

This sector it is essential that the demands of the coal mine workers should be immediately looked into and settled, slaughter mining should be stopped and appropriate safety measures should be taken, quality of coal should be improved and immediate steps be taken to end corruption in this sector. So far the murder of one young Accountant, S.S. Das in the Dhanbad field area has not been properly investigated. Although everybody is saying that he was a victim of mafia of the coal fields but up till now no action has been taken.

My last point, I am coming to is about the increase in the price of coal. The price of soft coke has been increased both at ex-dump and pithead level. The pithead price which was Rs. 72 per MT in 1973 has gone up to Rs. 175. The ex-dump price in Calcutta which was Rs. 293.75 in 1981 has gone up to Rs. 350.48 in February 1983. Between July 1978 and May 1982 the pithead price of soft coke has been raised by 103 per cent and within two years the ex-dump price has been increased by 20 per cent. The retail price has also been increased by Rs. 10 per 40 Kg in October 1978 to Rs. 14 in June, 1982. Apart from levies on soft coke over the pithead price, the transport charges are also so high that they are adding considerably to the price and it is hitting the consumer hard.

There is also a complaint about the quality of soft coal. Handling and storing agent are appointed without consulting the State Governments. Dumps are being allowed to be placed where there are no weigh bridge facilities. Nobody, no local authority is consulted, and dumps have been set up at places where no operational facilities are available. Sir, as a result of this, very serious inconvenience is being caused not only to the domestic consumers, but to all consumers of coal. I call upon the hon. Minister to look into these matters very seriously. Consultation with State Governments is essential in this very important sector. There has been some improve-

ment in the production of oil because of the very strenuous and sincere efforts which are made by the workers, engineers and the officers, but the policy is such that there is an in-built system of creating discrimination, of exploiting, the common people of this country and the benefit is not percolating to them, more and more price increases are taking place, although according to the Ministry's reports we are progressing very fast towards a situation of self-sufficiency, but the common people of this country are not the beneficiaries of the achievements of the workers and the engineers of this country. Who should be the beneficiaries? As I was saying, there must be some reduction in the prices of the coal. Better production should result in lesser price also. Therefore, I demand that this extra levy should be withdrawn, there should be proper fixation of prices taking not consideration the situation that there is a global reduction in the prices, there is need for lesser imports to be made, and there is greater production in the country in this oil sector.

In the power sector the situation is very gloomy, and I call upon the hon. Minister to take steps in the matter not only to re-activate and arrange that higher generation is there but also to rectify the serious imbalances in the different regions of this country, so that in this important sector the country does not lag behind.

14. hrs.

#### MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(I) NEED FOR IMPROVING POWER GENERATION IN NORTH BIHAR

श्रीमती माधुरी सिंह (पूर्णिमा) :  
समापति महोदय, बिहार में बिजली की उपलब्धता के बारे में स्थिति असंतोषजनक है। बिहार राज्य में बिजली की आवश्यकता और उसकी प्राप्ति में लगभग 40

श्रीमति माधुरी सिंह

लाख यूनिट्स का अन्तर है। बरोनी, पतरातू और कामती (मुजफ्फरपुर) में निर्माणाधीन 6 नये बिजली उत्पादन यूनिट्स का काम शीघ्र पूरा होना चाहिए। और बिजली में सुधार लाने के लिए इनमें केवल बिजली का ही उत्पादन करना चाहिए। वर्तमान में फरक्का, कोयला कारों और भूटान में चूक्का में विद्युत उत्पादन की केन्द्रीय परियोजनाएं इस समय निर्मित की जा रही हैं। यह बड़ी खुशी की बात है कि भारत सरकार ने भूटान में निर्मित चूक्का प्रोजेक्ट से 71 मेगावाट और बिहार को आवंटन किया है और इस बिजली के वितरण के लिए पूर्णिया में सब स्टेशन बनाया जा रहा है। उत्तर बिहार क्षेत्र का विकास अनेक वर्षों से बिजली के अभाव में अवरुद्ध रहा है और यह अत्यावश्यक है कि उत्तर बिहार के पूर्वी जिलों में पूर्णिया, सहरसा, खगरिया बिजली के संचार एवं वितरण प्रणाली में मजबूती लाने के लिए तुरन्त आवश्यक कार्यवाही की जाए जिससे भूटान से उपलब्ध बिजली का विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में समयक वितरण हो सके। भागलपुर के निकट कहलगांव विद्युत परियोजना का काम भी शुरू करना चाहिए। यद्यपि केन्द्रीय प्राधिकरण ने इस परियोजना की अनुमति दे दी है परन्तु इस दिशा में काम आगे नहीं बढ़ा है। बिहार में थर्मल बिजली कारखानों में असंतोषजनक उत्पादन हुआ। यह भी एक कारण है कि ग्रिड स्टेशनों में संचार सुविधाओं का अभाव है। रख-रखाव में अनियमितता बढ़ती जा रही है और उपयुक्त किस्म का कोयला भी नहीं उपलब्ध हो रहा है। मैं सरकार से अनुरोध करती हूँ कि इन समस्याओं की ओर ध्यान देकर बिहार में बिजली के उत्पादन की स्थिति में सुधार लाने के लिए तत्काल

आवश्यक कार्यवाही की जाए ताकि बिहार का पिछड़ापन दूर हो और जन समाज के जीवन में सुख और समृद्धि हो।

(II) NEED TO ASK THE TEXTILE DYEING AND PRINTING UNITS IN JODHPUR ETC. TO SET UP PLANTS FOR TREATMENT OF POLLUTED WATER DISCHARGED BY THEM INTO OPEN DRAINS.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI (Bhubaneswar): About 1500 units are engaged in dyeing and printing of textile in Jodhpur, Pali and Balotra. As none of these units have treatment plants, they discharge about 15 million litres of polluted water which flows through open drains traversing long distances before joining some river bed or reservoir. These 1500 units together employ about 80,000 persons. They are highly exposed to health hazards. It is revealed from the survey conducted by the Jodhpur Medical College, the Department of Zoology, University of Jodhpur and the environment cell of the Gandhi Peace Foundation that 20 per cent of these workers fall the victim of cancer, tuberculosis and a host of the other dangerous diseases.

Since the untreated water passes through scores of villages, the agricultural land is fast turning into barren land. According to an estimate about seven or ten thousand hectares of land has already been either destroyed or in the process of turning into an arid land.

In view of this, I request the Minister of Ecology to take immediate steps for the protection of large number of labourers working in those three textile mills from untimely death. Necessary instructions should be sent to those units to set up treatment plants without any further delay.

(III) NEED FOR CONSTRUCTION OF RAILWAY LINE BETWEEN TALCHAR AND SAMBALPUR.