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Title: Introduction of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Bill, 2014.

HON. SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up Item No. 19.

Shri Piyush Goyal.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for allocation of coal mines and vesting of the right, title and interest in and over the land and mine infrastructure together with mining leases to successful bidders and allottees with a view to ensure continuity in coal mining operations and production of coal, and for promoting optimum utilization of coal resources consistent with the requirement of the country in national interest and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. ...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for allocation of coal mines and vesting of the right, title and interest in and over the land and mine infrastructure together with mining leases to successful bidders and allottees with a view to ensure continuity in coal mining operations and production of coal, and for promoting optimum utilization of coal resources consistent with the requirement of the country in national interest and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. "

...(Interruptions)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : आपने नोटिस नहीं दी है, उन्होंने नोटिस दी है, ऐसा नहीं होता है।

â€¦(व्यवधान)

HON. SPEAKER: No, I am sorry. It cannot happen like this.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Mohammad Salim, you have not given notice. Only Prof. Saugata Roy has given the notice.

...(Interruptions)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : आप सबकी नोटिसेज टाइम बार्ड हैं।

â€¦(व्यवधान)

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUMDUM): Madam, under Rule 72 (1) of the Rules of Procedure, I beg to move for opposing the introduction of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Bill, 2014. I oppose its introduction on the ground that it opens the door for de-nationalisation of coal mines which were nationalized in 1973 and it seeks to nullify the Coal Mines Nationalisation Act, 1973. On that ground I am opposing the introduction of the Bill. It will hand over our energy sector to the private sector and thus will open the scope for total exploitation of coal miners and the people of this country.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Madam Speaker, the hon. Supreme Court of India in the judgement which it gave on 24th of September, 2014 has held allocation of coal blocks made through the Government dispensation route and through the Screening Committee route, both as arbitrary and illegal. This was the landmark judgement which has reset the agenda of the allocation of natural resources in the country. And has had certain consequences because of which there were 204 coal blocks whose allocations stood cancelled, out of that 42 coal blocks were producing or ready to produce, whose cancellation took effect from 31st of March, 2015 and the balance blocks, whose cancellation took effect from the date of the judgement itself. At that point of time, the entire country was seized of the problem, and there were fears that this will immediately lead to a crisis, both in the supply of coal, which is an essential fuel for the production and generation of electricity in the country, as well as fears that lakhs of employees of the mines which have started producing, which will start producing or where the work has already started, will suddenly become jobless. It also led to the fear that lakhs of crores of rupees which are invested by the people where banks have lent money, where stressed assets could become NPAs and could also lead to lakhs of people losing jobs because of the judgement of the Supreme Court.

At that point, it was necessary for the Government to take pro-active measures to address the situation to come up with the redeeming solution to the jobs of the people. Therefore, the Ordinance was introduced, as it was necessitated on account of issues arising out of the Supreme Court verdict canceling irregular allotment. At that point of time, the Government has come out with an Ordinance which does not seek to denationalize the coal mines at all, which is basically addressing the problems arising out of the Supreme Court judgement, which are of a grave nature. It has also provided for certain enabling provisions and certain amendments which will take care of the interests of small scale industry, medium industry, and the small consumers of coal in the country in the long run in a transparent and honest fashion.

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for allocation of coal mines and vesting of the right, title and interest in and over the land and mine infrastructure together with mining leases to successful bidders and allottees with a view to ensure continuity in coal mining operations and production of coal, and for promoting optimum utilization of coal resources consistent with the requirement of the country in national interest and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. "

The motion was adopted.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: I introduce* the Bill.