

14.33 hrs.

IRON ORE MINES AND MANGANESE ORE MINES LABOUR WELFARE CESS (AMENDMENT) BILL*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Iron Ore Mines and Manganese Ore Mines Labour Welfare Cess Act, 1976.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is.

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Iron Ore Mines and Manganese Ore Mines Labour Welfare Cess Act, 1976."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: I introduce the Bill.—

IRON ORE MINES AND MANGANESE ORE MINES LABOUR WELFARE FUND (AMENDMENT) BILL*

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Iron Ore Mines and Manganese Ore Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1976.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduced a Bill to amend the Iron Ore Mines and Manganese Ore Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1976."

The motion was adopted

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: I introduce the Bill.

14.35 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE

(i) Reduction in the export duty and royalty on chorme ore to increase its export.

*SHRI HARIHAR SOREN (Keonjhar): Orissa accounts for 90 per cent chrome ore exported from the country. It exports mainly high grade fines and friable chrome ore. Orissa chrome ore, once had a high premium both in Europe and Japan and the prices were very attractive. But it is a matter of regret that export of chrome ore is now being curtailed owing to fall in export prices and heavy export duty imposed by the Government of India.

In 1976; the export duty to chrome ore was Rs. 15/- and the royalty was Rs. 12/- a tonne. In anticipation that the export price for chrome ore would increase further, the Government of India raised the export duty from Rs. 15/- to Rs. 200/- and the royalty from Rs. 12/- to Rs. 50/-. Unfortunately, the price of chrome ore declined in the international market and as a result of which the export price also came down. Further the cost of transport from the mines to the port and the port handling charge rose sharply. Unless the export duty and royalty is brought to a reasonable point, the prospect of export of chrome ore from India will be bleak and the country would lose valuable foreign exchange worth lakhs of rupees every year.

In view of this, I appeal the Government of India to find a way for bringing down the export duty and

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†Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

**The original speech was delivered in Oriya.

[Shri Harihar Soren]

royalty of chrome ore to a reasonable point and have the way to streamline the export.

(ii) Need for selection of Ghazipur district for priority Industrial development.

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER (Ghazipur): An official press release (See-A) says that the Government have selected certain districts in different States for industrial development. Ten districts of U.P. have also been selected. Seeing the population and backwardness of Uttar Pradesh, it has not been put even at par with other States.

The claim of even more backward districts of Uttar Pradesh have been completely ignored by the Ministry of Industries. My own district, Ghazipur has been identified as one of the most backward districts in Eastern U.P. As far back as in 1964, the Joint Study Team of the Planning Commission headed by Mr. B. P. Patel, the then Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, in its report, has already identified Ghazipur as backward in every respect. For the industrial development of the district, the Committee in its report on page 117, paragraph 24, has recommended and I quote:

"The Central Government is already putting up heavy projects involving substantial investments, the locations of which are decided on various criteria. Keeping this in view, it is recommended that such of those projects which could be located in the backward areas, including Eastern U. P., may be located in this area."

The Ministry of Industries it appears, have not taken into consideration the Report submitted by the Patel Committee.

The industrial progress of the backward districts can only be achieved through the participation of the public sector in a big way. On March,

2, 1982, the Minister of Petroleum, Chemicals and Fertilisers, has assured the House that for the setting up of gas-based fertilizer plants, priority would be given to the backward areas. The Site Selection Committee of his Ministry has already submitted its report and the Government have to take the decision. The Site Selection Committee has also visited Ghazipur.

The people of Ghazipur have been gladdened to hear the statement of the Hon. Prime Minister, which she has made during the Freedom Fighters' Conference at Chauri Chora in Gorakhpur. She has assured that the places which were marching ahead during the freedom struggle and have sacrificed and suffered most will be fully developed. The Industries will be set up at those places. Ghazipur was in the forefront of freedom struggle. The resistance against the British Rule was much heavier here. The British kept this district backward to crush the people. They divided the district into smaller units. On this count too Ghazipur has a very good case for the establishment of Fertilizer factory.

I, therefore, request the Minister of Industries to include Ghazipur district in the list of priority districts for industrial development and the Minister of Petroleum, Chemicals and Fertilisers for the establishment of a fertilizer plant there.

(iii) Demand for inclusion of Konkani language in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO (Mormugao): The 14th Conference of the All India Konkani Parishad was held in Goa on February 27 and 28, 1982. It was attended by a large number of literatures and others, who speak and write in Konkani language throughout the Konkani Coast, including Goa, parts of Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala.

One of the Resolutions passed by the Parishad demanded that Konkani