral Policy Draft Report...(Interruptions)

* Not recorded

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Let me complete.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, let him speak.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: These are voluminous things, and supposing, I just read only a few pages, then it is not possible for me to understand it. But if I am sitting in a Committee, I am expected to go through all these documents, discuss these matters with officers and the experts, and come to the conclusion. Naturally, the hon. Prime Minister, has to look after so many things, that is why the matter goes to the Cabinet and that is why a Group of Ministers is appointed.

Now, they are saying that before it is finalized, they should be consulted. Definitely, it cannot become a policy without discussing this matter with all concerned. This will be discussed...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : We want to know whether the Draft Report will be shared with the State Governments...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Please understand. All concerned people have been consulted. If they want to discuss, they can again be given opportunity to discuss. There is no difficulty. But do not create the problems just by saying: "Look, they have different views." Even the Chief Ministers views are different...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : There are no different views.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: There are...(Interruptions)[\[r26\]](#)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions) *

* Not recorded

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we will take up Item No. 24 – further discussion on the Indira Gandhi National Tribal University Bill, 2007.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: It is a secret document. (Interruptions)

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Sir, what is the harm, what is the difficulty if the Chief Ministers are given another opportunity to present their case before the hon. Prime Minister of India? ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: If the Prime Minister has to hear and come to a conclusion, let me say that these are the voluminous reports. That is why a Committee is appointed. More than five Ministers are sitting in the Committee...
(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Sir, five Chief Ministers have given only one memorandum. So, the views of the Chief Ministers are the same...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: It is not correct.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : It is correct. I can show you a copy of the memorandum. I can lay it on the Table of the House...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, it is not correct...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am on my legs. Hon. Members, please be seated.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : What is the problem with the Government of India in consulting the Chief Ministers? Are they not the head of the States? It is the States' prerogative. It is not the prerogative of the Government of India. Constitution has given those powers to the States...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, please resume your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions) â€*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Whatever you are speaking is not going on record. Please resume your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN (DEOGARH): Sir, they are misleading the House... (Interruptions)

13.55 hrs.

*At this stage, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan and some other hon. Members came
and stood on the floor near the Table.*

...(Interruptions)

* Not recorded

13.55 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we will go to Item No. 22â€”Matters under Rule 377. Matters under Rule 377 may be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

...(Interruptions)