

**Title:** Request the government to intervene in a matter of national importance arisen due to total strike by coal workers in Singareni Collieries in Kottagudem and Khammam, Andhra Pradesh and settle the issue.

SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO (KHAMMAM): Sir, I would like to bring to your kind attention a matter of public interest and national importance which has arisen due to total strike in Singareni collieries in Kottagudem and surrounding areas situated in Khammam, Andhra Pradesh. More than two lakh workers working in Kottagudem and areas around Kottagudem coal mines are on total strike since 25th May, 1998.

The main demands of the coal workers, besides the small ones, are employment to their children on disability of the worker, and interim relief based on Wage Board recommendations. These recommendations were, in fact, discussed before the State Government. The State Government called a meeting, but they failed to come to an understanding on the plea that these matters related to the Central Government and that they have nothing to do with them, though a huge number of workers are on strike.

There is loss of production of coal and consequently, the supply channels to the thermal units have been completely shut and there is every danger that the thermal units in the States may have to be shut down on account of shortage of coal.

I would urge that the Central Government should immediately intervene and settle the issue.

Thank you very much.