

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) NEED FOR A MINING ENGINEERING DEGREE COLLEGE IN ORISSA

SHRI RASABEHARI BEHERA (Kalahandi) : Orissa is a mineral-rich State where iron-ore, manganese, limestone, pig iron, chromite, tin, mica and coal are available in abundance. Seeing the availability of high grade minerals, private and public sector undertakings have established mineral-based industries and factories at different places of the State. Works are in progress in almost every mine except the few ones which have been recently discovered by the Geological Survey of India. Engineers from all parts of the country are working in those mines and factories. But the number of mining engineers from Orissa is microscopic. The reason is not far to seek. There is only one mining engineering school in the entire State which can only give a diploma to its students. Students coming out from that institute are deprived of getting higher education on mining engineering. The financial status of each of those students is not sound enough to join in other States for higher education. Due to the above reason, there is always shortage of highly qualified mining engineers from Orissa.

The people of this backward state have been agitating for the last many years for the setting up of a Mining Engineering degree college, and some higher institution for research and training in the subject. Government of India has a proposal for modernization and upgradation of mines of the country during the sixth plan period. The role of mining engineers in the implementation of modernization is very significant. In order to make mining engineers available, Central Government should expedite the programme of opening mining engineering degree colleges.

Orissa is an under-developed State where infra-structural facilities are

available to provide practical training to the mining engineering college. In view of this, I urge upon the Government of India to take all possible steps to open a degree college on mining engineering in Orissa.

(ii) NEED FOR PROTECTION TO REMINGTON RANDS HOWRAH UNIT

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE (Howrah) : The standard typewriter is an essential office equipment in the present Indian commercial conditions (small unit with meagre capita and mountain-high employment problem). Remington Rand's Howrah unit has an installed capacity of 36,000 standard typewriters. Since 1969, Remington's production has all along been pegged to an average of 22,000 to 23,000. During all these years, the plant and the machinery at the Howrah factory has been exploited without any major replanishment, so much so that their written-down value has dwindled from Rs. 87.75 lakhs in 1965 to a meagre Rs. 35 lakhs. But the Central Government has already issued licence for electric typewriter in favour of the proposed Bangalore electric typewriter unit, while abandoning its mother unit at Howrah. How without enquiring into all these things, licence has been issued to make them other plant further crippled, i.e. any investment during coming years in plant and machinery will be for electric typewriter plant, with the deliberate intention of further shattering this mother unit in Howrah. This act of the concerned Ministry was also protested by the Bureau of Public Enterprises and the Communications Ministry. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to save the Remington's Howrah unit from being further crippled, and demand a statement from the concerned Minister in this matter.

(iii) ALLEGED ARREST OF TWO TRADE UNION LEADERS OF LOCO-RUNNING STAFF UNDER NATIONAL SECURITY ACT.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur) : I wish to draw

*The original speech was delivered in Oriya