

(vi) Need for investigation into recent fires at Dhampur open cast coal mine, Sahedol District, Madhya Pradesh

श्री बाबूराव परांजपे (जबलपुर) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, घनपुरी ओपेन कास्ट कोयला खदान जिला शहडोल, मध्य प्रदेश में स्थित है। यह कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड की पांच कंपनियों में से वेस्टन कोल फीलड्स लिमिटेड के अंतर्गत सोहागपुर एरिया के अधिकार क्षेत्र में आता है। सोहागपुर एरिया में 22 हजार श्रमिक कार्य करते हैं तथा घनपुरी ओपेन कास्ट में पूर्ण स्वचालित मशीनों के कारण 600 श्रमिक कार्य करते हैं।

उपरोक्त कोयला खदान का उत्पादन पांच हजार टन प्रतिदिन से घटकर ढाई हजार टन पर आ गया। यहाँ पर मार्च 1981 से 1.5 लाख टन के विशाल कोयला स्टॉक पर आग लगी हुई थी, जब तक कालरी मैनेजमेंट इस आग को बुझाने में सफलता प्राप्त की 1.3 लाख के दूसरे कोल स्टॉक पर आग लग गई और लाखों टन "काला हीरा" (कोयला) की राख बन गई पर कोयला खदान के उच्च अधिकारियों की लापरवाही को एक चुनौती दी। आग लगने का यह क्रम आज भी निरंतर जारी है। इस प्रकार करोड़ों रूपयों की अमूल्य राष्ट्रीय सम्पत्ति नष्ट हो रही है।

35 टन कोयला ढोने की क्षमता रखने वाला हालपैक से केवल 20 टन कोयला ओपेन कास्ट कोयला खदान से बाहर स्टॉक तक लाते हैं, 12 टन दर्शाकर उपरोक्त कमी को पूर्ण करने का प्रयत्न किया जाता है। इसके अतिरिक्त "ओवरवर्डन" के रूप में ऊपर की लाखों टन मिट्टी को स्टॉक कर उसके ऊपर एवं चारों तरफ कोयला डालकर, कोयला के स्टॉक के रूप में परिवर्तित कर देते हैं। जब कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड की सर्वे टीम आती है तो इसी स्टॉक का नाम

जोड़ करारकर उनसे प्रमाण पत्र ले लेते हैं, जब कि उस कोयला स्टॉक पर 50% ओवरवर्डन की मिट्टी है।

अतः ऊर्जा मंत्री जी से निवेदन है कि इस प्रकरण की जांच कराकर शासन का करोड़ों रूपयों का नुकसान बचाया जाये तथा दोषियों को दंडित किया जाय।

(vii) Direct Rail Link needed between Talcher and Sambalpur, Orissa.

SHRI RASABEHARI BEHERA (Kalabandi) : An improved direct RailLink between the Eastern and Western parts of the State of Orissa is a crying need of the day from the view of socio-economic benefits. Movements of the mineral resources and other raw materials suffer due to lack of adequate direct rail communication between this region and other parts of Orissa.

The Government of Orissa has been urging the Railway Minister to construct a direct rail link between Sambalpur and Talcher. This new rail link would (i) open a very rich hinterland for the Paradeep Port. Simultaneously reducing the distance between Bhubaneswar and Sambalpur by 470 Kms. (ii) connects Rourkela—Bhilai and Raipur industrial belt with Paradeep, (iii) serve as a direct route between the Alumina Complex at Koraput and the smelter at Talcher, and (iv) give easy access of the Talcher Coalfields whose estimated reserve is 38,000 mt.

The National Transport Policy Committee in their report have very rightly emphasized the role of rail links in creating new growth centres.

A new line connecting Talcher to Sambalpur will reduce the distance from Cuttack and Bhubaneswar to Delhi substantially and at the same time relieve congestion on saturated section between Cuttack and Kharagpur to Tatanagar.

In view of this, I demand that immediate steps should be taken for the

construction of a rail link between Talcher and Sambalpur.

(viii) **Need to Check Spurt in the  
Prices and to ensure its  
Regular Supply**

SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU (Rae Bareli) : Disproportionate rise in tea prices recorded during the last six months is causing concern to the consumer. According to available information, despite the smart recovery in tea production, particularly in North India, there has been a decline in the quantum of offerings at the Calcutta and Siliguri auctions. Available figures indicate that sale through the Calcutta auctions was almost 25 million kilograms lower till 15 November this year against the corresponding period in 1982. Similar is the case with Siliguri. I would urge upon the Government to check the spurt in tea prices and to ensure that there is enough tea to go around during January-April, a traditionally lean period, in terms of production in North-East India.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, SPORTS AND WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : Sir, I just want to make a humble suggestion that today there is Legislative Business mentioned in the List of Business. It will be possible only if you kindly permit us to sit through Lunch. Then we will be able to pass this Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : To suspend Lunch. Because we are going to take up at 2 O'Clock—that is what he says, the International situation, he wants to complete this Bill.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : Sir, don't suspend lunch. Suspend Kunch Hour.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Yes, he wants suspension of Lunch Hour. If you want to take lunch, you can go even to the Minister's place.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY (Bombay North East) : This is the direction of the Deputy-Speaker.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Is it the pleasure of the House that we suspend Lunch Hour ?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Yes, it is agreed, there is no Lunch Hour. Now, Statement by the Minister, Shri K P. Singh Deo

(Interruptions)

17.15 hrs.

STATEMENT RE : ARREST OF CERTAIN DEFENCE SERVICES OFFICERS IN CONNECTIONS WITH SUSPECTED ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO) : Mr. Speaker, Sri, On information furnished by an Air Force Officer with the high sense of duty and patriotism, that he had been approached to furnish certain classified information for a consideration, investigations were carried out which led to the arrest of some persons. A case u/s 3/5/9 of the Official Secrets Act has been registered by the Delhi Police and is under investigation. Investigations so far have led to the arrest of one Air Vice Marshal K.H. Larkins (Retired), his elder brother Major General F.D. Larkins (Retired), one Lt. Colonel Jasbir Singh (Retired) and one Shri Jaspal Singh Gill.

I would like to assure the House that steps have been immediately taken to prevent leakage of any classified information.

Since investigations are still in progress, I would request the-honourable Members to bear with me and not seek