

[श्री राम विलास पासवान]

खत्म हो गई तो घटना बन्द हो गई। तो राज्य सरकार अगर गलती करे तो केन्द्रीय सरकार अंकुश लगायेगी। लेकिन यदि केन्द्रीय सरकार ही बदमाशी करे, फिर से इमरजेंसी लगा दे, फिर से मनमाने काम करे, केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा यदि बलातकार होने लगे, उस के इशारे पर हरिजन की हत्याएँ होने लगे, केन्द्रीय सरकार के इशारे पर यदि कोर्ट में पुलिस घुसने लगे, पालिया-मेंट में पुलिस घुसने लगे तब आप क्या करेंगे इसलिये मैं कहता हूँ कि इस संकल्प को पार्टी दृष्टिकोण से न देखा जाय। जो केन्द्रीय सरकार के जिम्मे की चीज है, निश्चित रूप से वह केन्द्रीय सरकार के पास रहनी चाहिये, लेकिन जो राज्य सरकार की चीज है, जिस के रिसोर्सों में राज्य सरकार का हाथ भी है, निश्चिन्त रूप से वह राज्य सरकार के तहत रहनी चाहिये।

18.00 hrs.

यह जो बिल आया है, मैं चाहता हूँ कि इस पर जमकर बहस होनी चाहिये और खले दिमाग से इस पर वाद-विवाद होना चाहिए कि स्टेट और सेंटर का क्या रिलेशन रहेगा, नहीं तो हमको जो विगत का अनुभव है, उसके आधार पर हम यह चाहते हैं कि भविष्य में फिर कोई ऐसा काम न किया जाये।

9 राज्यों के विघटन का मामला हमारे सामने आयेगा। इन 9 राज्यों को यदि एक-एक कर के देखें तो लगना है कि 9 राज्यों की सरकारों को खत्म करने का कोई औचित्य नहीं है। आप हमेशा जनता पार्टी और लोक-दल की सरकार के बारे में कहते हैं कि उन्होंने भी ऐसा ही किया था, अभी हमारे श्री चन्द्र जीत यादव ने मही कहा कि यदि जनता पार्टी की सरकार ने गलत काम किया तो क्या आप भी वही गलत काम करेंगे। एक बात मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि अगर जनता पार्टी की सरकार ने उस समय बिहार की सरकार को खत्म किया था तो उससे पहले चुनाव कब हुए थे? बिहार में मन् 1972 में चुनाव हुए थे और उसकी सरकार को खत्म किया गया था 1977 में जब कि उसका समय भी पूरा हो चुका था।

मेरा कहना इतना ही है कि चाहे आपकी सरकार हो या हमारा सरकार हो, आज सेंटर में आपका राज्य है, कल यहां हमारी सरकार भी हो सकती है और आपकी सरकार स्टेट में हो सकती है।

श्री हरेश चन्द्र सिंह रावण : यदि आप उस समय के कार्य को गलत समझते हैं तो पहले राष्ट्र से माफ़ी मांगें।

श्री राम विलास पासवान : हम अगर गलती करेंगे तो राष्ट्र से माफ़ी मांगेंगे, हम इन्दिरा गांधी

नहीं हैं कि एमरजेंसी लगा कर कहेंगे कि हमने सही काम किया है। आप 20-सूत्र काम का आज भी रट लगाये जा रहे हैं।

सभापति महोदय, अब चूंकि समय भी हो गया है, मैं इतना ही कहूंगा कि जो स्टेट और सेंटर का मामला है, उस विवाद को हटाना चाहिए, सरकार को फिर से नये सिरे से इस पर विचार करना चाहिए और सेंटर व स्टेट का क्या सम्बन्ध हो, उसमें स्टेट का क्या हिस्सा हो, इन सारी बातों पर फिर से विचार करना चाहिए।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं आपको समय देने के लिए धन्यवाद देता हूँ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now we may take up the Call Attention motion.

SHRI C. T. DHANDAPANI (Pollachi): I have given my name.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This debate will continue in the next session. It is not concluding. There are some members who would like to speak, but they will have an opportunity in the next session.

18.03 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

(i) REPORTED EXPLOSION AT NIRSHA COLLIERY OF THE EASTERN COAL-FIELDS LTD.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Janardhana Poojary—not here. Shri Samar Mukherjee.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE (Howrah): I call the attention of the Minister of Energy and Irrigation to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

The reported explosion at Nirsha Colliery of the Eastern Coalfields Ltd., causing the death of 7 persons and injuries to several others.

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): Sir, it is with deep distress that I have to inform the House of the unfortunate accident which took place in the

Nirsha Colliery of Eastern Coalfields on 15-3 1980.

According to the information available, there was an explosion in the Lamp Cabin of the Colliery at about 4.00 A.M. of 15th March. Four persons were killed on the spot and one more died on the way to the hospital. Subsequently, three more persons died in the hospital, making a total of 8 deaths. 30 persons are still in hospital undergoing treatment. The preliminary report of the Director General of Mines Safety indicated that a large quantity of explosives along with detonators which had been stored in a room adjacent to the surface caplamp room exploded due to fire caused by electricity in the said caplamp room.

On receiving the news of this accident, I proceeded to Nirsha Colliery at the earliest opportunity to ensure that everything possible was done to help the families of the deceased and those injured, as also to see for myself the condition of the site.

Immediate steps have been taken to render necessary assistance to the families of the deceased and injured. An ex-gratia amount of Rs. 1,000/- has been given to the members of the family of the deceased and money to meet the funeral expenses has also been provided. Employment has been offered to one dependent of each deceased worker. Apart from this, the family will be entitled to an insurance amount under the life cover scheme which goes upto Rs 11,000/- depending upon the length of service. They are also entitled to compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act and Family Pension as admissible, from the Coal Mines Welfare Organisation. I have ordered that this compensation, as per law, should be paid to the next of kin, at once. Steps have also been taken to provide accommodation to the 116 families whose hutments were destroyed/damaged by the explosion. The local authorities have arranged for food and free ration for displaced workers. The families of the injured workers were also provided with transport to

visit the hospital where the injured persons are admitted.

I have also met the representatives of the workers and have assured them that the matter will be enquired into and that we will give the highest priority for the provision of safety measures in the mines. I would like to assure the House that we will take all possible steps to ensure that the safety in the mine is given proper attention and that no compromise will be made with safety consideration in the interest of increasing production.

An enquiry into the accident is being made by the Director General of Mines Safety as also the local police, who have registered a case under the relevant sections of the IPC and the Indian Explosives Act. On receipt of these enquiry reports I shall consider what further action needs to be taken in the matter. I would, however, like to assure the House that the matter will be fully enquired into and we shall take appropriate action against the person or persons found responsible for this unfortunate accident.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Sir, this accident is a very serious accident. Eight deaths have taken place. A large number of people are still in the hospital. The statement of the hon Minister says that 116 families (whose huts were destroyed or damaged by the explosion) are being given some accommodation facilities. The explosion was so powerful that all the neighbouring dhowrahs were shaken and the roofs were completely broken. In the newspapers the report appears that even in Barakar and other neighbouring areas, all were shaken. Such powerful explosives are kept in that lamp cabin room. So, it is a total violation of the Mines Safety Rules. In the Mines Safety Rules it is forbidden that these types of explosives should not be kept at least within the area where the workers do their work. The report says how these workers who were on duty were completely submerged

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under the debris. The explosion was such a big one that the buildings are crumbled and bits were thrown long distances away. Now, it is stated in the newspapers that the Chairman of the Eastern Coalfields Limited has expressed his surprise how such types of explosives can be placed in this building. This is a very serious negligence of the Safety Rules.

Sir, this is our main grievance against the Government and the management,—the lives of people are very cheap for them, they don't consider the safety question to be a serious question. We know the tragedy of Chasnala. I had the occasion to go underground after the Chasnala accident. I was accompanied by the Director of Mines Safety. He told me, this organisation is so weak that even with their best will they cannot implement all the Safety Rules which the Government have promulgated.

After each big accident there is an Inquiry Committee set up. The Courts of Inquiries make certain recommendations. But every time those have been violated. After that Chasnala havoc there was a second Chasnala accident and there five people died in the second Chasnala accident. The first Chasnala accident was very devastating. It was in December 1975. The exact date is 27th December. The second accident took place on the 5th of April 1976. Only next April. The tragedy of the thing is this that all persons who died in that accident refused to go into the mine for work. It was because the mine in which they were asked to work was declared to be quite unsafe. And those who went there, protested before going there. But, that was during the emergency period, that is, 1975-76. At Chasnala the first accident took place in the emergency period. The second accident was also in the emergency period. And two slogans were given by the Government at that time. One was 'More Production'. The second

was 'Complete Discipline'. For more production, if there is any resistance, there will be dismissal from service. So, they had to surrender to the direction, to the orders, of their officers. One person who died in the second Chasnala accident, before he went into that job, he himself had given this in writing. I am reading out the relevant portion: t

"Today the 28th February 1976, I am going down the pit (West Mine) to survey the connection from 1st horizon to 'K' level of old workings as per instruction of Sri S. K. Banerjee, Area Manager Sri S. K. Bhattacharjee, Manager and Dr. R. S. Ray, Manager 7 incline. The place was declared unsafe by Mr. S. Bandyopadhyaya and Mr. D. Sarkar, Group Safety Officer and previously were withdrawn from the same job from the same place. If any accident happens to any person of my party, the above mentioned persons will be responsible."

So, these men had died. The staff organisation subsequently gave a memorandum immediately. A copy of the Memorandum is with me. They suspected that there was conspiracy to kill all those men because one of them Shri S. Roy Chaudhury, who has written the above letter, was the main witnesses in the first Chasnala accident. But my question is with regard to open violation of the Safety rules. This is a very serious thing which the new Minister must take into consideration. I am not accusing him because he does not know all these things. So many accidents have taken place and in each accident there has been an inquiry and after enquiry it has been found that safety rules have been violated. Now, the day I entered into the Chasnala pit, the Director, Mines Safety organisation was with me and Mr. Banerjee Mines Area Manager was also with me and when we just got into the pit where the puncture took place, they were explaining by giving different reasons.

MR. CHAIRMAN: May I read out the rules regarding Calling Attention. It says that—

“There shall be no debate on such statement at the time it is made but each member in whose name the item stands in the list of business may, with the permission of the Speaker, ask a question.”

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: I am not debating. I am trying to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the reality.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can ask question now.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: What questions you want me to ask. Before putting questions I am bringing out more information in this regard. Regarding safety rules what guarantee the Government will give? It is not a question of giving assurance. You have given a tall assurance I want a guarantee for the implementations of the Safety Rules, Courts of Inquiries should be held after each accident. In one accident, that is, Chasnala more than 300 people died. In Jitpur accident also about 300 people died, in Sudamdih about 43 people died and in the recent accident some 8 people died. So, similar accidents will continue to happen and he has given tall assurances. All these empty assurances have been repeated again and again.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Calling Attention is to draw the attention of the Minister to a certain important incident that has taken place in the country.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: I know that. From 1971 on-wards I have been here. I have taken part in various Calling Attention Motions. So, you should consider that I am not a new member. My points are not outside the rules. In the background of these ghastly tragedies, now I want a guarantee from the Minister, not assurance. It is a question of guarantee. He has given tall promises. “I

will never compromise”. With whom will you compromise? About the machinery of the Safety Organisation I am giving you the total position. Kindly allow me to speak because you will understand my question.

“The condition of the mines safety organisation is most pathetic which only shows the callousness on the part of the Government towards safety in the most vital sector of our economy. When there are about 500 coal mines and 3600 non-coal mines the total staff under Directorate General of Mines Safety according to our information is only 844 .

There are hundred class I officers for inspection and head office work of which twenty are stationed in the head office. The number of Class II staff meant for inspection is only 12, while the Class III and Class IV staff account for 501 and 281 employees respectively. While it is advisable—this is what the Mines Safety Conference had advised—that a mine should be examined from the point of view of safety at least once in a quarter, the present staff is not enough to inspect every mine even once a year.”

That is the question.

These explosions are taking place. The important question to be seen is what is the time lag between two inspections and when was the last inspection by the mines safety organisation done? Did the Mines Safety Officers give any clearance for keeping these explosives there and whether the management was aware that these explosives had been kept there? It is in gross violation of the mines safety rules. No explosives are to be kept in the mines in this manner. In that area, the workers have to work and explosions can take place at any time if the explosives are kept there.

What is the guarantee that the recommendations of the court of en-

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quiry would be implemented and the mines safety rules followed in future to save workers from such explosions?

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: Sir, I entirely agree with the hon. Member that this was a very serious accident and I have no intention whatsoever to underestimate the gravity of the situation. This is still a mystery how the explosives were kept there, and I agree with the hon. Member on this point. We are trying to lift the veil of mystery by various enquiries. These explosives are normally kept in the magazine and they explained to me—I have been to the site, I asked the workers and various trade union leaders as also the management—that the explosives are brought from the magazine; as and when required. Sometimes what they do is that they bring the explosives of the two shifts or three shifts at a time. That should not be done, that should not be allowed to happen, but they do it, as I came to know, not always but sometimes. There may be another thing. A lot of illegal mining activities are going on, and as you know, the explosives are very much in dearth. So, these people probably try to purchase these explosive, may be from the Coal India Organisation people. Whatever may be the facts, the basic question remains that this is a gross violation of the Explosives Act and I entirely agree that it is utter negligence to keep the explosives there on whatever pretext it might have been done. An enquiry is going on and I do not want to say anything before at least I get a preliminary report of the enquiry. I am really thankful to the hon. Member for his concern. After all, we are dealing with human lives.

All the provisions to ensure safety, which have been recommended to us, should be obeyed 100 per

cent. There is no difference of opinion there. And I assure the hon. Member and the House that I will personally look into this and see that safety measures do not suffer for the sake of production. I am also not over-ruling other enquiries like judicial enquiry, etc., if the situation so demands. But at the present moment, except for the fact that I have visited the site myself, heard things from local people, trade union leaders whom I have met—practically all of them—and also the workers, I have not received any preliminary report.

With regard to mining accidents, I have some figures. In 1977, the death toll was 23, in 1978, it was 173 and in 1979, the figures was 168. It means that it is decreasing. But these are not things to be happy about. And there cannot be any room for complacency on account of it. I can assure the House that we shall leave no stone unturned, to implement the safety measures.

AN HON. MEMBER: When were the explosives actually kept in the room?

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: I have explained it.

श्री तारिक अन्वर (कटिहार) : सम्प्रति महोदय, सब से पहले तो मैं मंत्री महोदय का शुक्रिय प्रदा करता हूँ—उन्होंने उस घटना स्थल पर खुद जा कर मभावना किया और उस के बाद यहाँ प्र कर रिपोर्ट की। यं तो जैसा उन्होंने आश्वासन दिया है कि इन्वैस्टिगेशन के बाद जो रिपोर्ट आयेगी, उस के मुताबिक जो दोषी व्यक्ति या जो दोषी अफसर पाये जायेंगे, जिन के कारण इतने मासूम मजदूरों की जानें गई, उन के खिलाफ कार्यवाही की जायगी, लेकिन मैं उन से एक बात का आग्रह जरूर करूंगा कि जो राहत कार्य चल रहा है, वह उतना संतोखजनक नहीं है, जितना होना चाहिए। जैसा मंत्री जी ने अपने बयान में कहा है कि मरनेवालों को एक हजार रुपये का मुआवजा दिया जायगा, मैं शायद दिया जा चुका है, मैं समझता हूँ कि यह मुआवजा बहुत कम है, इस मुआवजे को घटा-बढ़ाया जाय, इस लिए कि वे मजदूर जो बड़ी कठिनाइयों में और अपनी जान की बाजी लगा कर उस में काम करते हैं, उन की जान की कीमत सिर्फ एक हजार रुपये मात्र हो, यह ठीक नहीं लगता है, जब कि दूसरी तरफ रेल की कोई घटना होती है तो उस में जरने

बाले को 50 हजार रुपये दिए जाते हैं, हवाई अड्डा की कोई घटना होती है तो उसमें मरने वाले को 1 लाख रुपये का मुआवजा दिया जाता है। जो मजदूर कोयला खानों में काम करते हैं, जिन से सारे देश का लगाव है, सारे देश की आर्थिक स्थिति का लगाव है—उस व्यक्ति के मरने का मुआवजा बढ़ाया जाना चाहिये। मैं आप से अपील करूँगा कि आप इस पर विचार करें और साथ-साथ जितनी अधिक राहत आप पहुंचा सकते हैं, उस को पहुंचाने की कोशिश की जाए। मैं उम्मीद करता हूँ कि सरकार इस ओर ध्यान देगी।

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: The hon. Member has misunderstood me. Rs. 1,000 is the *ex-gratia* payment. It is not compensation; and compensation will be paid as per law, whatever the amount may be—Rs. 25,000, Rs. 30,000 or Rs. 35,000. I do not know that

I have told the trade union leaders there that after receiving this, within 3 or 4 days, if they have any grievance they can telephone me. I can again visit that spot, or they can call me, and we can discuss things.

श्री राम बिलास पासवान (हाजीपुर) : सभापति महोदय, मंत्री महोदय ने जो जवाब दिया है, उस के बारे में मैं पहले जो दुर्घटनाएं हुई हैं, मैं उन की प्रेस क्लिपिंग्स देख रहा था और जितने जोर से मंत्री जी ने कहा है 100 पर सेण्ट हम करेंगे, उस से भी ज्यादा जोर से पहले के जो मंत्री थे, उन्होंने 200 पर सेण्ट प्रयोरिटी के साथ कहा था कि मैं सदन को आश्वासन देता हूँ कि हम इस बारे में कुछ करेंगे लेकिन घटनाएं घटती हैं और जब घटनाएं घटती हैं, तो मंत्री जी आ कर यहां आश्वासन दे जाते हैं। अब होता यह है कि हमारे चौधरी साहब कोई पर्मानेंट मिनिस्टर तो हैं नहीं और न ही हम लोग पर्मानेंट हैं, एक मंत्री आता है, वह चला जाता है और फिर दूसरे मंत्री आ जाते हैं और वे उसी जोर से कहते हैं कि मैं 100 पर सेण्ट गारंटी के साथ कहता हूँ कि आगे से ऐसी घटना नहीं होगी लेकिन उस गारंटी का अभी तक कोई खास रिजल्ट नहीं निकला है। मैं यह देख रहा था कि चासनाला में एक घटना दिसम्बर, 1975 में हुई थी और फिर 1976 में भी वहां पर घटना घटी और मंत्री जी ने वहां जा कर उस को देखा और फिर इसी स्वर में कहा था। तो मैं सो, तीन बातें इस सम्बन्ध में संघी भी से पूछना चाहता हूँ। एक तो यह है कि खान अधिनियम में कोई संशोधन किया जाएगा और दूसरा खदान के बारे में है।

सभापति महोदय : आप इस पर डिबेट मत करिए आप कवेशन पूछ सकते हैं।

श्री राम बिलास पासवान : मैं वही कर रहा हूँ। मैं इसे सुना दूंगा और प्रश्न ही पूछूंगा। मैं आप से यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि आप यह देखिये कि खानों में जो मजदूर काम करता है उस का सिर्फ एक ही काम नहीं है कि अपना वेत भरें। यही उस का काम नहीं है बल्कि राष्ट्र की बड़ सेवा करता है और जब वह राष्ट्र की सेवा करता है, तो उस की रक्षा करना भी सरकार का काम है। वह एक राष्ट्रीय सम्पत्ति है और सरकार का यह दायित्व हो जाता है कि वह उस की रक्षा करे। अभी माननीय सदस्य श्री तारीक अन्वर ने कहा था कि जब कोई प्लेन में मरता है, तो उस के लिए सरकार एक लाख रुपया देती है लेकिन जब खान में मजदूर मरता है उस के लिए 1 हजार रुपया तलस बोनस, लेकिन मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि अगर पहले सरकार की कार्यवाही के बारे में देखेंगे, तो यह पाएँगे कि जब चासनाला में घटना घटी थी, तो 30, 30 हजार रुपये दिए गए थे और इन के अलावा तलस भी था। तो मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार खान अधिनियम में संशोधन करना चाहती है और खान के ऊपरी भाग, किनारे के घंसने, विस्फोटक और जल ग्लावन जैसी दुर्घटनाओं को रोकने के लिए सरकार कौन से कदम उठा रही है। इस के अलावा सभी खानों के अन्दर निगरानी कार्य के लिए और सुरक्षा व्यवस्था के लिए आधुनिक संयंत्र जैसे एलेक्ट्रॉनिक संयंत्र लगाने का विचार सरकार रखती है और पिछली सरकार ने जो मुआवजा दिया था, ऐसे विक्रिमों के लड़के, लड़कियों को नौकरी देने की व्यवस्था क्या सरकार करने जा रही है। इन दो तीन बातों के बारे में मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ और उन से निवेदन करता हूँ कि वे ऐसे उपाय करें कि आगे फिर ऐसी घटनाएं न घटें।

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have said everything.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The third question is whether government will give guarantee for the services to the sons and daughters of those who were killed.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: This is what I have already said.

श्री राम बिलास पासवान : मैंने खान अधिनियम में संशोधन के बारे में पूछा था।

सभापति महोदय : यह प्रश्न तो बहुत बड़ा हो जाएगा।

श्री राम बिलास पासवान : ये हां या ना मैं जवाब दें। आप पढ़ कर ही सुना बीजिए।
(व्यवधान) ...

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: I have already said about it. I like to remind the hon. Member that in 1977, there was a Committee on Safety in Coalmines. This Committee gave certain recommendations and I am trying to implement those recommendations. I will be very grateful to my friends opposite if they join with us on this. Whenever they find something wrong somewhere, well, they can write to me or come to me and together we can go there and inspect things personally. That is the only thing can say. My hon. friend is suggesting that the Ministers may come and go. That is the way of democracy. They will come and go. What more can I assure you? I can assure him in this House that this will be done.

श्री राम बिलास पासवान : कितने दिनों के
अन्दर (अवधान)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member has asked a third question. He wants to know whether something will be done in the direction of giving services to sons and daughters of those persons who were killed.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: That I have said in the statement.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is all right.

18.35 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. INCIDENT OF
CLASH BETWEEN POLICE AND
LAWYERS IN GWALIOR

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ZAIL SINGH): Government deplore the incident of clash between some policemen and some lawyers in Gwalior yesterday, March 20, 1980. It is unfortunate that an incident of this nature should have taken place. Government are yet to receive a detailed report from the Government of Madhya Pradesh. However, taking into account the serious nature of the matter, Government have advised Government of the Madhya Pradesh to hold a judicial inquiry presided over by a serving High Court Judge from outside Madhya Pradesh with the request that the inquiry may be completed expeditiously.

18.3 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, March 25, 1980/Chaitra 5, 1962 (Saka)