

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:
"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

16.52 hrs.

**COAL MINES LABOUR WELFARE
FUND (AMENDMENT) BILL**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI
VIKRAM MAHAJAN): Sir, I beg to
move;

"That the Bill further to amend
the Coal Mines Labour Welfare
Fund Act, 1947, be taken into consi-
deration."

With a view to improving the living and working conditions of the coal miners and providing the basic amenities and facilities in respect of housing, water supply, health, etc., the Government of India had promulgated in 1944 an ordinance, subsequently replaced by an Act known as the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1947. The revenues of the Welfare Fund, constituted under this Act is derived from the levy of cess imposed under section 3(1) of the Act at a rate not exceeding 75 paise per metric tonne on the despatches of coal and coke. This revenue is apportioned between Central Welfare Account and the Housing Account.

Under this scheme, free medical aid is given to the workers. We are also going to inaugurate a hospital in January, 1981, where artificial limbs will be made available to the workers. The extent of welfare activities has been consistently going up. In 1979-80 about Rs. 10 crores was spent on these activities. This year, i.e. 1980-81 we have raised it to Rs. 12.35 crores and next year we intend raising it to Rs. 16.15 crores. Consistently we are also building more houses and giving more subsidy. In 1979-80 about 8900 houses were being given the benefit. This year we intend raising the number to

11,300 houses. Similarly, in respect of subsidies given to the States, to West Bengal we have given Rs. 70 lakhs for water supply schemes. To Bihar we have given Rs. 40 lakhs. The measures we are taking for the welfare of workers are showing excellent results. This is evident from the fact that the rate of accidents has been consistently going down. In 1980-81, for the same period, the number of fatal accidents and injuries are much less, as compared to last year. We are going to constitute a Coal mines Safety Board, which will look into the interests of the workers. These are the broad features.

The Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act is administered by the Central Government, on the advice of a tripartite body, consisting of representatives of the Governments of West Bengal, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh, six persons representing the owners of coal mines, six persons representing the workmen employed in the coal mines a woman and two mining engineers.

The Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund (Amendment) Bill, 1980 seeks to insert a provision in the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1947 so as to confer powers for retrospective amendment of rules. The amendment has become imperative in view of the amendment of Rule 3(1) (a) (i) of the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund Rules, 1947, which was notified by the Ministry of Labour on 12th May, 1973, but was given retrospective effect from 25.8.1972. This rule, as it had existed before this amendment, provided that the Secretary or Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Labour and Employment could be appointed as Chairman of the Advisory Committee. A Joint Secretary, who was acting as Chairman of the Advisory Committee, was promoted as Additional Secretary on 25.8.1972, and he continued to act as Chairman of the Advisory Committee till the rule was amended in May 1973, although Rule 3(1) (a) (i) did not provide for an

Additional Secretary to act as Chairman of the Advisory Committee. During this period, he had also presided over two meetings of the Advisory Committee. As such, the amendment of Rule 3(1) (a) (i), which was notified on 12.5.1973, was given retrospective effect from 25.8.1972. This amendment provided that an Additional Secretary could also be appointed as Chairman of the Advisory Committee.

In the year 1974, the Lok Sabha Secretariat raised this point as to how retrospective effect had been given to this amendment of Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund Rules, though the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1947 does not provide for retrospective amendment of rules.

After considering the reply of the Ministry of Labour, the Committee on Subordinate Legislation (Fifth Lok Sabha) in para 65 of their Twentieth Report, presented to the Lok Sabha on 3rd November, 1976 observed that the Rules in question should either be given effect to from the date of their publication in the Gazette or, alternatively, steps should be taken to incorporate a provision in the relevant Act, empowering the Government to give retrospective effect to these rules.

After discussions with the Ministry of Labour, the Committee on Subordinate Legislation and the Ministry of Labour, it is proposed to amend section 10 of the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1947 so as to empower the Central Government to make rules with retrospective effect from a date not earlier than the date of the commencement of the Act, subject to the condition that such retrospective effect of the rules shall not affect prejudicially the interests of any one.

Sir, I move:

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1947, be taken into consideration."

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER (Durgapur): Mr. Chairman, the hon. Minister in his statement has mentioned that the Bill has been brought for a very limited purpose. At the same time, he has mentioned that the Government is trying to improve the welfare of the coal miners. He knows very well that the coal mine workers work under very difficult conditions in order to bring black diamond from several thousand feet below the earth and they are serving our nation to the best of their abilities. Yet, they are not getting a fair deal from the Government, notwithstanding the statements that are being made here.

The Government have mentioned that the safety measures are not adequate. After the nationalisation of coal mines the number of accidents have increased. So, first of all, steps should be taken to implement the safety measures to save the coalmine workers from the accidents and whenever any death occurs to coalminers due to accidents, their family members should be given the job immediately and sufficient compensation should be given to the workers.

17 hrs.

Sir, the Government had instituted one Committee headed by Mr. Manmohan Singh, Adviser, Labour and Employment, Ministry of Labour. That Committee submitted its report on 31st January, 1979. But this Report had not been laid on the Table of the House. What steps the Government has taken regarding implementation of the Manmohan Singh Committee Report? The Report agrees that the Fund has failed to fulfil the objectives for which it was set up. You know, Sir, that less than 27 per cent of the coalmine workers have been provided with quarters and the Fund is unable to spare specified amounts to raise the housing standard on par with other public sector industries where they have made housing arrangements to round about 40 per-

[Shri Krishna Chandra Halder]

cent of their employees. The Railways, for instance, have been able to provide quarters to 40 per cent of their employees. But in the coal mines, less than 27 per cent of the coalminers have been provided with quarters. So, I demand that among the welfare measures, the housing problem of the coalminers should be solved as early as possible.

Regarding medical facilities, I would say that the medical facilities to the coalminers are practically limited to the distribution of routine medicines that too not in adequate quantities. The workers are generally forced to purchase medicines from outside without any prospect of reimbursement because there are no medical facilities provided to the workers properly. So, they have to purchase from the market, but even after purchasing the medicines, reimbursement is not made in proper time. You know, Sir, that because coalminers have to work in very difficult conditions and their quarters are not in proper condition and there is no proper sanitation there the incidence of Tuberculosis is the highest among the coalmine workers. There are no proper preventive measures and even to get admitted in a bed in the hospital, workers have to wait for more than one year for receiving sanatorium treatment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You mean many coalminers are suffering from T.B.?

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: The percentage of T.B. is the highest among the coalminers. Of course, bidi workers also have to work under difficult conditions and are affected by it.

In spite of the welfare measures taken by the Government, even potable water has not been provided to all the coalminers, and they have to take water from the coalmines. So, I demand that potable water should be provided to all the coalminers.

I mentioned earlier about public hygiene and stated that the preventive measures which they have taken are not up to the mark. That should be looked into.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are the curative measures adequate?

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: They are not adequate. Earlier I mentioned that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I thought you were speaking only about T.B.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: I have already said that the curative measures are also not up to the mark.

Coalminers are not encouraged to take to adult education, because after acquiring literacy there is no prospect of their promotion. The adult education campaign among the coalminers should be taken up not only by the management, it should be extended with the help of the trade unions. At the same time, those who become literate should be given opportunities for promotion.

17.07 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

The report points out that there are a number of vacancies in important posts which have not been filled up. On the other hand, there have been many irregular appointments made at the sweet will of those in authority. Now that Mr. Deputy-Speaker is in the Chair, I think my proposals and observations will be given due consideration and implemented properly.

The Manmohan Singh Committee report points out that because of paucity of funds, the States could not raise up to 75 paise per metric tonne as mentioned by the hon. Minister earlier. So, ways and means should be found to increase the Coalmines Welfare Fund so that welfare measures can be properly implemented.

In my constituency this is the major problem. Railway line is necessary from Raniganj to Bankura to arrange welfare measures for the coal miners. Our former Minister Shri Tripathi is here. If this railway link from Raniganj to Bankura is made, then welfare measures can reach the coal miners in proper form and at the earliest possible time. Shri A. B. A. Ghani Khan Chaudhuri also agreed that this is an important railway link as it will develop the Mejhea coal field. They want to construct thermal power station on the pithead of Mejhea coal field. I would request Shri Mahajan and Shri A. B. A. Ghani Khan Chaudhuri to take up the matter with the Railway Minister Shri Kedar Pandey so that this railway link can be made as early as possible.

I hope my suggestions will be taken up by the Government and implemented for the welfare of the coal miners.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA (Tumkur): I seek your protection. This is the last day of the Session. I moved under Rule 222 a Privilege Motion against Shrimati Margaret Alva, Editor, Blitz.....

(Interruptions)

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री (पटना) : इस विधेयक की बहस के बीच में ये क्यों बोल रहे हैं। अगर कुछ कहना है, तो इस के बाद कहें।
..... (व्यवधान) बीच में इस तरह से प्वाइन्ट उठाना गलत है।
..... (व्यवधान)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Lakkappa, I have already received notice and it is under consideration. The procedure will be followed. It was received late also. Had it been received in the morning... (Interruptions)

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL (Jaipur): (Interruptions). The hon. Member pounced upon you and stated something without your permission.

(Interruptions)

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: I sought your permission. (Interruptions) I have written a letter.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: This is something very unusual and extraordinary. (Interruptions) When a Member speaks without permission, you say that nothing will go on record. You expunge it.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You leave it to us. Now Shri Ananda Gopal Mukhopadhyay.

SHRI ANANDA GOPAL MUKHOPADHYAY (Asansol): I welcome the Bill presented by Shri Mahajan in this House for the welfare activities of the coal mine workers. While supporting this Bill, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the present condition of the existing Board. For historic reasons coal mines Welfare Board was formed at a time when the coal mines were in the hands of the private owners. It was a sort of a machinery to go in for the welfare of the workers—which says per tonne of raising coal and with that consolidated fund this Board used to look after the welfare of the workers.

If you look at this organisation, you will see that this organisation—if I say, incompetent, it will not be proper—is insufficient to look after the welfare of the coal mines workers. Coal is nationalised now. In the public sector, there are minimum responsibilities to be performed by the Government to look after the welfare of workers. Let us examine how the welfare activity is maintained. Let us take the case of health.

If you look at the health measures taken up by them, in the coal belt area there are central hospitals set up by the Coal Mines Welfare Board. The second set-up is where the public health and medical care is taken by a health organisation of Coal Mines Board and the third set-up is that of local State Governments where they have

[Shri Ananda Gopal Mukhopadhyay]

dispensaries here and there. After the nationalisation, each of the nationalised sectors has to arrange for their own medical centres. The ECCL has got its own centre; the BCCL has got its own centre. There is triplication in their arrangement, that is, there are the Coal Mines Welfare Board hospitals, the Coal Mines Board health organisation and the public sector projects have got their own arrangement. The source of finance is the same.

The Central hospitals are manned by the staff of the Government of India according to medical service rules. If a doctor is absent in the hospital for years together, the ECCL, the mine-owners of the public sector, cannot do anything. If there is no amenity provided, they cannot do anything. If some equipment is necessary, they will have to negotiate with the Coal Mines Welfare Board. Previously this Department was under the Labour department. It has now come under the Mines Department. As a minimum responsibility, after the nationalisation, I would suggest to the hon. Minister, if not today, tomorrow, these measures must be taken up by the public sector undertaking, by the Coal companies.

It is not only the health measure. As you know, the coal mines are scattered in different parts of the country and, after the mining operation is done, the sub-soil water is not available. I know, the plight of coal mines workers in Asansol and Raniganj areas where, in the whole area, the workers do not get a drop of water in summer. Only the pumped-out water from the coal mines is supplied to the workers. There must be a proper arrangement for the supply of drinking water in the coal mines. In some of the areas, a part of it is covered and, in some of the areas, it is not covered at all. There must be some comprehensive organisation. It is not possible for the welfare organisation to do it. A massive machinery is required to cater to the needs of six

lakh coal mines workers in the country to provide them drinking water.

The measures that are taken are that water is supplied from the collieries to the distant areas by tap or by temporary connection. The water is supplied to the colonies by trucks. It is a scarce thing. The epidemics and other diseases are very common in that area. As regards the public health organisation, there is no proper arrangement provided there. It is an organisation run by different State Governments. I know, how in Asansol, it is being run. It is completely politicalised. The Vice-Chairman is a political man and, instead of looking after the welfare of workers in the neighbouring areas, he looks after the welfare of his party.

If you look at the housing in public sector projects, the lowest number of houses are provided to the workers. My hon. friend said that it is 27 per cent. In the total coal belt, I can tell you, it is less than that. I would request the hon. Minister to have an organisation under different Coal companies to tackle that as other public sector units do. They do it for the welfare of workers, for their education, for their housing, for water supply and for other things. They are run by the same public sector. Why not the Coal companies also do it by themselves? If they want to have a separate machinery to look after it, the entire structure will have to be changed.

This structure is unsuitable to look after this organisation. Most of the time you will see that the top man is absent, most of the time you will see that they have less number of persons to look after the organisation, most of the time you will see that the expertise is not there.

Housing, education, medical and water supply, these four things are essential for the coalmine workers, and if the Government is serious about looking after the welfare of the coalminers, I would suggest again, this must be under the different coal companies so set up after nationalisation. This is the first step for improvement of the whole thing.

I will give you an example. As regards education in the eastern coal-belts you will see that the existing collieries are running schools. So far, no secondary school has been established by the Coal mines Welfare Board for the education of the children of the workers. There are certain schools existing in the neighbouring areas, the boys go and get admitted there. There is no proper provision for building, for education and for other things. Every public sector has a certain percentage of money for the welfare of the workers, for the education of their children and for other purposes. It must be planned properly.

The coalmines are situated in remote areas. If there is an accident in the colliery or if there is any illness, there must be a neighbouring outdoor Centre in each coal mine from where the workers and their dependents could get treatment. There must be regional centres built up so that, from the neighbouring area, they can be transported to the hospital for proper treatment of the employees or their wards. The present arrangement is inadequate, insufficient, incompetent. The coal mines are situated in remote do that. This concept will have to be changed. The entire structure should be changed. The responsibility should be given to the companies so formed in the country to look after all these activities.

I welcome this Bill because this is the first step, and I would expect the hon. Minister to give a candid consideration to this matter, so that at least the essential supplies are provided to the coal mine workers. If you come with me to the coal mine area in the summer season, you will see the plight of the workers. For want of water, they cannot take bath; they do not get proper protected source of supply; water is a very scarce thing. Then I have mentioned housing, education, and medical.

Again, I repeat, the Coal mines Welfare organisation was built up due to historical reasons; it is an ancient Act, a creation of the then Government

just to provide a show for the welfare of the workers. It is necessary that there should be a structural change and authority given to the coal mining companies for providing these facilities to the workers.

श्री रोजलाल प्रसाद वर्मा (कांडरमा): उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, कोयला खान श्रम कल्याण निधि की धारा दो में संशोधन के लिए सर्वाइनेट लेजिस्लेशन कमेटी की सिफारिशों के आधार पर मंत्री महोदय इसको लाए हैं। हालांकि पांचवें लोक सभा में कमेटी ने सिफारिश की थी कि वैधानिक अनियमितताओं को दूर करने के लिए इसकी आवश्यकता है तो मंत्री महोदय केवल वैधानिक अनियमितताओं को दूर करने के लिए या नियमितताओं को लाने के लिए इसको लाए हैं। यह बहुत आवश्यक था, लेकिन साथ ही साथ जहां कोयला खान के श्रमिकों की बात आती है उस पर इन्होंने कोई विचार नहीं किया जबकि अधिकारी वर्गों ने अपनी सुख-सुविधाएं बढ़ाने के लिए निरन्तर कोशिश की। यह अनियमितता सन् 1972 से चलती रही और 1973 में जो एक कानून बनाया गया उसके द्वारा भी उन्होंने अपना ही काम बनाने की कोशिश की और मजदूरों के कल्याण के लिए, जैसा कि हमारे कई माननीय सदस्यों ने सदन का ध्यान आकर्षित किया है, अपेक्षाकृत बहुत कम कोशिश रही है। 1947 के कानून में बताया है कि 25 से 75 पैसे तक प्रति मी 0 टन मजदूरों के हित के लिए कर वसूल किया जाएगा, चाहे किसी भी वर्ग का कोयला हो। आज की महंगाई को देखते हुए 75 पैसे जो मजदूरों के कल्याण के लिए आप रखते हैं इसको बढ़ा कर आपको कम से कम दो रुपये प्रति मैट्रिक टन कर देना चाहिये। मंत्री जी ने इस पर कोई ध्यान नहीं दिया है। अधिकारी वर्ग को नियमित सुविधायें अधिक किस तरह से मिल सकती हैं इसी और उन्होंने ध्यान दिया है।

कोयला खान श्रमिक कल्याण निधि अधिनियम 1947 की धारा 10 में मजदूरों के

[श्री रीतलाल प्रसाद वर्मा]

कल्याण का विचार किया गया था। लेकिन जिस प्रकार से चाही गई थीं कि उनको सुख-सुविधायें मिलें वैसे नहीं मिल पा रही हैं। कोयला क्षेत्रों में साढ़े छः लाख के करीब कर्मचारी काम करते हैं। लेकिन वहां लगता ऐसा है कि खानों के अन्दर बाहर जो मजदूर रहते हैं वे इस तरह से रहते हैं जैसे जानवर रहते हों, उन से भ्रं बढतर उनके रहने के साधन हैं। न बिजली की, न पानी की, शूद्ध पेय जल की और न अच्छी दवा की उनके लिए व्यवस्था होती है और न ही उनके बच्चों के लिए उचित शिक्षा का कोई प्रबन्ध होता है। वैसे तो बहुत सी व्यवस्था वहां रहती है लेकिन वह सभी अधिकारी वर्ग के लिए ही होती हैं। इनकी भलाई के जो काम है वे केवल कागजों पर ही होते हैं।

कल्ला अस्पताल जो आसनसोल में है वहां पर हम गये थे। वह श्रमिकों के लिए है। वहां पर एक छात्रावास भी है। उसको मैंने देखा है। मजदूरों के बच्चों के लिए यह छात्रावास है। लेकिन वहां केवल तीस बच्चों के रहने की ही व्यवस्था है। उस एरिया में कई लाख मजदूर काम करते हैं। कम से कम दो सौ बच्चों के रहने की व्यवस्था तो वहां आपको करनी चाहिये। इसको करने के लिए अगर 75 पैसे से बढ़ा कर यदि आप दो रुपया प्रति मैट्रिक टन भी यह राशि कर दें तो इसमें कोई आपत्ति-जनक बात नहीं होनी चाहिये। जो मजदूर कोयला निकालता है वह किन कठिनाइयों में रहता है, कितनी कठिनाई से जी रहा है, और जिसको तरह तरह की बीमारियां हो जाती हैं, टी0 बी0, दमा वगैरह हो जाता है, उसकी चिकित्सा का भी आपको ध्यान रखना चाहिये और चिकित्सा आदि की व्यवस्था भी आपको करनी चाहिये। दवाई उसको बाहर से खरीदनी पड़ती है। आप उसके वैलफेयर के कदम उठा रहे हैं लेकिन अस्पतालों में कितनी क्षमता है, उनकी कितनी कैपेसिटी है, कितनी बीमारियों का इलाज वहां हो सकता है इसको भी

आपको देखना चाहिए। मैं समझता हूं कि जो भी अवस्था वहां बीमारियों के इलाज की गई है वह पर्याप्त नहीं है और वह कारगर सिद्ध नहीं हुई है। इस ओर भी आपका ध्यान जाना चाहिए।

निधि में जो आपने प्रावधान किया है वह बहुत अल्प है। इसको बढ़ाने के वास्ते आपको पहले से विचार करना चाहिए था। मैं समझता हूं कि आप धारा 3 का संशोधन करने का भी प्रयास करेंगे और 75 पैसे से बढ़ा कर दो रुपये प्रति मैट्रिक टन इस राशि को कर देंगे।

मजदूरों की वहां जितनी संख्या है उस में मैं समझता हूं कि केवल 22 प्रतिशत से अधिक लोगों के आवास की व्यवस्था नहीं हुई है। बाकी जितने लोग हैं वे बेघरबार हैं, झोंपड़ियां बना कर उन में रह रहे हैं। कोल इंडिया आपका बहुत बड़ा प्रतिष्ठान है। अधिकारी वर्ग के लिए तो एयर कंडीशंड मकान हैं, बिजली की उनको सुविधा है तथा दूसरी सुविधायें हैं लेकिन मजदूर जो माइंज के अगल बगल में रहते हैं उनके वास्ते कोई सुविधायें उपलब्ध नहीं हैं। उनके वास्ते बिजली पानी आदि सुविधाओं की कोल इंडिया को ठीक से व्यवस्था करनी चाहिए थी। कोल इंडिया के अंतर्गत पांच कम्पनियां हैं। सभी कम्पनियों को कानून बना कर ये सभी सुविधायें उपलब्ध करने के लिए वाध्य किया जाना चाहिए। एक कम्प्रिहेंसिव बिल आपको लाना चाहिए ताकि अवास, औषधालयों, शिक्षा आदि की व्यवस्था मजदूर वर्ग के लिए हो सके और साथ ही साथ तकनीकी शिक्षा उनके बच्चों को मिल सके ताकि वे मजदूर ही न बनें बल्कि उत्तम ऊपर उठने का भी उनको अवसर मिल सके।

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री (पटना) : मान्यवर, कोयला खान श्रम कल्याण निधि संशोधन विधेयक, 1980 पर हम विचार कर रहे हैं। इसके जरिये 1947 के कानून में संशोधन किया जा रहा है, इसमें सलाहकार समिति के गठन की बात कही गई है। इस सिलसिले में मेरा निवेदन है कि अभी तक आपने उस समिति को अधिकार केवल परामर्श देने का ही रखा है। मैं चाहूंगा कि उन्हें कुछ अधिकार भी दीजिए ताकि वह स्थिति को देखकर कल्याण सम्बन्धी कुछ कार्य कर सकें, कार्यक्रम बना सकें। जब तक ऐसे अधिकार नहीं देंगे, आपके हिदायत करने पर ही वह काम करेंगे, इसमें ज्यादा समय लग जाता है और मौके पर कल्याण कार्य करने में कठिनाई होगी।

मजदूरों की स्थिति बड़ी दयनीय है। जितनी भी उनकी कल्याण की बातें हैं वह केवल कागज पर तो ठीक हैं लेकिन उनको 100 फीसदी व्यवहार में उतारना संभव नहीं है, आपके अधिकारी वह काम नहीं करते। इसलिए जो भी अधिकार आप उनकी हालत में सुधार के लिए देना चाहते हैं वह अमल में आये और उसका सीधा लाभ कोयला खान मजदूरों को मिले।

मकान के बारे में सभापति जी, आपने सुन लिया कोई कहता है कि 22 फीसदी मजदूरों को मकान मिले हैं, कोई 25 फीसदी कहता है। मेरी जानकारी के मुताबिक 20 प्रतिशत ही लोगों को मकान की सुविधा है। लेकिन अगर 25 फीसदी भी मान लें तो भी 33 साल की आजादी के बाद 6 लाख कोयला मजदूरों में से कितनों को मकान मिला? इस लिए अगर आप उत्पादन बढ़ाना चाहते हैं तो मजदूरों को सब तरह से संतुष्ट

रखना आवश्यक है। अगर उनके रहने की समस्या होगी, बीमारी होगी, बच्चों की शिक्षा का प्रबन्ध नहीं होगा, दुर्घटनाओं के शिकार होते रहेंगे और कर्जदारों के चंगुल में फंसे रहेंगे तो जाहिर बात है कि इन बातों का सीधा असर कोयला उत्पादन पर पड़ेगा। हम सभी चाहते हैं कि देश में कोयला उत्पादन बढ़े ताकि कारखाने ठीक से चलें, बिजली के कारखाने ठीक से चलें, रेल गाड़िया ठीक से चलें, देश प्रगति के रास्ते पर आगे बढ़ें, तो यह तभी संभव होगा जब कोयला मजदूरों के रहने की व्यवस्था होगी, उन्हें शुद्ध पीने का जल देंगे। आपको मालूम है कि कोयला मजदूरों का बहुमत बिहार में धनबाद, गिरीडिह, हजारीबाग क्षेत्रों में है और बंगाल के रानीगंज और आसनसोल में केन्द्रित है।

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY
(Bombay North-East): Give them
vodka.

SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI: I
do not know the meaning.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: You
know the meaning in Russian.

डा० सुब्रह्मण्यम स्वामी : वोडका के
माने हैं शुद्ध पानी।

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : तो शुद्ध पीने का जल उनको मिलना चाहिए। आने महिला मजदूरों के लिए कितने क्रीसेज बनाये? समाजवादी देशों के नाम से तो आपको झींक आने लगती है, पूंजीवादी देशों में ही देख लीजिये कि उन देशों में बच्चों के लिए कितने क्रीसेज बने हुए हैं।

[श्री रामावतार शास्त्री:]

If that is the meaning, I stand corrected.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He has not learnt that language from Russia.

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : मातायें आती हैं, अपने बच्चों को वहां रखती हैं, काम पर जाती हैं और अपने काम से बायस आते समय वहां से अपने बच्चों को ले जाती हैं। उनके लिए भी आप कुछ उपाय कीजिए।

गुंडा तत्व कौलरी इलाके में बहुत उद्यम मचाते हैं, जिनका इस्तेमाल कुछ तथाकथित मजदूर नेता भी करते हैं, जो लड़कू ट्रेड यूनियन होती हैं, जो लड़कर अपनी मांगें हासिल करना चाहती हैं, उनको दबाने के लिए गुंडा-तत्वों का इस्तेमाल किया जाता है। इससे क्या उत्पादन बढ़ेगा, क्या उनका वेल्फेयर का काम आगे बढ़ेगा ?

उत्पादातर कोयला मजदूर कर्जा गुलामी में मुबतिला हैं, आप उन को कर्ज से मुक्ति दिलाइये। जो वह कमाते हैं, जैसे ही उनको तनख्वाह मिलती है, कर्जाबोर सब की सब उनसे ले लेते हैं। अगर इस को दुस्त नहीं कीजिए तो कुछ काम नहीं चलेगा। इस तरफ आपका ध्यान जाना चाहिए।

इसके लिए मोहम्मद फजल कमेटी, यह प्लानिंग कमीशन की ही एक कमेटी थी, उसकी रिपोर्ट थी कि जब तक इसको ठीक नहीं करेंगे, गुंडा गर्दी एंड ला एंड आर्डर को ठीक नहीं करेंगे, तब तक उत्पादन ठीक नहीं होगा। इस तरफ भी ध्यान देना चाहिए।

दुर्घटनाओं में जो लोग दुर्घटनाग्रस्त होते हैं, उनकी फैमिलिज को उचित सहायता नहीं देते हैं। आसनसोल

इलाके में एक ड्राइवर काम करते हुए मर गया, उसकी बेवा पत्नी दर-दर की भिखारी हो रही है, उसको नौकरी नहीं दी जाती, कोई न कोई बहाना करके काम नहीं दिया जाता। क्या यह नियम नहीं हो सकता है कि जो दुर्घटना में मर जाये, उसके बाल-बच्चों, पत्नी या उसके ऊपर आश्रितों को नौकरी दी जाये ? इन सब सवालों की तरफ आपका ध्यान जाना चाहिए। अगर सचमुच में आप कोयला मजदूरों के कल्याण की बात करते हैं तो इस तरफ ध्यान देना चाहिए।

आपका एक कोयला खान कल्याण कार्यालय धनबाद में है जहां की 400 मजदूर अभी भी बरसों से काम कर रहे हैं, 8, 8 और 10, 10 साल से बराबर काम कर रहे हैं, लेकिन अभी भी कैजुअल लेबर में हैं। यह कैसी व्यवस्था है ? रेलवे में या और जगह 180 दिन काम करने पर नियमित होने का अधिकार मजदूर को मिल जाता है, लेकिन आपके यहां यह नहीं है। आप इसका पता लगाइये कि क्या यह सही है कि 400 मजदूर अभी अनियमित हैं। आप उनको नियमित कीजिए, उनको कल्याण योजना का भागीदार बानयें।

पैसा देने का जहां तक सवाल है, आपने कहा कि पश्चिम बंगाल की सरकार को 70 लाख रुपया, बिहार की सरकार को 40 लाख रुपया मकान बनवाने के लिए दिया। यह तो ऊंट के मुंह में जीरा है, इससे क्या होने वाला है ? एक करोड़ 10 लाख से क्या होगा, कितने मकान बनेंगे, कितने प्रतिशत लोगों को मिलेंगे। मेरा कहना है कि ज्यादा से ज्यादा पैसा दीजिए, क्योंकि यह मजदूरों को सहूलियत देना है।

किसी माननीय सदस्य ने ठीक ही कहा कि बड़े बड़े अफसरों को हवादार

मकान, एयरकंडीशन्ड, शीत-ताप के मकान और गरीबों के लिए साधारण झोंपड़ी जैसा मकान भी नहीं। वह रह नहीं सकते, उनको गन्दा पानी, तरह-तरह की बीमारियों से बे ग्रस्त हैं। आप इस कोष में राज्य सचकारों को चाहे बिहार हो, पश्चिम बंगाल हो, मध्य प्रदेश या तमिलनाडू जो भी हो जहां भी कोयला खानें हों वहां पर वेलफेयर एक्टीविटीज बढ़ाने के लिए सरकारों को ज्यादा पैसा दीजिए। जिससे वहां के मजदूर यह समझें कि सचमुच में उनके लिए कुछ किया जा रहा है और वे दिल से उत्पादन बढ़ाने के काम में लगे। अगर आप ऐसा नहीं करेंगे तो केवल आपके इस बिल को पास करने से या मेरे भाषण देने से यह काम होने वाला नहीं है। इन शब्दों के साथ मैं इस बिल का समर्थन करता हूँ।

SHRI A. K. ROY (Dhanbad): Sir, this Bill seeks to legitimise certain recommendations of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation of the Fifth Lok Sabha. Nobody should object to the attempt to legitimise the recommendations of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation. But I am surprised that some Joint Secretary presided over some meeting of the Advisory Committee as an Additional Secretary and for that we are called upon to pass this Bill. Anyway, I wish to point this out, that this Bill touches only a fringe of the problem. Some of the hon Members here took advantage of this discussion on this Bill to draw the attention of the honourable House and of the Minister to the general deplorable condition of the workers of the coalmines everywhere today. Dhanbad happens to be the headquarters of the Coalmines Labour Welfare Commissioner. That prestigious organisation is decaying day by day. If you go to Dhanbad you will see the situation there. Sir, I am told, you are a good labour leader, in addition to being a good Deputy Speaker here. This Coalmine Labour Welfare Organisation used to be the biggest organisation

there at Dhanbad. This Labour Welfare Commissioner used to be the highest executive authority in the district. Under him there was Health department, Education Department, the Department which was intended to build houses and supply water; all these functionaries used to be there. Today if you go there you will find things in utter confusion. We are legitimising what one Joint Secretary did presiding over that Advisory Committee some 10 years ago. After that so many remodelling has taken place; so many changes have taken place; these restructuring activities have stalled many of its operations. There is no provision at all for protecting the health of the workers. There is no provision for supply of pure drinking water to the workers. Only last year there was a firing in Dhanbad. The coalmine workers got submerged in water when there was flood in the mines. The pumps and machinery got submerged in the waters in the mines. In Chesnana mine this thing happened. Many persons died in the water. We had to pump out the water to ensure the safety of the mine. I am sorry to point out that there is no proper scheme, a comprehensive scheme for conserving that water. If there is a scheme which is formulated judiciously, properly and scientifically, to use that water, that water could be put to proper use for the entire township; that water will serve for the irrigation purposes of the local villagers. But no such comprehensive scheme has been brought up. The people get various diseases like T. B., Cancer and Tuberculosis. I request the hon. Minister to visit Dhanbad. Then he will be able to see the deplorable condition obtaining there.

There used to be a hospital previously in Tetulmarj for giving treatment to the miners affected with leprosy. The hospital is decaying. There were some special departments where these miners used to be treated, especially for leprosy patients. Now, that it being abandoned. I asked the Gene-

(Amdt.) Bill

[Shri A. K. Roy]

ral Manager of the Mines the reason for abandoning these special departments in the hospital for these miners. The poor workers and the poor people, Harijans and Adivasis who form the lowest strata of the society work as miners in those areas and they are prone to be affected with leprosy disease. There are already so many workers who have been affected with this disease and some of them have died due to non-availability of proper treatment. I already suggested that this kind of disease should be treated with utmost care, but no action has been taken so far.

Now, they are talking of education. What are they doing for imparting education to these poor people? They are only eliminating the poor workmen. These workmen used to work in the coalfield. Now, under the plea of mechanisation, they are recruiting skilled workers. They need technically qualified men, they need persons with expertise. In the name of mechanisation, they are only eliminating these poor workers. I suggested to them not only an education scheme but I also suggested that there should be an institution in each area for imparting technical education to these poor people so that these poor miners who gave birth to the coal mines to the country could equip themselves with technical qualification.

With the technical qualifications, they could also work in the mechanised mines.

Sir, you may be aware that the head office of the Coal Mines Welfare Commissioner is named after Babu Jagjivan Ram. The colony has been named as Babu Jagjivan Ram Nagar. It was originally meant to see that Harijans and the Adivasis get justice from that organisation. Just now as my colleague has said, 400 workmen, mostly Harijans and Adivasis, are rotting there for the last 20 years or so without being regularised, without getting any regular scale of pay. They are not getting equal wages for equal labour they put in. They are still in

the muster roll and they are getting payment arbitrarily. Not only that. In that Jagjivan Ram Nagar, there is a Central hospital. I wrote to the Home Ministry and also to the Ministry of Energy in regard to a Harijan boy who has been working in that Hospital on a temporary basis. I pointed out to them that this Harijan boy should be absorbed in regular employment but it was not done. There, the post of Liftman was reserved for Harijan but later on that was de-reserved in order to accommodate their own man. Some of the hon. Members have suggested that the welfare work should be given to the Company. But I would suggest that it is not going to help so long as bureaucratisation continues. Bureaucratisation means increase in inefficiency. Sir, we know that houses were built previously for the workers in the coal mines. These houses are still there. Now, the colliery companies are constructing houses but those houses are crumbling down.

It is very important that they function more democratically. Bureaucratization would not solve that problem; democratization will do. Now, they are having advisory body. In that body there should be workers' representatives and peoples' representatives. I want to know who are the members now and who used to represent earlier. I was a public representative from that place; we had a union also. It is a mysterious thing; we do not know who guides, advises and looks after that. That is why I say that the coal mines labour welfare organization has to be remodelled, not on the lines of bureaucratization, but on the lines of democratization. You take the genuine representatives of people and workers and trade unions, involve them and only then the welfare measures would work.

The original Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act was passed in April 1947; it is a pre-independence Act. Even in those British days, the people used to think that only by providing welfare measures for the miners, they

could get proper production. Now-a-days, we hear that the Ministers are giving threats here that they would make use of the National Security Act, if need be, to raise the production. Even in the old days, people thought that by giving more facilities, more housing, good water, etc. You could increase the production, but not by threats. We should, therefore, give them more facilities if we want the production to go up.

Lastly, I would like to mention that there used to be prohibition in the coal field area. Then, the prohibition was scrapped. We protested against that. We know how the total money of the workers is being drained into the liquor shops. We have been impressing upon the Ministry and other authorities that these wine shops should not be allowed to come up in the coal field areas, in the areas where the poor adivasis and Harijan people live, but no action has been taken in this respect. If you cannot supply them with milk centres, if you cannot supply them with pure water, for God's sake, do not provide them with pure wine. This is very important.

I am sure, the Minister while replying would assure the House that they are going to enlarge or increase the welfare facilities for the workers and are taking necessary steps in this regard so that the workers may give us the required production and also become a part and parcel of the society in which they are working.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: I rise on a point of order under Rule 376. The House should continue to sit till all the items on the agenda are disposed of.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Yes, why have you got that doubt?

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Members for the valuable suggestions that they have made. After the nationalisation of the coal industry, a massive effort has been

made to improve the lot of the coal miners. The pace of welfare activities in the coal industry is much faster as compared to any other industry.

So far as the medical facilities are concerned, I would like to point out that we have three central hospitals, 12 regional hospitals and 4 T. B. hospitals. Then, there are a number of Ayurvedic and allopathic dispensaries. There are beds reserved for leprosy, T. B. and cancer patients. This activity is also developing fast. We are also constructing new hospitals. We have already sanctioned the setting up of a hospital at Dakra in 1980 after the new Government came to power. Similarly, a post-mortum Centre at the Central Hospital, Dhanbad is under construction under the All India Hospital Post-mortum Programme. Similarly, there are restrooms which we are constructing in all the hospitals at Dhanbad. Again, another 50 bedded regional hospital at Chandrapur has been taken up for a sum of Rs. 94 lakhs.

The proposal for the construction of another hospital at Bistrampur is also under consideration. There is a hospital under construction in West Bengal, the artificial primary limbs centre will be set up at Sidhbari in West Bengal. Similarly, various steps are being taken to improve the activity in this particular sector, I had already mentioned that we are sanctioning new schemes and we have already sanctioned Rs. 70 lakhs as subsidy to the West Bengal Government out of Rs. 1 crore for the water supply schemes. Similarly, an amount of Rs. 40 lakhs has been sanctioned for Bihar.

So far as educational activity is concerned, the House would be glad to know that multi-purpose institutions have been set up. 59 multi-purpose institutions have been set up on educational side for the welfare of workers, for imparting them education where we give vocational training to the female workers and rapid progress has been made in this sector. Not only this, Sir, regarding the safety measures, this is one of our main effort

[Shri Vikram Mahajan]

in this sector and I had already earlier mentioned that efforts that we have made have resulted in declining rate of accidents. Previously, for example, in 1978, 151 fatal accidents took place. In 1979, the number went down to 143. In 1980, it has gone down to 92. Similar is the case of serious injuries. There also, the number has progressively gone down. The Committee on Safety which was appointed gave a report. It had given 66 major recommendations out of which 11 recommendations regarding accidents, internal safety organisations, planning and so forth, they have already been implemented. 49 recommendations are under implementation and 15 recommendations relate to the Ministry of Labour and State Government and we are trying to see that they are also implemented. The Minister announced that there should be a Coal Mine Safety Board which will be set up which will continuously monitor safety measures in the coal mines and render the advice to Government regarding further improvement in safety standards. It has been decided in principle to constitute a high-level coal mines safety Board. Similarly, we have enhanced the compensation so far as workers are concerned.

After nationalisation, approximately 60,000 houses have been constructed which is a great number. And this year we intend constructing about 12,000 and odd houses. Similarly, Sir, after nationalisation, the wages have gone up and under the agreement of 1979, the minimum wage of a coal miner has been fixed at Rs. 512 per month.

Not only this. We provide employment to one member of the family of every worker who dies, or is disabled in an accident. The Coal Mine Workers' Organization was under the Ministry of Labour, and came to our Department only in October 1979. We are now considering the merger of this organization with other coal organizations, so that an integrated activity takes place. We would have raised the maximum cess; but it is fixed under the Statute. We will have to decide it after consulting the House, in case we find that the amount we collect under the cess is not enough.

Before nationalization of coal mines, only 227,000 worker-population was covered by the drinking water schemes. After nationalization, the number on 31st March 1980 has gone up to practically 12 lakhs. You can understand the quantum of effort which has been made in this direction.

Regarding Dhanbad, a team of Ministers visited the Dhanbad area; and they set up coordinating committees. It was towards the end of September. After that, the law and order situation has considerably improved there. So also the production. In fact, in 1979-80, production was hardly 103 to 104 million tonnes of coal. This year we intend raising it to 130 million tonnes. From this month, i.e. December, every month we will add 1 million tonnes of production over the earlier month's production. It means every month there will be an additional production by 1 million tonnes, which they

were added in the last years, in 12 months. This is the quantum of effort put in by the present Government.

Regarding the Fazl Committee report, it is under the consideration of the Government; and we will take a decision soon. So far as casual workers are concerned, we are willing to absorb them. We have referred their case to the Finance Ministry.

I am not saying that we have achieved perfection in the welfare activity. There are shortcomings; but a tremendous work has been done after nationalization of the coal mines, and we hope to achieve international standards. The suggestions made by the hon. Members will be seriously considered.

Sir, I now commend the Bill.

SHRI A. K. ROY: I requested for a general assurance or some sort of a statement that the wine shops would be removed from the coal belt area.

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN: I am sorry I forgot it. We have taken strong steps to see that they are removed. And if specific instances are brought to my notice, I will immediately take action.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act 1967, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We shall take up clause by clause consideration. There are no amendments to clauses 2 and 3. The question is:

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill. Clause 1 the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.
18.06 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:—

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 22nd December, 1960, agreed without any amendment to the National Security Bill, 1960, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 16th December, 1960."