

[श्री राम विलास पासवान]

एम. पीज. के लिए कोई रिजर्वेशन नहीं है। लेकिन यदि वह एम. पीज. के लिए टिकट रिजर्व रखना चाहते हैं, तो इस काम का सुव्यवस्थित ढंग से करना चाहिए। आज मेरे पास पैसा नहीं है, तो टिकट मेरे नाम से रहे, जिस दिन मेरे पास होगा, मैं उन्हें ले लूंगा। यह तो नहीं होना चाहिए कि आज एक आदमी पच्चीस हजार रुपया जमा कर दे और सारे टिकट खरीद ले। बाद में जब आपकी या मेरी कांस्टीट्यूएन्सी से लोग आएंगे, तो वे माथा ठोक् लेंगे और कहेंगे कि ये एम. पी. है या बूद्धू है। Either you return them or if you want to distribute them, you give them to all Members.

(Interuptions)

SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI:
Every Officer should get one ticket only.

14.40 hrs.

IRON ORE MINES AND MANGANESE ORE MINES LABOUR WELFARE CESS (AMENDMENT) BILL, AND IRON ORE MINES AND MANGANESE ORE MINES LABOUR WELFARE FUND (AMENDMENT) BILL—Contd.

SHRI E. BALANANDAN (Mukundapuram): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Bill No. 18—The Iron Ore and Manganese Ore Mines Labour Welfare Cess (Amendment) Bill and the Bill No. 19—The Iron Ore and Manganese Ore Mines Labour Welfare Fund (Amendment) Bill are to extend the welfare facility to the workers employed in chronic ore mines. Naturally, the benefit is very little. Even then there is no room to oppose this and therefore at the outset I say that I support this measure.

AN HON. MEMBER: Yes, he is supporting it.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Jadavpur): Sometimes occasionally you do something good.

SHRI E. BALANANDAN: It is said in the objects and Reasons that there are 6000 workers employed in the chrome ore mines and their living conditions needs amelioration on which also there can be no difference. But the pretention of the Government of India and the Minister for Labour is that they are bent upon taking steps to ameliorate the conditions of the working class which I must submit do not tally with facts.

Sir, with your permission let me divert a little and give a few examples by way of illustration. The other day the hon. Minister for Agriculture piloted a bill in this august House which was intended to take away the little protection the F.C.I. employees were enjoying—that is, the protection they had from arbitrary dismissal and other penal actions. Was this for ameliorating the conditions of FCI workers? No, Sir. This being the share of the Agricultural Minister let us see what the hon. Minister for (anti) Communications is doing today.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS (Bhilwara): This is irrelevant, Sir.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: He is suffering from 'communicable' disease.

SHRI E. BALANANDAN: His department has a work-force of 7½ lakhs. Out of this, 2.75 lakhs are extra-departmental staff. You will be surprised to note that their total monthly income is around Rs. 1.30 to Rs. 2.30. What is he and his notoriously inefficient P&T Board are doing for them? In order to cover up their inefficiency and corruption they have started attacking the workers. Sir, we are having a big P&T Board and Mr Stephen is at the top of it. What are they doing? In the name of improving the efficiency of workers, Mr. Stephen is bent upon giving troubles to them. Protection from transfer of the Union officials is withdrawn, Union meetings are banned in the work premises. Even the posters and hand Bills of the Union are not allowed to be exhibited near the work places, etc. Now all these kinds of atrocious actions are being opposed by the workers. For this service break is

being imposed for 3000 workers, and another 1000 and odd workers are being victimised under one rule or the other. This is how the Government of India is ameliorating the condition of the P&T workers.

Finally, let me say something about the hon. Minister for Labour who is here to pilot this Bill. As we know, this House is going to discuss two more Bills introduced by the Labour Minister; one is the Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Bill and the other is the Trade Union (Amendment) Bill. I would not like to deal with these two Bills in detail today, because they are not the subject matter, but since our Labour Minister has talked of his intentions to ameliorate the condition of the workers, I would refer to them just in passing. Whatever he may claim, the real intention of these two Bills is to either curtail or do away with whatever rights these organised workers in the country have. Therefore, the claim of the Government that they are taking steps to ameliorate the condition of the workers cannot be borne out by facts. Above all, the 200-day old strike of about 2.5 lakh textile workers in Bombay thoroughly exposes his love towards the working class. This strike has meant a loss of 100 crores of rupees to the nation.

Now, Sir, let me revert back to the Bill in question. What has been the experience of the parent Act? The total number of workers covered under this Act, enjoying this benefit in 1976 was 93000, and in the year 1979, the number got reduced to 74000; that is a reduction of 19000 within a period of three years. While the number of workers was progressively on the decrease, the production was on the increase in the iron ore and manganese ore mines. This is according to the labour statistics. Though the production increased, there was no increase in the collection

of the cess fund. Naturally, the collection should increase, but I do not know, why it did not happen. The hon. Minister may kindly explain to us. The hon. Minister in his short speech indicated a figure of Rs. 180 lakhs. I do not know, to which year it belongs. However, according to the figures of the Government, the income for 1978 was Rs. 169.39 lakhs, 1979, it was Rs. 94.54 lakhs and 1980, it was 112.97 lakhs. This indicates that the collection of cess fund was not done in a proper manner. Some kind of lacuna is there. When the production is going up, naturally, the income has also to go up, but it is not so. The hon. Minister may kindly explain.

There is another point. The hon. Minister said that for the iron ore, the cess rate is now 50 paise and for the manganese ore, it is Re. 1/-. For the iron ore, you can raise it upto Re. 1/- and for the manganese ore, you can raise it upto Rs. 6/- as per the Act, but the rate now stands at 50 paise and Re. 1/-. Before 1980, it was 25 paise. The price index of mineral primary articles which stood at 120 in 1970-81 went upto 1217 in 1980-81. That is, ten times in ten years. What is the static factor? The static factor is the Cess which is the amount given for the welfare of the workers. It has remained at annas eight from 1976. No increase is found there. I know that the Minister can argue the case like this: if you increase it, it will immediately affect the man who purchases it. But the totality of the cost of all goods is on the increase; and this Fund as he has said, would be utilized for medical and other facilities, the cost of which will also go up. For these items, the cost increase is a general one. That means the benefit will be reduced, naturally, to compensate the rate of cess has to be increased on this. So, the Minister must consider this.

As per the amending Act also, it is said that you may fix it as Rs. 6/- per metric tonne of chrome ore. The original Act also says that Rs. 6/- can be charged on manganese ore, and Re. 1/- on iron ore. So, I tell the Minister that there is a case for increase. You have now fixed Rs. 3/-

[Shri E. Balanandan]

For 6,000 workers, you are expecting Rs. 9 lakhs per annum. What can you do with this amount? You know it better than I do, being connected with the labour movement. But I submit that this rate has to be increased—twice or thrice. This may be considered by the Minister.

Coming to the expenditure side, the figures which I am having are like this. If at all some corrections are needed, I will stand corrected. The medical expenditure for 1978 was Rs. 43.66 lakhs; for 1979 Rs. 44.63 lakhs and for 1980 Rs. 54.31 lakhs. Thirty per cent, more or less, of the expenditure is on medical treatment. For how many workers? As I said, it is for 74,000 workers. Now you can add this 6,000 also. These miners are human beings. I submit that they are living in sub-human conditions.

I suggest one point about medical treatment, which the Minister may kindly consider. The money we are getting, according to this Act, is very little. So, the medical expenditure has to be directly borne by the management. The money saved can be utilised for other expenses like providing good water and housing etc.

Housing means what? The conception of housing for workers in the minds of Big Sahibs who are heading the coal and other mines in India, is nothing more than cattle sheds. It is not their mistake. Their total conception is like that. Since the money which we are getting is limited, I request the Minister to see that the medical expenditure is put on the employers directly.

What is the other expenditure? The total of housing expenditure in 1978 was Rs. 61.82 lakhs; in 1979 Rs. 49.03 lakhs and in 1980, Rs. 60.13 lakhs. And you can calculate how many houses can be constructed annually with this amount. We always hear a hue and cry about the shortage of houses. These mines are located in the isolated places. Majority of the workers cannot go and come back to their place of work even once in a month. They should stay near the place of work; and

for that there are no facilities. I do not say that big bungalows should be constructed for them, but at least the minimum conveniences should be assured for these workers.

When the Board and the regional committees are to be set up, I request the hon. Minister to see that the representation of the organised workers should be increased so that they will have some kind of direct intervention and supervision. According to the Act itself, one or two people are there, but for organised workers, the number of representatives should be increased. In our country, you and we talk about workers' management in industries; not only participation but they should manage the industries. Why can't the Government think in terms of at least 50 per cent representation in the Board and Committees for workers? The experts can be appointed by the Government, but if their representation is increased, then they can take care of their Housing and a little more attention can be paid to their medical expenditure and fund. No spending of money for the medical expenses from this fund: it should be spent by the management.

The Manganese India Ltd. is a Government of India concern. The Government of India is the custodian of law; they make laws. In Chhatisgarh before a month or two, the workers had to agitate for implementation of the Minimum Wages Act. The local management thought it is a law and order problem. They immediately called the police; and when the police came, and they had done it in the usual way. They shot and killed three workers. I am sorry to say this. In our country, where the Government is the employer, where the Government is the law maker and where the Government have to implement the law,—where the workers ask for implementation of the minimum wages, they are shot and killed. This may be looked into.

In the coal mines, fatal accidents are on the increase. There is a recommendation for safety of mines. The wooden props

which are being used in the underground mines, there is a recommendation to replace them by steel. That is not being done. It comes under your control. You are the man in charge of it, the custodian of our labourers' rights and privileges. Therefore, I request you to see that it should be implemented. We have heard recently an accident in which 15 workers died. What is the accident? The accident was due to a decayed wooden prop.

15.00 hrs.

The Coal India arranges through contractors wood worth Rs. 110 crores for these props, and that they supply very bad wood. That means death for the miners. Therefore, I request the Labour Minister to see—though it is not directly connected with the Bill as such it is your duty to see—that these recommendations are properly implemented. So, finally,—I do not want to make a big speech on this question, because this is a Bill which comes to our aid and help—I only request the Minister to see one thing.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He has made out many points. He has made a pointed speech.

SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Here the point is with regard to the coal miners and other miners, a little more humane treatment is to be given to them. Therefore, for the administration of this Act you should take proper care and the workers should be given more representation.

One small point, with regard to my State which comes under you. This, you may say is besides the point you are technical people; you are experts at that. I am not so much an expert. The Labour Ministry is the administering authority on agreements with regard to central labour. We have a factory, Fertilizers and Chemicals Factory—otherwise we have no factories in Kerala under the Central Sector, you know where there are 3,000 workers. After long negotiations we had some agreement. Out of 3,000 workers, 300 are belonging to Congress (I); they

are obstructing the production and the management is giving support to them. (Interruptions)

SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL (Ernakulam): That is a bluff! It is not relevant to the Bill also. (Interruptions)

SHRI E. BALANANDAN: I do not want to bluff here. I do not want to bluff also. I do not know how to bluff: I am only saying that the Minister may look into this and see that nobody should be allowed to break the agreement or flout the agreement, by which the national production will be hampered.

Lastly, I request the Minister to look into these things.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK (Cuttack): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I welcome and support the Bill for it brings about the welfare of chrome ore mine workers. The welfare of the workers is an important function of any welfare State. The Directive Principles of State Policy laid down in our Constitution speak of the welfare of the people in general and securing just and humane conditions for the workers in particular.

Ninety-two per cent of chrome ore deposits of the country are in Orissa. So, there is a large number of chrome ore workers in the State. I would, therefore, like to express my happiness and congratulate the Minister and the Government, as he has come forward with such a welfare measure for the chrome ore mine workers. The chrome ore mine workers number about 6,000 as against 50,000 iron ore mine workers. Moreover, these mines are in the same belt which is contiguous to iron ore mines. So it is proper to convert the welfare fund for iron ore and manganese ore mine workers into a joint fund to include chrome ore workers. If we take an average of three dependants per worker, the total number of beneficiaries of this joint fund will be about 24,000. Chrome is an important metal and its demand is increasing in our country as it is used in the production of

[Shrimati Jayanti Patnaik]

stainless steel. The demand for it in the country as also from abroad is increasing. There is a likelihood of expansion of the chrome mines. Naturally, the number of workers will also go up. So, the welfare fund created by this Act will be used in the same way as is being used in chrome and manganese ore mines. The welfare activities will include medical, drinking water, housing, public health, recreational and educational facilities.

The mining areas are mostly inhabited by the Adivasis. These people have been connected with the mining areas since their childhood in such a way that they cannot switch over to any other occupation like agriculture, etc. So, these areas are very sensitive areas and we should not lose any time in expanding welfare activities in these areas.

The major difficulty faced by different mine workers is that these funds being part of the Consolidated Fund, have been used more often as a budgetary support rather than ameliorating the conditions of the workers and for providing them with the widest amplitude of welfare activities at the earliest.

The welfare pattern is very well known. If you take the medical facilities, the hospitals generally are not equipped to deal with many diseases including injuries. 25 per cent of fatality occurs for want of proper medical facilities. Sometimes, the hospitals are situated at such a far off place—35 kms. from their place of residence—that the workers cannot make use of the facility. So, the medical facilities should be provided to them at their doorsteps, so that they can utilise those facilities. Besides that, mobile dispensaries should be provided in order to save the lives of the chrome ore mine labourers. They should be protected from the incidence of microbial diseases, water and air-borne diseases and occupational diseases. For that the welfare organisations should have to take a different approach altogether. Domiciliary treatment is not enough. Preventive aspect is the crux of the matter.

15.07 hrs.

[SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV in the Chair]

For that purpose, the mobile x-ray clinics should visit those places so that the labourers and women, who generally show an apathetic attitude towards the preventive aspect, can have their thorough x-ray check up automatically and regularly.

This is the decade of sanitation. In this decade, drinking water should be provided in an extensive way. There is a norm that one tube well be provided for 250 people. But in these areas, generally the workers do stay in a scattered way. So, this norm should not be applied in the tribal areas. The welfare fund should take care of it. The workers should be provided with enough housing facilities. Besides, there are so many facilities about which I have to tell you. But this is one of the points I have to raise here because my predecessor has already said that the number of labourers is gradually decreasing, specially, I think, in the iron ore mines, and this is a fact. I must say the problem of recession, glut and other economic phenomena affect the labourers who are rendered jobless for no fault of theirs. I shall give an example for this. For the last four years throughout the whole world, there is more decline in the export of iron ore. The export of iron ore through Paradeep port is sharply declining—you must have seen it—on account of which mines are being closed down and labourers are also rendered jobless for no fault of theirs. So, will the Welfare Fund come forward and will the Government come forward to correct this anomaly and do something? Of course, this is a policy matter and it has to be looked into. Besides, the Government have the policy to generate employment opportunities. About those labourers who have already been employed, the Government should see that they do not become jobless and besides this, I must say, I do not know whether this recession, glut and other economic phenomena affect this Welfare Fund or not because we have to raise Rs. 9 lakhs

which is of course not sufficient for 6,000 labourers. So, I ask whether this also affects the Welfare Fund or not.

Sir, the Government should also see that women and children are not exploited by the mine owners. I am saying this because a sizeable section of women are also engaged in iron ore mines. The Government should see that there should not be any discrimination in respect of equal employment opportunities and equal remuneration that should be provided to them. Besides this, through the Welfare Fund the Government should see that some vocations are provided to them. The day-care centres and creches should also be there. All such facilities should be extended to them.

Besides, the Minister has stated that scholarships will be given to children. But I must say, Sir, that the children of the tribal areas are not at all attracted by the educational facilities because they want to supplement the income of their families for which they are engaged in some sort of work. Either they work or they go to forests to collect wood and other forest products. So, some concrete steps should be taken, at least some greater incentives should be given to the parents so that they can send their children for schooling. In this connection, residential schools should also be provided. Unless residential schools are provided, as also food, clothing and other necessities of life, the children will neither be attracted to them nor will the parents send their children to schools. And even if they send their children for schooling, there will be many drop-outs later on. It is a fact that we are very particular about primary education. So, the Minister should take this into account.

In order to inculcate the welfare programme in these areas, there is a Labour Welfare Officer. I suggest that lady social workers should be appointed to promote welfare activities and also to co-ordinate the welfare programme of the different departments.

Besides, there is a provision of constituting State Advisory Boards to advise the Central Government in the matters arising out of administration of the Act and in matters relating to the implementation of the fund. There is also a Central Advisory Committee. It comprises of mine-owners, equal number of staff and workers. But one of the Advisory Board Members is supposed to be a woman. I must congratulate the Minister for making this provision. But in the Welfare Organisation like this there should be two women members because they understand matters much better than their counter-parts.

This fund like other welfare funds for mines will be administered in consultation with Regional Advisory Committees. There will also be a Central Advisory Committee to ensure their effective functioning to promote welfare measures for all sections of society comprising men, women and children.

With this, I support the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time allotted for this Bill is 1-1/2 hours. The Business Advisory Committee has taken into consideration that other important Bills have to be passed. This Bill relates to workers and certain other important things. To enable all the Members to speak on this Bill, Members may not take more than six to eight minutes. Otherwise it will be difficult to cope with the work.

The hon. Minister took eight minutes while introducing the Bill, whereas the hon. lady Member took fifteen minutes. The Members may restrict their speech to eight minutes only.

श्री जगन्नाथ सिंह (हरिद्वार) : सभापति महोदय, मैं इस बिल का समर्थन तो करूंगा ही, क्योंकि यह मजदूरों के कल्याण से संबंधित है। लेकिन एक बात मैं जरूर कहना चाहूंगा कि 35 साल की आजादी के बाद भी लोहे और मैंगनीज की खानों में काम करने वाले मजदूरों की हालत इतनी बदतर है कि उनको इन्सानों की श्रेणी में नहीं रखा जा सकता। इन्टरनेशनल आर्ग-

[श्री जगपाल सिंह]

नाइजेशन यहां पर आया और उसने रिपोर्ट दी कि हिन्दुस्तान में लोहे, कोयले और क्रोम की खानों में काम करने वाले मजदूरों की हालत दुनिया के हर मुल्क से बदतर है। उसने जगह-जगह जा कर अध्ययन किया और इस निष्कर्ष पर पहुंचा कि हिन्दुस्तान में कारखानों में काम करने वाले मजदूरों की हालत इतनी बदतर है कि उन्हें इन्सान की श्रेणी में नहीं रखा जा सकता।

35 साल की आजादी के दौरान हिन्दुस्तान में पूंजीवाद मजबूत हुआ है और इन्हीं मजदूरों और किसानों की खून पसीने की कमाई को चूस-चूस कर मजबूत हुआ है, जिनमें खानों में काम करने वाले मजदूर भी हैं, चाहे उन खानों के मालिक प्राइवेट ऑनर्ज रहे हों और चाहे सरकार रही हो। प्राइवेट ऑनर्ज ने मजदूरों की मेहनत की कमाई को चूस-चूस कर उनका अस्थि-पंजर बना दिया।

हिन्दुस्तान की खानों मजदूरों को आज स्वच्छ पानी भी न मिल पाए, सरकार के लिए इससे ज्यादा शर्म की बात और क्या हो सकती है? मैं समझता हूँ कि हिन्दुस्तान में पूंजीवाद और नौकर-शाह दलाल इतना मजबूत हो चुका है कि आज मंत्रियों के बस की बात भी नहीं रही है कि वे मजदूरों की हालत सुधार सकें। पीने के पानी के बारे में रिपोर्ट है कि बरसात के दिनों में खानों से जो बरसात का पानी बह कर निकलता है उसी को मजदूर इकट्ठा कर लेते हैं और उसी को अपने पीने के काम में लाते हैं, खाना उसी से बनाना पड़ता है। तो मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ, 35 साल की आजादी के बाद भी ऐसा इमपाटेंट काम इस तरह पड़ा रहे, यह किसी भी आधुनिक मुल्क के लिए जहां पर कच्चे लोहे का उत्पादन होता हो, अच्छी स्टील बनाने के लिए क्रोम जो इस्तेमाल होता है उसका उत्पादन होता हो, अच्छी स्टील दूरों की हालत इतनी बदतर बनी रहे तो हमें मुल्क के लिए इससे ज्यादा शर्म की बात और नहीं हो सकती है। और चीजों को छोड़ दीजिए, विलासिता की सुविधाएं नहीं, कम से कम उनके पीने के लिए स्वच्छ पानी को व्यवस्था कराइए।

मकान की स्थिति देखिए, जो खानों के पास में उनके भोंपड़े हैं वह भोंपड़े भी उन को खानों के पास नहीं डालने दिया जाता। मील दो मील उनके भोंपड़े पड़े हुए हैं। उन को उन भोंपड़ों से खानों तक लाने ले जाने के लिए कोई साधन, ट्रक या बस की व्यवस्था आणकी सरकार नहीं करवा पाई। आप की सरकार की जो सेफ्टी कमेटी है उस है, उसने कहा है कि इनके लाने ले जाने की व्यवस्था, कपड़े साफ करने के लिए साबुन की व्यवस्था हानी चाहिए। जो आदमी खान से बाहर निकल कर जाता है उसके बच्चे भी उसकी शकल को नहीं पहचान पाते। आप उनके लिए साबुन की व्यवस्था तो कीजिए ताकि वह खान से निकलने के बाद साबुन और तौलिए से अपना मुंह साफ कर ले और अपने बाल बच्चों में जाएं तो उनको उसकी शकल तो दिखाई दे कि यह मेरा बाप है, यह मेरा भाई है। ये छोटी-छोटी सुविधाएं हैं। आप इन की तरफ मानवीय दृष्टिकोण से देखिए। इन खानों को आप चलाते हैं तो आप यह कीजिए या प्राइवेट ऑनर्स हैं तो उनको आप वाइंड कीजिए कि इस तरह की सुविधाएं उनको देने की वह कोशिश करें।

शिक्षा की व्यवस्था की भी यही हालत है। मैं सरकार से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि कभी सर्वे आपने कराया है कि इन खानों में काम करने वाले मजदूरों के बच्चों की शिक्षा की स्थिति क्या है? प्राइमरी एजुकेशन की स्थिति क्या है? हायर एजुकेशन की बात तो छोड़ दीजिए। बी. ए. और पोस्ट ग्रेज्युएट में तो उनका कोई बच्चा किसी कालेज में नहीं पहुंच पाता। इसीलिए आप उनकी शिक्षा की व्यवस्था कीजिए। उन की खानों के पास में उनके बच्चों के लिए अच्छी शिक्षा दिलाने की व्यवस्था कीजिए। उनको आप फ्री एजुकेशन दिलाइए। सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट जा कर व्यवस्था करें। उनके बच्चों को हायर एजुकेशन दिलाने के लिए पैसों की और दूसरी सहायता देने की व्यवस्था करें ताकि आने वाले समय में यह पाप-लेशद ट्रेडीशनल न बने। एक बार जो इन के पुरखे काम करते थे आज भी वही काम इन खानों के अन्दर ये लोग कर रहे हैं।

आप की टकेनालाजी इन खानों से लोहा निकालने की इतनी बैकवर्ड है कि खान की खान ऊपर से गिर जाती है और मजदूर दब जाते हैं। रोज हम अखबारों में पढ़ते हैं कि फना जगह की खान के अंदर यह दुर्घटना हो गई। मैं मांग करूंगा कि इन खानों के अंदर काम करने वाले मजदूरों का ता-जिन्दगी जब तक उन का परिवार उस के अंदर है, रोजगार की गारंटी आप दीजिए। अगर किसी परिवार का कोई आदमी दुर्घटनाग्रस्त हो जाता है तो ता-जिन्दगी उस को रोजगार की गारंटी दीजिए। उस के लड़के को दीजिए, लड़का नहीं हो तो उस की बीवी को दीजिए। ये मानवीय दृष्टिकोण के काम हैं। कोई ज्यादा बड़े काम नहीं हैं। लेकिन अगर आप इन को नहीं कर पाते तो इन नौ लाख रुपयों से तो आप आंसू भी नहीं पछ पाएंगे। आप नौ लाख रुपयों की व्यवस्था करने जा रहे हैं, 74 लाख मजदूर तो आयरन ओर में काम करते हैं और 60 हजार क्रोम की खानों में काम करते हैं... (व्यवधान)...।

सभापति महोदय : वह कह रहे हैं कि 60 हजार नहीं 6 हजार मजदूर क्रोम की खानों में काम करते हैं।

श्री जगपाल सिंह : हमारे हिसाब से तो 60 हजार हैं। ठीक है, अपने आंकड़े वह देंगे। लेकिन मैं आप से कहूंगा कि इतनी छोटी राशि से आप क्या कल्याण के काम कर पाएंगे। लेकिन उन के लिए मकान की व्यवस्था कर पाएंगे? आप बड़े बड़े बंगलों की बात तो छोड़ दीजिए, एक छोटा कमरा, उरु के साथ लैट्रिन वाथरूम और पानी की व्यवस्था कीजिए। लेकिन यह भी आप इस राशि से कैसे करेंगे? मेरा यह कहना है कि सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट इस काम को करे। श्रम कल्याण निधि से आप यह नहीं कर पाएंगे। लेकिन उन के लिए मकान की व्यवस्था, आने जाने की व्यवस्था, शिक्षा की व्यवस्था, पीने के लिए पानी की व्यवस्था और उन के काम काज की व्यवस्था, उन के बाल बच्चों को दूसरे कामों में ले जा कर

निकालने की व्यवस्था आप को करनी चाहिए। उन के बाल बच्चों को आप इस गन्दे काम से निकालिए, उन को किसी और काम की तरफ ले जाइए ताकि वे अच्छा जीवन व्यतीत कर सकें।

इन खानों पर आप खास तौर से निगरानी रखें। आप के ठेकेदार उन का शोषण करते हैं। मिनिमम वेजेज एक्ट जो आप का है उस की कार्यान्विति भी आप उन से नहीं करवा पाए हैं। उन के काम के घंटे नहीं तय करा पाए हैं। 8-10 घंटे से ज्यादा उन से काम नहीं लिया जाना चाहिए। लेकिन मजदूर सबह काम पर जाता है और शाम को ठेकेदार उस को बाहर निकालता है। आप काम के घंटों पर ध्यान दीजिए और मिनिमम वेजेज एक्ट के तहत उनका वेज दिलाने की व्यवस्था कीजिए।

दूसरे मैं ठेकेदारों पर ज्यादा नहीं कहना चाहता हूँ क्योंकि रूलिंग पार्टियों में बिहार के शराब के ठेकेदार संसद सदस्य बनकर आए हैं, लेकिन वहां पर ठेकेदार जहरीली शराब कारखाने के मजदूरों को पिलाते हैं, जिस की वजह से मजदूरों की मृत्यु भी हो जाती है। इसलिए मेरा आपसे निवेदन है कि वहां जहरीली शराब बेचने पर प्रतिबंध लगाइए। जैसा कि मैं पहले ही कह चुका हूँ आप वहां अभी तक पीने के पानी की व्यवस्था नहीं करा पाए हैं। वहां मजदूरों का हर गेट पर पीने के लिए शराब मिलती है, ऐसी स्थिति में उन मजदूरों का भविष्य अंधकार में है। ऐसे ठेकेदारों के खिलाफ आपको कार्यवाही करनी चाहिए। दक निवेदन यह भी है कि वहां को-ऑपरेटिव सोसायटीज डवलप कीजिए, ताकि वे उन समितियों द्वारा अपने विकास के कार्य कर सकें।

सभापति महोदय, इन शब्दों के साथ मैं आपको धन्यवाद देता हूँ कि आपने मुझे बोलने के लिए समय दिया।

श्री राम सिंह यादव (अलवर) : माननीय सभापति महोदय, माननीय मंत्री महोदय ने जो विधेयक प्रस्तुत किए हैं, मैं उनका

[श्री राम सिंह यादव]

हार्दिक समर्थन करता हूँ। इन संशोधनों के माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी केवल कोई विस्तृत लाभकारी विधेयक उन मजदूरों के लिए नहीं ला सके हैं, केवल एक वर्ग को सुविधा देना चाहते हैं और वह वर्ग इन माइन्स में काम कर रहा है।

जहाँ तक मजदूरों का प्रश्न है, मजदूरों का वर्ग एक ऐसा वर्ग है, जो बहुत बड़ा वर्ग है और जिसको अभी तक हमारे जितने भी कानून हैं, उनसे उनको किंचित लाभ भी नहीं मिल सका है। यह अन-आर्गेनाइज्ड-रूरल-लेबर है, चाहे वह खान में काम करता हो, चाहे खेत में काम करता हो, चाहे ट्रांसपोर्ट में काम करता हो या और किसी जगह पर काम करता हो, उनके लिए किसी प्रकार की कोई गारन्टी स्कीम नहीं है और उनको किसी तरह की सुविधाएं इस कानून के माध्यम से नहीं मिल पाती हैं। संविधान की धारा-43 के तहत भी अभी तक उनको कोई भी सुविधा नहीं मिल सकती है। मैं आपसे निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि आप मजदूरों के हित में साँचने वाले व्यक्ति हैं, चिन्तनशील हैं, मननशील हैं और आप का इरादा भी है मजदूरों को अधिक से अधिक लाभ देने का। लेकिन हिन्दुस्तान के अंदर करीब सात करोड़ अन-आर्गेनाइज्ड लेबर हैं और उनको आप अभी तक कोई भी सुविधा नहीं दे सके हैं। इस ओरिजनल एक्ट में भी आपने ऐसा कहीं भी प्रावधान नहीं किया है। कहीं-कहीं ऐसा भी होता है कि किसी किसी खान में कम आदमी काम करते हैं, मान लीजिए 20 आदमी कम करते हैं, जो कि अन-आर्गेनाइज्ड है, उनको किस तरह का लाभ मिलेगा, इसका प्रावधान जब तक आप नहीं करेंगे, तब तक मजदूरों को लाभ नहीं मिल सकता है।

खास तौर से एक दूसरी प्रब्लम रूरल लेबर के साथ अन-एम्प्लायमेंट की है, यह भी खास कर खेत में काम करने वाले मजदूरों के साथ पैदा होती है। जब एग्रीकल्चर अपरेशन समाप्त हो जाता है, तब उनको रोजगार नहीं मिलता है। उनके लिए अभी

तक आपने कोई व्यवस्था नहीं की है, जिस की वजह से देश की इकानॉमि में, कन्ट्री की इकानॉमि में, कोई सुधार नहीं हो सका है। मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि आपके जितने भी लेबर-लाज हैं, उन लेबर-लाज में आपने जितनी भी सुविधाएं देने का प्रावधान किया है, क्या वास्तविक रूप में उनको वे सुविधाएं मिलती हैं? मैं आपका ध्यान एक विशेष बात की ओर आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ, आप तो जानते ही हैं कि हमारे देश में लेबर्स की तादाद कितनी है, उनमें से ऐसे कितने लोगों के दच्चे हैं जो प्रोविंशियल सर्विसेज या नेशनल सर्विसेज में आ सके हैं। न आज तक कोई आई. ए. एस. बन सका है और न ही आज तक कोई पी. सी. एस. बन सका है। इसका कारण यह है कि आज तक उनकी शिक्षा की समुचित व्यवस्था नहीं की गई है। लेकिन जहाँ पर आपके सरकारी कर्मचारी रहते हैं या दूसरे बड़े लोग रहते हैं, वहाँ सेंट्रल स्कूल की व्यवस्था कर दी जाती है। लेकिन अगर मजदूर रहते हैं और उनकी कितनी ही बड़ी कालोनी हो, तो वहाँ पर आप सेंट्रल स्कूल नहीं खोलना चाहते हैं, सेंट्रल स्कूल की फैसेलिटी नहीं देना चाहते। यह आप के दृष्टिकोण में एक बहुत बड़ा अंतर है और उस अंतर को अगर आप दूर नहीं करेंगे, तो मजदूरों का हित नहीं होगा। जैसा कि मेरे से पूर्व-वक्ताओं ने कहा है कि मजदूरों की संख्या घटती जा रही है और मजदूर अधिक से अधिक संख्या में यह चाहते हैं कि हम इस तरफ न जाएं। इस का कारण यह है कि जो सुविधाएं वास्तव में उन के लिए निर्धारित की हैं, वे सुविधाएं वास्तव में उन को नहीं मिलती हैं।

हमारे जो लेबर लाज हैं, उन में सब से बड़ा अभाव, सब से बड़ी कमी यह है कि हम जितने भी फंड क्रीएट करते हैं और मजदूरों के नाम पर उन के हित के लिए क्रीएट करते हैं, वास्तव में जिस उद्देश्य से पैसा इकट्ठा करते हैं, संग्रह करते हैं, उस पैसे का उस तरह से इस्तेमाल न हो कर केवल अधिकारीगण या व्यवस्था के नाम

पर वह खर्च हो जाता है। जब तक आप इस खर्च पर कंट्रोल नहीं करेंगे, तब तक ऐसा ही चलता रहेगा। आप की जो लेबर मिनिस्ट्री है, उस में इस बात की समीक्षा की जाए कि इस तरह का जो पैसा इकट्ठा किया जाता है, पैसा इकट्ठा किया जाता है, वह अफसरों पर कितना खर्च होता है और ट्रेड यूनियन के लीडरों पर, उनके अधिकारियों पर कितना खर्च होता है और मजदूरों के हितों के कामों पर वास्तव में कितना खर्च होता है। क्या कभी आप ने इस तरह का एकात्मिक सर्वे किया है, आर्थिक सर्वेक्षण किया है। आप अगर इस का आर्थिक सर्वेक्षण करवाएंगे तो आप का पता चलेगा कि उस का बहुत बड़ा अंश दूसरों पर खर्च होता है। और मजदूरों के हितों के कामों पर बहुत कम खर्च होता है।

मैं यह भी कहना चाहता हूँ कि चंस्ट की बीमारी, इन माइंस में काम करने वाले मजदूरों में बहुत अधिक होती है। टी बी और अस्थमा और दूसरे जो ऐसे रोग हैं, इन रोगों को दूर करने के लिए आप नियमित रूप से कोई व्यवस्था करें, जिस से इन लोगों की जो आने वाली पीढ़ी है, जो इन के बच्चे हैं और परिवार के दूसरे सदस्य हैं, वे प्रभावित न हो सकें। इस के लिए आपको समुचित रूप से ऐसी व्यवस्था करनी चाहिए कि उन का वीकली या वार्ड-वीकली या मंथली-चैक हो और उन को इस के बाद पूरी सुविधाएं मिलनी चाहिए। आज मजदूरों को मैडीकल फीस-लिटीज के मामले में बहुत निगलैक्ट किया जाता है और उन की सही तौर पर देख-रेख नहीं होती है।

एक सब से बड़ी अभाव की चीज जो मजदूरों के साथ है और जिस की वजह से न तो उन का स्वास्थ्य अच्छा रह सकता है और न उनकी शिक्षा अच्छी हो सकती है और वे देश के स्वस्थ नागरिक नहीं बन सकते हैं, वह है मकान का अभाव। उन को मकान की सुविधाएं देने के बारे में न तो मैनेजमेंट चिन्तित है, न एम्प्लायर चिन्तित रहता है और न सरकार

चिन्तित रहती है, जिस की वजह से मजदूरों को हटस में रहना पड़ता है, जिन की हालत बहुत खराब होती है। यही कारण है कि उन की प्रगति सही तरीके से नहीं होती है। हमारे संविधान में जो लक्ष्य है और हमारी प्रधान मंत्री, माननीय श्रीमती गांधी ने जो लक्ष्य रखा है, वह आर्टिकल 43(ए) में दिया हुआ है। उस में यह लिखा हुआ है :

“43A. The State shall take steps, by suitable legislation or in any other way to secure the participation of workers in the management of undertakings, establishments, or other organisations engaged in any industry.”

इस लक्ष्य की प्राप्ति के लिए अभी समय लगेगा लेकिन इस के पहले वाला जो आर्टिकल है, आर्टिकल 43, कम से कम उस की पूर्ति के लिए तो आप कुछ करें। आप लेबर को क्या सुविधाएं देने जा रहे हैं। यह आप का कोई डोमैस्टिक ला नहीं है, यह कांस्टीट्यूशनल ला है और कांस्टीट्यूशनल गारंटी लेबर को दी गई है। इस कांस्टीट्यूशनल गारंटी को देने में कोई हिचकिचाहट हो या सही तरीके से उस का इम्प्लीमेंटेशन न हो, तो मैं समझता हूँ कि यह लेबर के साथ न्याय नहीं होगा। आर्टिकल 43 में यह दिया हुआ है :

“43. The State shall endeavour to secure, by suitable legislation or economic organisation or in any other way, to all workers, agricultural, industrial or otherwise, work a living wage conditions of work ensuring a decent standard of life and full employment of leisure and social and cultural opportunities and, in particular, the State shall endeavour to promote cottage industries on an individual or co-operative basis in rural areas.

इसमें मैं जो सिद्धान्त दिए हुए हैं, जिन को प्रतिपादित हमारे संविधान-निर्माताओं ने किया है, उन को आप पूरा करने का प्रयत्न करेंगे ऐसी आशा मैं करता हूँ।

[श्री राम सिंह यादव]

अंत में मैं दाँ सुझाव देना चाहूँगा । एक तो यह है कि माइंस और मिनरल्स इंडस्ट्री में काम करने वाले जो मजदूर हैं, उन के लिए अलग-अलग कानून बन हुए हैं । और का अलग है, आइरन-ओर का अलग है और डोलोमाइट का अलग कानून बना हुआ है । क्या आप यह गंभीरतापूर्वक सोचेंगे कि जितने भी माइनिंग लेबर हैं और जिस की तादाद इस देश के अन्दर लगभग 20 लाख है, उन सब के लिए आप एक कानून देंगे जिस से उन को समीचित रूप से जो लाभ आप उन को देना चाहते हैं वह उन को मिल सके और जिस तरह से उन की कंडीशन्स में आप सुधार लाना चाहते हैं, वह सुधार आ सके । उनकी स्थिति में, उनकी ट्रेड यूनियन में मजबूती आए, वे सशक्त बनें ।

दूसरे मैं निवेदन करना चाहूँगा कि आप ऐसा उपाय सोचें जिस से कि देहातों में काम करने वाली असंगठित लेबर को भी ऐसी सुविधाओं का लाभ मिल सके ।

मिनिमम वीजज कानून को इम्प्लीमेंट करने के लिए, एन्फोर्स करने के लिए भी आप कोई सशक्त एवं प्रभावशाली कदम उठाएँ ।

इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं, जो विधेयक मंत्री जी ने सदन में प्रस्तुत किए हैं, उनका समर्थन करता हूँ ।

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI (Bhubaneswar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, as one who has associated himself with the organization of workers in iron, manganese and chrome ore mines in Orissa for the last years, I feel that we are at least one step ahead today when these Iron Ore Mines and Manganese Ore Mines Labour Welfare Cess (Amendment) Bill and the Iron Ore Mines and Manganese Ore Mines Labour Welfare Fund (Amendment) Bill have been extended to the workers of Chrome ore mines.

Last year we came in a delegation and met the Union Labour Minister and others and we urged upon them the need to increase the minimum wages of workers in

chrome ore mines and we also urged upon them to include chrome ore in the Welfare Cess and Welfare Fund. We demanded that last year, and we are happy that today the government has come forward with such a measure.

It is one of the Directive Principles of State Policy which enjoins on all of us that we shall have to assure better living conditions for the working class. Today it has become more important because our hon. Prime Minister has said in the 20-point economic programme that the weaker sections of the society deserve more consideration and more concessions from the Government. If you analyse the composition of the working class so far as mines are concerned—iron, manganese, dolomite, limestone chrome, etc.—you will find that about 75 per cent of the workers belong to the weaker sections of the society. Therefore, I must say that it is at least a step ahead in the direction towards which we want to move.

I would like to point out one thing here. The mine workers—I have lived with them for many years because I started my public life organizing this working class—form a class by themselves; you cannot compare them with other kinds of workers because they have to live and work in remote areas where none of the modern or urban facilities exists. Coal, mica iron ore, dolomite, limestone, manganese mine workers were covered under the welfare measures previously. In 1963, the Iron ore Cess Fund Act was enacted. Now this is being extended to chrome. In Orissa, in chrome ore mines about 5,000 workers are working. The total number is about 6,000. I think, 95 per cent of the workers of chrome ore mines work in Orissa.

In this connection I would like to submit before the Government that, instead of bringing this kind of piecemeal extension of welfare measures—first it was coal, then iron ore, then manganese, dolomite, limestone and now chrome ore—there should be a comprehensive legislation covering all the mineral ores.

I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that in Orissa, in one

place, Kurdha, granite stone quarrying and granite stone crushing mills employ about 7,000 workers, and there mostly minor children and women belonging to weaker sections work. Why not gradually the Government of India should consider to expand these facilities by bringing in these granite stone and stone crushing quarries which are becoming a major industry today because of therapid development of building construction and road development work. I think this should also be taken into consideration.

Here I would also like to point out one thing. One disquieting feature is that in 1976, the total number of workers in the iron ore mines were about 52,000 in the entire country. In 1980, that was reduced to 39,000. Similarly, in manganese ore mine, the workers' number was 28,000 in 1976 but in 1980, they have been reduced to 23,000. In chromite ore mine, the number of workers was 6,000. If you look at these things, you will find that in many places, the number of workers either in iron ore or in manganese ore mines is being reduced and, even the chromite ore mines) the mine owners look to the price in the international market. It is like gold. The chromite ore is fetching a very good price. In Orissa, you will find that some of the chromite mine-owners have stopped raising of the mines because the price in the international market had fallen. They have reduced the number of workers also. In Orissa, in the iron-ore mines thousands of workers are being retrenched because the mines were stopped. In Paradip itself, about 2 to 3 million tonnes of ores are lying because the ships are not coming to the Paradip Port. Many of the workers in these mines are tribals who have been retrenched now.

When our main aim is to achieve the economic amelioration of the weaker sections of the society, how to prevent the retrenchment of the workers? I hope the Government will take this into consider-

ation. About the administration of the funds, in 1976, the total accumulation, if I am not correct, the Minister will correct me, was about Rs. 3.50 crores. Now, what is the total accumulation in the iron ore, manganese ore, dolomite and limestone fund? I must say that the hon. Members should not go by the impression that the cess fund is one of the biggest achievements of the Government. It is only a supplementing effort of the Government. I hope the hon. Minister will do well if he places before the House some information both by States and the Centre as to how much of benefit has come to these workers by various welfare measures undertaken by Governments in the matter of medical help, education, drinking water facilities and health care. This is a very limited fund running to Rs. 1.80 crores. I hope the Government will do well if they highlight on what is the total benefit that they are giving to these workers.

Sir, I will take two to three minutes more. My point is that the administration of this fund should be looked into. My personal experience is this. You have your advisory committees; you have regional advisory committees and the central advisory committees. Who are the members on the regional advisory committees? How many times do they sit? Will the hon. Minister present a report to the House on how many times they met and what kind of welfare measures were undertaken by these Committees etc.? Was it discussed by the workers' council at all? I think it has not been discussed at all. The hon. Minister will try to see that at least they meet once in a month or once in two or three months. These regional committees should mostly be represented by the workers themselves. They should also sit in the general body meetings and discuss what kind of welfare measures should be undertaken for the year 1982-83 or 1983-84. They should themselves discuss these and finalise these. They should themselves say what are the welfare measures which they need immediately. If these are

[Shri Chintamani Panigrahi]

implemented, then the workers will feel that they are part and parcel of the cess fund operation. They will also feel encouraged and inspired that they participate in the management of these funds. Therefore, both at the regional level and at the central level, these committees should be reconstituted and the frequency of these meetings should be ensured and the accounting matters should be placed before the general body meeting. I have seen in one place a very big building being constructed in the name of welfare measures for the workers. But, what happened? I think only the officers went there. How can the tribal people visit this building since they will have no time to go to this building at all. They must have spent not less than 3 million rupees for the construction of this big building constructed out of this fund. Therefore, the hon. minister, coming from the trade unionists, will at least apply his mind to see that every pie from this fund is spent only for the benefit of the workers, for the welfare of the working-class people. I have seen in Dhanbad and other coal mining belt area—even in my own area—a lot of exploitation is going on. In 1957-58 a committee was appointed to look into this exploitation and they found the mining workers and their families are being robbed by the Sahukars and moneylenders. So, Sir, why not we see that in all the welfare measures which are adopted the workers themselves participate in these measures and thus feel that Government is doing something for them?

Lastly, Sir, I would like to know during the last 3 years from the Cess Fund how much they aimed at and how much they spent on different welfare measures like education etc. Sir, I think among the welfare activities the major thing that should be included today—whether it is possible or not it is for the Government to consider—that rice is selling at Rs. 3.70 per Kg. in Orissa. It is impossible for a common man to buy rice at such high price. Why not the cooperative stores in which the workers themselves participate and sell these commodities so that they are

not exploited by the middlemen? With these few words I commend this Bill and I am happy that the hon. Minister has brought this Bill. I fully support this Bill.

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री (पटना): हम लोग एक साथ दो विधेयकों पर विचार कर रहे हैं। एक लौह अयस्क खान तथा मैंगनीज अयस्क खान श्रम कल्याण उपकर संशोधन विधेयक है और दूसरा लौह अयस्क खान तथा मैंगनीज अयस्क खान श्रम कल्याण निधि संशोधन विधेयक है। एक बात मैं सैस सम्बन्धी विधेयक के सम्बन्ध में कहना चाहता हूँ। यह बात एक आध माननीय सदस्य ने पहले भी कही है। इनके प्रस्ताव के मुताबिक जो सैस लगाया जा रहा है वह ज्यादा से ज्यादा छः रुपए होगा। अभी इन्होंने तीन रुपए ही इसको किया है लेकिन ज्यादा से ज्यादा ये छः रुपए तक इसको ले जाएंगे। मेरा संशोधन है कि इसमें कुछ वृद्धि होनी चाहिए और दस रुपए तक इसको ले जाया जाना चाहिए। यह अधिकतम सीमा कर दी जानी चाहिए। इनको पैसा कल्याण कार्यों के लिए चाहिए। इस तरीके से अभी जो पैसा इनको मिलेगा वह नौ लाख होगा। छः हजार मजदूरों के कल्याण कार्यों के लिए यह बहुत ही अपर्याप्त है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि इस सीमा को बढ़ाया जाए। कुछ क्रोम बाहर जाएगा, निर्यात होगी उससे ये कस्टम ड्यूटी वसूल करेंगे और जो यहां बिकेगा उससे एक्साइज ड्यूटी वसूल की जाएगी। मैं चाहता हूँ कि इस में वृद्धि इस प्रकार से की जानी चाहिए।

श्रम कल्याण निधि सम्बन्धी विधेयक के बारे में मैं दो तीन बातें कहना चाहता हूँ।

किसी भी खान में काम करने वाले मजदूर हों, चाहे वह लोहे की खान हो या कोयले, क्रोम और मैंगनीज की खान हों, उनका काम सब से ज्यादा मेहनत का है और उन्हें शारीरिक श्रम भी बहुत अधिक करना पड़ता है, क्योंकि सब जगह मैकेनाइजेशन के जरिए काम नहीं हो रहा है। इसलिए इन लोगों की स्थिति बड़ी दयनीय है।

इन्हें पाँचक भोजन और दूसरी आवश्यक सुविधाएँ नहीं मिलती, इसलिए वे बीमारियों के भी शिकार होते हैं। इनके काम की स्थिति को देखते हुए इनकी विशेष सहायता करनी चाहिए।

प्रश्न यह है कि इन मजदूरों के स्वास्थ्य, खेल-कूद, शिक्षा और आवास आदि कल्याण-कार्यों के लिए जो कानून बनाया जा रहा है, उसका कार्यान्वयन ठीक से हो पाता है या नहीं, जो भी सीमित निधि सरकार के पास होगी, मजदूरों के लिए उसका ठीक से उपयोग हो पाता है या नहीं। इस निधि में वृद्धि करने का काम तो है ही, लेकिन जिन लोगों के लिए यह निधि बनाई जा रही है, उन तक उसका लाभ पहुँचें, मैं समझता हूँ कि यह सब से बड़ा काम है। सब लोग जानते हैं कि उन की स्थिति बहुत खराब है। हम शहरों में देखते हैं कि शिक्षा की स्थिति बहुत असंतोषजनक है। तो खानों में तो वह और भी अधिक असंतोषजनक हो सकती है।

मुझे खानों का अधिक अनुभव नहीं है, केवल एक दो जगह का अनुभव है। जैसे, जमशेदपुर में किरिबुरू आयरन ओर की खान के बारे में मुझे थोड़ी सी जानकारी है कि वहाँ पर आवास, स्वास्थ्य-सेवाओं और पीने के पानी की व्यवस्था संतोषजनक नहीं है। सरकार भी मानती है कि वह उस संतोषजनक स्थिति में नहीं पहुँचा सकती है। एक और खान का मुझे अनुभव है। हमारे सूबे में रोहतास जिले में अमभारे में गंधक की खान है। मैं वहाँ की एक यूनियन का अध्यक्ष भी हूँ। मुझे कभी-कभी वहाँ जाने का मौका मिलता है। इस बात का ध्यान रखना होगा कि इस पैसे का इस्तेमाल उन लोगों के कल्याण के लिए हो और इसमें भ्रष्टाचार की गुंजाइश न हो। आज भ्रष्टाचार सब जगह फैल गया है। मजदूरों के लिए काम करने वाले संस्थानों में भी भ्रष्टाचार है। उदाहरण के लिए प्राविडेंट फंड के कार्यालय मजदूरों के लिए बने हैं। अगर मजदूर न रहे, तो उनकी क्या जरूरत है, लेकिन वहाँ भी भ्रष्टाचार है। अधिकारी भी भ्रष्टाचार में लिप्त हैं और कुछ गड़बड़ी

श्रमजीवी खुद भी करते हैं, जो प्राविडेंट फंड सम्बन्धी काम कराने के लिए मजदूरों से पैसे मांगते हैं। अधिकारी खुले तौर पर ऐसा करते हैं। सरकार का इन बातों की जानकारी होती है, लेकिन उन्हें पकड़ा नहीं जाता है। इस फंड में भी ऐसी स्थिति पैदा हो सकती है और गड़बड़ की गुंजाइश हो सकती है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि सरकार की निगाह इस तरफ रहे।

कभी कभी देखने का मिलता है कि इस योजना को कार्यान्वित करने के लिए जो सलाहकार समिति बनाई जाती है, उस पर काफी ज्यादा पैसा खर्च किया जाता है। इस बिल में कहा गया है कि निधि इकट्ठी करने का खर्च इसी से लिया जाएगा। आप ने कहा कि हाफ परसेंट लेकिन वह भी इस से क्यों? इस में तो और आप का एड करना चाहिए पर इसमें आप वसूलने का खर्च भी निकालना चाहते हैं? मैं समझता हूँ कि यह मुनासिब नहीं है। यह पैसा जिन के लिए आप वसूल कर रहे हैं उन्हीं पर खर्च हो, यह मेरा कहना है।

दूसरी बात जो गड़बड़ी करे उसके खिलाफ कानूनी कार्यवाही में कोताही नहीं होनी चाहिए।

श्री जमीलुर्रहमान : स्ट्राइक नहीं होनी चाहिए।

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : स्ट्राइक तो हांगी ही जमीलुर्रहमान साहब, उस से आप कैसे बच सकिएगा? ... (व्यवधान) ... सप लीजिए, यहाँ आप लड़िएगा कि आप की तनख्वाह बढ़े तो वहाँ मजदूर नहीं लड़ेगा? जब उसकी तनख्वाह नहीं बढ़ेगी तो वह हड़ताल करेगा ही। ... (व्यवधान) ... बिल्किल मैं प्रोडक्शन की बात भी कर रहा हूँ। मैं इन दोनों विधेयकों का समर्थन करूँगा। मैं यह कह रहा हूँ कि ये सारे काम कीजिएगा तो यह प्रोडक्शन में बाधक नहीं सहायक होगा और प्रोडक्शन बढ़ेगा। प्रोडक्शन तो मजदूरों का अलग कर के नहीं बढ़ेगा। उन की कठिनाइयों

[श्री रामावतार शास्त्री]

को दूर करिएगा तो वह जरूर ठीक से काम करेंगे ।

मेरा मतलब यह है कि इस में अगर कोई गैर कानूनी काम करे, गलत काम करे, मजदूर विरोधी काम करे तो ऐसे लोगों के विरुद्ध कार्यवाही होनी चाहिए । इस दिशा में आप ने कुछ किया है तो थोड़ा सदन को बताइए ताकि हम लोग आश्वस्त हो सकें कि इस तरह के कानूनों की कार्यान्विति में जो कठिनाइयां हैं उन को हम ने इस तरह से हल किया है या जरूरत पड़ी है किसी के खिलाफ कार्यवाही करने की तो हमने इस तरह से किया है । मजदूर वर्ग को इस में विश्वास होगा ।

अन्तिम बात मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि बहुत तरह की माइन्स हैं, तमाम तरह की माइन्स के मजदूरों को मिला कर उन के लिए एक तरह का कल्याणकारी कानून क्यों नहीं बनाते ? यह अलग-अलग सब बना रहे हैं । हम समर्थन भी कर रहे हैं । लेकिन हमारी समझ से एक साथ बनाइए तो अच्छा रहेगा । आप को भी पीसमील में नहीं लाना पड़ेगा और हम लोगों को भी बार-बार बोलना नहीं पड़ेगा । आप एक बार सब के लिए एक साथ लाइए और हम भी एक बार बोल लें । कानून तो बड़े अच्छे अच्छे बने हुए हैं किताबों में । सबाल है उन के कार्यान्वयन का । अगर ठीक से उन को लागू करेंगे तो जरूर समर्थन मिलेगा और नहीं करेंगे तो हड़ताल जमील-रहमान साहब के लाख नहीं चाहने पर भी होगी । . . . (व्यवधान) . . . बाहर भी मैं यही बात बोलूंगा । मैं इस विचार का हूँ कि मजदूरों को अपनी ड्यूटी भी करनी चाहिए । मैं यह नहीं कहता कि यह खाली मांग रखें और काम करे । कम से कम आइ टी यू सी ने कभी ऐसा नहीं कहा और मैं ए आइ टी यू सी का जवाबदेह सदस्य हूँ । इसलिए मैं यह कह रहा हूँ । बिहार में तो ए आइ टी यू सी के मातहत ही हम लोग काम कर रहे हैं और यही वहाँ कर रहे हैं । हम जवाबदेही से काम करते हैं । हम चाहते हैं कि देश का उत्पादन भी बढ़े

देश भी बढ़े लेकिन हम यह भी चाहते हैं कि मजदूरों की कठिनाइयां भी दूर हों । इसी के लिए आप यह बिल लाए हैं इसलिए मैं इस का समर्थन करता हूँ ।

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY (Bombay North-East): Sir, the Bill is of limited import and, therefore, one cannot really object to it because the Objects and Reasons make it clear that this step is in the right direction, however small it is. Knowing the hon. Minister for quite some time, the Minister is by no means reactionary. He always sides with labour when he is not a Minister. But unfortunately, the company he keeps with is such that he has been forced to bring before Parliament a series of anti-labour measures. I would like to take this opportunity to say a little than just about the Bill. I would like to bring to the notice of the House the general climate that is being built against the labour.

16.00 hrs.

I am also not anti-labour; in fact, my constituency in Bombay is the poorest part of Bombay and 75 per cent are factory workers, and another 15 per cent are low-paid office employees, and in every election, I had to face some big trade union leader. In 1977, I had to face the General Secretary of INTUC, Raja Kulkarni and I had to defeat him, and in 1980, Datta Samant was the candidate against me.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA (Pon-nani): How is it all relevant to the Bill?

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: I am preparing the ground. I will come to Lebanon and Israel in a minute; do not worry.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): Tell him that even an aeroplane has to walk for some distance before it takes off.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: That is right.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But when you come to Israel and Lebanon, you must oppose Israel.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: Of course; I am totally oppose to Israel, but that does not mean that I am opposed to making friends with Israel. I oppose their policy, like I am opposed to your policy, but I am your friend.

Now, really the question is whether there will be a fundamental change in the livelihood of the workers in these industries because of this Bill or because what the Minister proposes to bring in the coming days or in the next session. That is the real question. Statistically, I have seen for many industries including the iron-ore mining industry, that the share of wages, measured in real terms in the total distributed revenue has been consistently coming down since 1965, and, therefore, the share of workers in the national product also has come down. I do not know of any country in the world, where the share of wages and salaries has actually come down. In the United States, a capitalist country, in Japan and England, the share of wages of workers has been consistently going up. The share of wages in England, for example, today in the national product is something close to 73 per cent of the national product, whereas in India, the share of wages in the national product is only 35 per cent. Twenty years ago, it was somewhere close to 50 per cent and it has come down despite all the progressive legislations that one talks of and despite the 20-Point programme which Shri Chintamani Panigrahi talks of. How is it that the share of wages in the national product for workers has come down? And it has been happening in every industry. I would like the Minister to see the Labour Bureau statistics, and the real wages, deflated by a genuine cost of living index, not the one they put out, which has all kinds of fraudulent ways, plus the prices that they use—some of them are controlled prices. If the cost of living is calculated on the basis of proper market retail prices, and the money wage is divided by that, we will get the real wages. I will take a challenge, and I will show it to you, Sir, that the real wage today is less than what it was in 1960.

Again, Sir, this is unprecedented that the real wage has declined in terms of *per capita* consumption of edible oil, pulses etc. Therefore, it is not proper for us to go and tell the workers: "Do not agitate, do not strike, do not go on hartal etc." They will do it under the most repressive system, as Shastriji knows what is happening in Poland.

SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI: Of course, I know, but don't you know also the situation there?

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: I would not go and tell the workers, that they should not go on strike. Take the Bombay Textile strike. Honestly, it is a matter of great regret that the wages of the most inefficient textile mills are the same as the wages of the most efficient mills in Bombay. How can you justify this? Bombay Dyeing pays almost the same rates as some of the 'broke' textile mills. You cannot tell the workers that they should not get a wage rise. This is wrong. Despite all the propaganda, the productivity of workers has been going up consistently at the rate of 3 per cent per year, whereas the real wages has been coming down. This I can prove with statistics; if the Minister calls a seminar I will come with white paper to establish all this. I have been a Professor of Economics. If he arranges for a special debate, I would be very happy to produce all the facts. Therefore, this is the question.

The second part of this is that the fruits of the labour of such workers in iron-ore are not filtered down to the workers. Shastriji has rightly said that these mining workers have to do a lot of physical labour at great physical risk. Now, their products are getting exported. Take for instance Iron-ore. Today lot of exports are taking place in iron-ore. Forty million tonnes is the production of iron and steel. Vast amount of it is being exported. In fact, in the case of Kudremukh according to the agreement the whole mountain was to be exported. And the quality of the iron-ore is top-class. Recently Japan, which imported iron-ore from us paid a bonus of something like Rs. 12 crores, because the quality of iron-ore was higher than we

[Dr. Subramaniam Swamy]

stipulated in our contract. Therefore, out of their guilty conscience, they said, all right we have earned better than what we have bargained for, we give you bonus. But none of that filters back. This is the important thing. Therefore, we have to look into that context. Not so much, 45 paise so much or from Rs. 6/- he wants to raise Rs. 10/-. It is not the question. The question is, there is the fruit of labour. It is getting translated. It is getting exported. Recently the export price of all these products actually had gone up. They have gone up from 12 dollars per tonne for iron-ore to 16 dollars per tonne, but none of them is reflected in the wages of workers. So, how can you ask the workers to keep quiet? They may not understand the sophisticated economics, but they certainly understand such simple and straight forward arithmetics, particularly in view of the fact that during the last three or four years, there has been now a fundamental change.

AN HON. MEMBER: What happened during the Janata regime?

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: I will not defend everything. In two and a half years we did more than these people have done in 30 years. If we are in power for 30 years, we will create revolution in the country. You wait for some more time. Next elections are coming very soon. There we will show.

The other point is that Government not only in the export sector, but locally....

AN HON. MEMBER: What a wishful thinking;

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: We live on wishful thinking.

AN HON. MEMBER: You carry on with your wishful thinking.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: We were complacent like you. We used to say to Congressmen: 'You will never come back. But you did come back.' So, take lesson from our complacency.

Along with the fact that the value earned in exports is not being translated back to the workers, take also the internal position. Is it not a fact that the prices of steel, pig iron, everything has been de-regulated? Now there is no control on them. As a consequence, profits of Tatas and all these big owners have gone up very substantially. Their share in the market has boomed. But has it been translated back? Why has this not been translated back? Therefore, I would like the Government to monitor in those respects, not that whenever the workers say we want so much, then you start negotiating with them, then you try to break their strike. That is not the way. You should have a constant monitoring unit which looks at all these and all these breakdowns. And then what is due to them should be given to them without their asking. If you do that, as it is in Japan, there will be hardly any strike. I don't think the workers want to go on strike. In fact, when I go to the houses of textile workers, their women are are unhappy. Many of them are in tears. They say their husbands are sitting at home, doing nothing. They want them to work. I have not seen any worker willingly wanting to go on strike. But when they are faced at a dead end, this is what happens. A little sympathy from the Government and this kind of analysis of what is their due coming automatically would produce the right climate in which the workers feel a share in the production.

Therefore, Sir, while supporting the Bill, I must express great regret at the anti-labour tone that has been set by this Government.

SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL (Ernakulam): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Bill seeks two things. One is to convert the existing welfare fund so that the chrome can also be included. The second is to impose excise and customs duty at a rate. There is a universal support for these Bills from every quarter of this House on these two subjects.

I have two reasons to support the Bill. One, is that it will reduce the administra-

tive expenses considerably and second, there will be a uniform welfare activity in the field of mining.

The welfare of the Labour is in the Concurrent List, Entry 24; and mines and minerals are controlled or regulated by the Union List, Entry 54 and 55. And also the State List 23 is subject to the entry 54 and 55 of the Union List. So, the three propositions I put before the House are: (1) Has the Government contemplated the nationalization of the entire mining industry? I have been demanding this in this House quite often; (2) Dr. Swamy has highlighted an aspect which I also have been mentioning in this House, viz. has the Government applied its mind to stop the export of iron and other ores to other countries? He has cited the good example of Japan. We can have joint collaborations in our own country, where Japan can be invited to have industries here, and develop them here rather than our exporting the ores; and (3) The Mines Act of 1952 and the rules thereunder require reconsideration and evaluation by this House, because many Members have expressed their anxiety on this aspect, especially Mr. Panigrahi, Shrimati Patnaik and Dr. Swamy.

Now, the answer from the Labour Minister will be: "This is not within the jurisdiction of my Department". I beg to say that that attitude should not be there. Let the Government come forward with their stand on these three issues.

We have vast experience in the field of welfare activities in the mines. If you refer to the Acts of 1951, 1961 and 1976 you will find that five things are especially mentioned, viz. housing, medical care, water supply and educational and recreational facilities. As you, Mr. Chairman, yourself correctly asked, how much have we spent? Who are the beneficiaries? How far has it gone down to the people who deserve it? I hope the Minister will give a proper reply, and a statement on this issue.

I also agree with Mr. Balanandan when he says that at present the rate of iron

ore cess is only 50 paise per metric tonne, and on manganese ore, it is Re. 1/-. He has given some statistics, which I do not want to repeat. I submit that that rate should be revised, considering the requirement of this labour sector, and welfare activities. That has to be revised, to bring it on par with other rates and the demand.

Our lady Member quite correctly put it, when she highlighted the problem of unemployment, old age and lack of mobile dispensaries. So, we would like to know what is the Government coming forward with; and how far are the lessons we have learnt from the Act of 1961 and the Act of 1976 going to be incorporated into the present Bill.

These are the four points to which I would like the hon. Minister to give serious consideration. I hope he will come forward with an answer.

With these words, I support the Bill.

श्री रीतलाल प्रसाद वर्मा (कोडरमा) : सभापति जी, लौह अयस्क खान तथा मैंगनीज अयस्क खान श्रम कल्याण उपकर और लौह अयस्क खान तथा मैंगनीज अयस्क खान श्रम कल्याण निधि संशोधन विधेयकों का मैं समर्थन करता हूँ यद्यपि ये विधेयक श्रमिकों की कल्याण की दृष्टि से बहुत ही नाकाफी हैं। यह उनके लिये बहुत ही कम निधि कही जायेगी। सरकार 6000 श्रमिकों के कल्याण के लिये 9 लाख रुपये का उपबन्ध करने जा रही है, लेकिन यह कूल भिलाकर प्रति श्रमिक डेढ़ सौ रुपया बैठता है, साढ़े बारह रुपये प्रति माह। इससे आप समझ सकते हैं कि इतनी संख्या में, जबकि साढ़े बारह रुपये में एक समय का लंच या डिनर दिल्ली में नहीं हो पाता, श्रमिकों का कल्याण कैसे होगा? यह बहुत ही गम्भीर विषय है। मंत्री जी ने इस ओर पहल की है, यह बात सही है, लेकिन ये मजदूर अधिकतर जंगलों और पहाड़ों में काम करते हैं, जहाँ से शहरों में आने के लिये कोई यातायात के साधन और सड़कें इत्यादि नहीं होते हैं। वहाँ पर पानी-बिजली की व्यवस्था नहीं

[श्री रीतलाल प्रसाद वर्मा]

होती, दवादारू की व्यवस्था नहीं होती। तकनीकी शिक्षा और पढ़ाई इत्यादि का अभाव होता है। इस तरह से आप सोच सकते हैं कि साढ़े बारह रुपये से आप क्या-क्या सुविधाएं उनको देने जा रहे हैं। ऐसा भी नहीं है कि ये 9 लाख रुपया एक ही जगह पर खर्च होना है। कई जगहों पर खानें हैं और सैकड़ों मील की दूरी पर हैं। उड़ीसा, बिहार, महाराष्ट्र, कर्नाटक, आंध्र-प्रदेश, मणिपुर, गोवा, इन सब जगहों पर हैं और इन सब जगहों पर आपको थोड़ा-थोड़ा देना है। इसके अलावा हर जगह नैमित्तिक श्रमिक भी काफी संख्या में होते हैं, वे इन कल्याणकार्यों से वंचित रहते हैं। उनकी ओर भी ध्यान देने की आवश्यकता है। इन सब चीजों का देखते हुए इस प्रावधान को "उंट के मुँह में जीरा" कहा जा सकता है। इसमें व्यापक दृष्टिकोण नहीं रखा गया है।

इस पैसे को सीमा शुल्क से और लेवी बढ़ाकर लेंगे। उसमें भी साढ़े चार हजार व्यय होगा, इसके बावजूद कई अधिकारोपण रहते हैं। कल्याण विभाग के कमिश्नर होते हैं जो योजना बनाते हैं। सालाना बजट बनाते हैं, उनकी कितनी सिटिंग्स होती हैं, उसमें भी खर्च होता है। वह भी इसी में से निकलता है। एम. पी. आई. अनुदेशक और अनुदेशिकाएं होती हैं, इन लोगों का वेतन देखा जाए तो 9 लाख रुपया तो इसी में खर्च हो जाएगा। कागजों पर दिखा दिया जाता है कि इतनी पढ़ाई हुई है, इतनी कढ़ाई की शिक्षा हुई है, इतना मेडिकल में खर्च हुआ। चना, विस्कूट वितरित करते हैं, इसी में लाखों रुपये का हिसाब हो जाता है। मैंने अपने क्षेत्र में देखा है वहां पर "अभूक खान श्रमिक कल्याण संस्थान" में बहुत घपला है।

इसके अलावा अभी बहुत सी खानें अच्छी तरह गई हैं, इस ओर भी मंत्री जी ध्यान दें। ग्रेनाइट, स्टोन क्रेशर इत्यादि बहुत सी माइन्स हैं, वहां भी श्रमिक हैं। उनके मालिकों से भी कर अधिहीत करके उन श्रमिकों का कल्याण किया जाना चाहिये।

जापान, अमरीका, इंग्लैण्ड, आदि में श्रमिक खान से निकलते हैं तो उनके लिए बाथरूम की व्यवस्था होती है, साबून मिलता है और बहुत सी सुविधाएं मिलती हैं। हमारे यहां इन सब चीजों का अभाव है। अगर आप साबून ही देना चाहते हैं श्रमिकों को तो मैं समझता हूँ कि बारह रुपये तो केवल साबून में ही खत्म हो जाएंगे, एक एक श्रमिक को दोगे तो उसी में ये खर्च हो जाएंगे। भारत एक विशाल देश है और इन श्रमिकों की समस्याएं भी विशिष्ट हैं। जो राशि खर्च करने के लिये इनके वास्तु रखी जाती है वह हास्यास्पद होती है। इसको बढ़ाना चाहिये। चीजों के दाम बढ़ते हैं तो यह राशि भी बढ़नी चाहिये। लोहा, क्रोम, इस्पात आदि की काफी कीमत कंजूमर से वसूल होती है, दो तीन गुना दाम बढ़ गए हैं। आपको उपकर का भी बढ़ाना चाहिये। बढ़ी हुई राशि वसूल करके आपको श्रमिकों के कल्याण कार्यों में इसको लगाना चाहिये।

ये बेचारों मजदूर जंगलों में, भाड़, पहाड़ के किनारों में रहते हैं। अपने दाल बच्चों समेत ये एक सीमित दायरे में घूमते फिरते रहते हैं, जीवन गुजर बसर करते हैं। वही उनका जीवन समाप्त हो जाता है। इस वास्तु दो चार सुभाव उनके कल्याण के सम्बन्ध में मैं देना चाहता हूँ। एडल्ट एजुकेशन देने के उन क्षेत्रों में व्यवस्था की जानी चाहिये। हर एडल्ट को देने की व्यवस्था की जानी चाहिये और उनको इसके लिए कूछ पारितोषिक भी दिया जाना चाहिये। इससे दूसरों को प्रेरणा मिलेगी, बच्चों को आगे बढ़ने की प्रेरणा मिलेगी। माइज के अलग बगल में कूछ तकनीकी शिक्षा देने की भी व्यवस्था की जानी चाहिये ताकि उनके बच्चे तकनीकी शिक्षा ग्रहण कर सकें और सनियोजित उद्योग धंधों में काम पा सकें और वे बेचारों अपने माता पिता की तरह से बंधुआ मजदूर बन कर ही न रह जाएं। उनके वास्तु पर्याप्त स्कूलों की व्यवस्था होनी चाहिये। जहां ये मजदूर काम करते हैं वहां स्कूल आदि की कोई व्यवस्था नहीं होती है। बच्चे बिना पढ़ाई के रह जाते हैं। इस वास्तु उनके वास्तु

स्कूलों की, पढ़ाई लिखाई की व्यवस्था की जानी चाहिये। पोष्टिक आहार, मनोरंजन के साधन, सिनेमा इत्यादि द्वा चार आप दिखा देते हैं और सारा पैसा उसी में खर्च हो जाता है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि वास्तविक कल्याण जिस से उनको हो सकता हो वैसे व्यवस्था आपको उनके वास्ते करनी चाहिये। आपने समितियों का उपबन्ध किया है। आपने कहा है कि केन्द्र के कितने लोग रहेंगे, आयरन और, मँगनीज और माइज के जो मालिक हैं उनके प्रतिनिधि भी उस में रहेंगे। इस तरह से जो व्यवस्था आपने की है उससे जांच पड़ताल की ठीक व्यवस्था नहीं हो सकती है। आपने यह भी कहा है कि एक महिला भी मँम्बर हो सकती है। लेकिन ये तो सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट के एम्प्लायीज हूँगे। मेरी मांग है कि मजदूरों में से उनके प्रतिनिधि लिए जाने चाहिये और उनको संख्या पचास प्रतिशत होनी चाहिये। वे जा कर जांच पड़ताल करें कि उनके कल्याण के वास्ते जो राशि रखी गई है उसका अपव्यय तो नहीं हो रहा है। मैं यह भी मांग करता हूँ कि स्थानीय पब्लिक रिप्रिजेंटेटिव्स को भी उस में शामिल किया जाना चाहिये, ताकि वे देख सकें कि कल्याण की राशि वास्तव में कल्याण कार्यों पर खर्च हो रही है और जो भ्रष्टाचार होता है, उसकी रोकथाम हो सके।

मैं समझता हूँ कि जो राशि है यह बहुत ही अत्यल्प है। इससे मजदूरों का कोई कल्याण नहीं होने वाला है। इस वास्ते इस पर फिर से विचार करके इसको बढ़ाने की आवश्यकता है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि मंत्री महोदय जब जबाब दें तो आश्वासन दें कि मजदूरों के साथ न्याय किया जाएगा।

*SHRI S. MURUGIAN (Tiruppattur):

Mr. Chariman, Sir, I extend my whole-hearted support to the Iron Ore Mines and Manganese Ore Mines Labour Welfare Cess (Amendment) Bill as also the Iron Ore Mines and Manganese Ore Mines Labour Welfare Fund (Amendment) Bill, which have been introduced by our hon. Minister of Labour.

The hon. Minister of Labour through the first Bill proposes to levy Rs. 3 per tonne of chrome ore and the total realisation is likely to be of the order of Rs. 9 lakhs. This amount will constitute the Welfare Fund which will be utilised for implementing welfare programmes for the chrome ore mine workers. The chrome ore mines are predominant in the State of Orissa and the total number of chrome ore mine workers is of the order of about 6000. Since the Government has not so far cared to look after the welfare needs of these workers, now these Bills have been brought forward for ensuring that the interests of these workers are not neglected at least hereafter. I wish to suggest that only a few aspects of welfare needs of these workers can be looked after by this small sum. In fact, all the basic needs of mine workers should be the concern of the Government of India and in order to ensure that they are all provided to the mine workers in the country, I demand that the hon. Minister should bring forward a comprehensive Bill before this House at an early date.

Sir, I would like to take this opportunity to say that though Tamil Nadu abounds in minerals yet their exploitation is being neglected. The State Government is not taking interest in their exploitation. The Centre has entrusted the exploitation of minor minerals to the State Government and unfortunately there is no sustaining interest on the part of the State Government to exploit the minor minerals. I would refer to the mismanagement by the State Government in the matter of black granite, which is available in abundance in Tamil Nadu. Till recently this black granite was being exported in substantial quantity to foreign countries. Some four, five years ago, the State Government got a Bill enacted under which the exploitation of black granite was brought under public sector. A new organisation by the name of TAMIN has been set up by the State Government for this purpose.

*The original speech was delivered in Tamil.

[Shri S. Murugian]

Consequent upon the nationalisation, the private sector industrialists, who were exploiting these minerals till then, were refused extension of their leases on their expiry. About 200 of them went out of the field. If the public sector unit could have functioned as effectively as the private sector industrialists, then the employees would not have lost their jobs. Unfortunately, as is usual, the sluggishness and the negligence on the part of public sector unit have led to the loss of livelihood for more than 15000 mine workers. I do not question the nationalisation of these mines. But I would like to demand that the mine workers should not lose their livelihood. A proper assessment should be made now as to how many workers were there before nationalisation, the annual production during that period, the foreign exchange earned by the export during the pre-nationalisation period and what is the present position in respect of these items under the charge of public sector management. For 20 years the private people were exporting black granite. Since the question of foreign exchange earning is involved, the Centre should not take shelter under the plea that the minor minerals are under the charge of the State Government. Secondly, when the Central Government is legislating for the welfare of workers, the State Government of Tamil Nadu should not throw these workers to the wolf of unemployment. The State Government has now passed an Act increasing the cess on black granite by 17 times. Naturally this will tell upon the export of black granite to foreign countries. The mine workers will continue to be thrown out of employment. If this situation is allowed to continue, there will then be eruption of violence in Tamil Nadu. This situation should be averted by the State Government and also by the Central Government.

In the interest of maintaining sustained production of black granite so that we continue to earn foreign exchange and in the interest of continued employment for thousands of black granite mine

workers in Tamil Nadu, the Centre should declare this mineral as a major mineral and take over the responsibility of exploiting it. This is required because this mineral is available in abundance in Tamil Nadu, which has not been so far exploited fully for the country's good. The licences for former owners of the quarries should be restored to them. In the case of those whose lease period is coming to an end, those leases should be extended. Further licences should be issued for full exploitation of black granite in unexplored areas. Then only employment to workers can be guaranteed and further employment can be generated.

With these words I support these two Bills.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Harikesh Bahadur. Please be brief.

श्री हरिकेश बहादुर (गोरखपुर): हमारी पार्टी में 12 सदस्य हैं और मुझे उसके मुताबिक टाइम मिलना चाहिये। लेकिन मैं ज्यादा टाइम नहीं लूंगा। मैं सिर्फ पांच मिनट लूंगा।

सभापति महोदय, ये जो दोनों विधेयक हैं ये ठीक ही हैं। इन का विरोध करने की बात ज्यादा कूछ है नहीं। कूछ कमी है जिसकी तरफ मैं सरकार का ध्यान जरूर आकृष्ट करूंगा।

जहां तक खान मजदूरों की स्थिति का सवाल है यह बात तो सही है कि खान मजदूरों को बहुत अधिक परिश्रम करना पड़ता है। मंत्री जी भी इस बात से सहमत हैं। लेकिन जो उन की आर्थिक स्थिति है वह बहुत अच्छी नहीं है। जहां तक आयरन ओर का सवाल है माननीय वक्ताओं ने इस पर प्रकाश भी डाला कि धीरे धीरे हमारी स्टील इंडस्ट्री के जो प्रोडक्ट्स हैं उन की कीमत बढ़ती जा रही है। हमारा आयरन ओर जो निकाला जाता है वह बहुत ही अच्छे किसम का है और विदेशों में भेजा जाता है। इन सारी चीजों की कीमत लगातार बढ़ती जाती है। लेकिन इस

बढ़ती हुई कीमत का जो सकारात्मक पहलू है वह यह होना चाहिये कि उस का लाभ श्रमिकों को भी मिलना चाहिये। वह नहीं मिल पाता। इस लिये मेरी सबसे पहले तो मांग यह होगी कि चूँकि चीजों की कीमत बढ़ती चली जा रही है इसलिये इन मजदूरों को जो मजदूरी है उस में भी वृद्धि की जाय।

सम्भाव के रूप में दो तीन बातें रखना चाहूँगा। इन की आज जो समस्याएँ हैं मुख्य रूप से वह हैं चिकित्सा की समस्या, शिक्षा की समस्या, रहने के लिए आवास की समस्या। इन समस्याओं को सलभाने के लिये सरकार का चाहिए कि कारगर और ठोस कदम उठाए। इस के लिए कुछ अधिक धन इन कार्यों पर खर्च करना पड़ सकता है जिस के लिये सरकार भी जो यह फंड बनाती है या बना रही है, उस का इस्तेमाल करे, साथ ही कुछ अनुदान के रूप में इन कार्यों के लिए सरकार को अलग से भी प्रबन्ध करना चाहिये ताकि बड़े पैमाने पर मकानों का निर्माण हो सके, शिक्षा को सुविधाएँ इन मजदूरों को दी जा सकें।

हमारे गोरखपुर में पहले एक लेबर डिपार्थ था। वहाँ से श्रमिकों की भती हुई करती थी जो कि आयरन और माइन्स में और काले माइन्स बिहार जा कर काम करते थे। उस को सेट्रल एम्पलायमेंट एक्सचेंज के रूप में बदल दिया गया है। लेकिन उसका काम भी बहुत ढीला ढाला है और ऐसा लगता है कि शायद यह एम्पलायमेंट एक्सचेंज ही बंद कर दिया जाय। मैं सरकार से मांग करता हूँ कि अगर उसे बन्द करने की कोई योजना हो तो उस योजना को अवश्य समाप्त कर दें और उसे चलने दें। साथ ही ट्रेनिंग सेक्टर एक वहाँ पर खोला जाय ताकि मजदूरों को उस से लाभ हो और जो वेलफेयर फंड है उसका अधिक से अधिक लाभ उन को मिल सके इस की भी व्यवस्था की जाय। मैं फिर यह कहना चाहूँगा कि श्रमिकों की मजदूरी में कुछ वृद्धि करने की बात सरकार को सोचनी चाहिए क्यों कि आज की बढ़ती हुई महंगाई में अगर इन की मजदूरी नहीं बढ़ाई जाती तो इन की आर्थिक समस्याओं का समाधान और निराकरण नहीं हो सकता।

इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं पूनः इस विधेयक का समर्थन करता हूँ।

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the two Bills which are under consideration have got very limited purpose. By one, we are putting cess on chrome ore and by the other, from the Fund so created we are trying to provide welfare measures—welfare measures for the chrome ore workers who are 6000 in the country and who are working in different mines.

In the course of the debate, some of the hon. Members have referred to almost everything that would be under the Labour Ministry. I would welcome those points to be replied to when the debate on my Ministry comes next year or when such occasion comes. Claiming to be a professor of economics, which I also agree, the hon. Member who is not here has talked about the general wage policy, falling prices and recession. One of my friends from this side asked for the nationalisation of the entire mines, to stop all exports and have the factories here. So, there are a large variety of issues, much bigger than I could conceive of not in this Bill, but many other Bills as well. Of course, I am thankful to some of the hon. Members, specially Shastriji. Today he made marvellous contribution to the debate. He was exactly to the point. At first he said he would have only one amendment. That was in regard to the cess that we were levying. He said increase it more than Rs. 3/- not only Rs. 6/- that we have said, but make it Rs. 10/-. By another amendment he has suggested welfare measures.

In the whole debate hon. Members have generally referred to the welfare measures as were referred to in the Bill. The others are very much beyond the point. I will take them up next time to reply.

As has been pointed out by the hon. Members, it is true that those workers who work in these mines have very diffi-

[Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad]

cult job. It is much arduous as compared to many other jobs in the country. We all agree on this point. Therefore, it needs our special attention. The welfare measures that have already been taken under the Iron Ore and Manganese Welfare Fund Act, which we are amending—and adding chrome also—need to be extended, need to be augmented, need to be increased. But one point has to be kept in mind—when we go in for the welfare measures, those measures cannot be a substitute by the larger ones which the States are called upon to discharge. Take for instance, education. The general education—primary level, higher level or the adult education—as referred to by Shri Vermaji cannot form part of the welfare measures in this Act. All we are doing in the field of education is that we are giving the workers' ward scholarships. We are trying to encourage to go to schools or trying to remove as far as possible their economic difficulty in getting education. That can be no substitute for the general education in the country in different parts where the mines are functioning.

Hon. Members have said about medical facilities. They have said about housing. I fully agree with them. I have always been sharing with the House. I do not want to make anything in trying to circumvent the point. I straightway say that I agree with the hon. Members that the facilities that we are giving are not enough. The Directive Principles as quoted by Shri Yadav and other Members enjoin upon us to give them a decent living. It is true that we have not been able to come to that stage so far. But I must also say—that what we have done these years about their welfare should be noted and appreciated. If some of the hon. Members do not want to put the word 'appreciate', let them not. The Member who want to appreciate appreciate it. Let us take one stride ahead and say this is not enough. This should be increased. In that respect I agree. Take for example 'housing'. Under the Act the Management is charged upon for certain statutory responsibilities. This

fund is not a substitute for that. This fund is in support of what the statutory responsibilities of the management are for drinking water, for medical facilities. For housing we are giving subsidy. Today, in the present circumstances it is not enough. Therefore, there has not been enough or large construction of houses for the labour. The moment I saw this, I asked my Department to immediately go into the matter and revise the estimate so that we can really make some contribution for the houses and goad the employers to construct houses. I want to say that this has been difficult. In all the three spheres we will do that and so also for the scholarship. I think at present the scholarship is Rs. 10 to 15. It is not enough. I have to and I shall increase it because the hon. Members have given me support. We have to do it. In all the fields we will try to come to a certain standard which may not be an ideal standard. It may not be that standard which the hon. Members on that side or this side or I, the Minister want to have. Shastriji's suggestion to increase the rate of cess is a valid point. At present we have taken Rs. 3/-. We have kept the maximum at Rs. 6/-. From time to time Government has been increasing the rate of cess as and when it is needed. For example, in iron ore we have Rs. 0.25. We have put it to Rs. 0.50. For Manganese we have come to Re. 1/-. We will have Rs. 3/-. The maximum outer limit is Rs. 6/-. Whenever we need more than Rs. 6/-, whenever we need more than and ask Shastriji, Shri Arakal and both sides of the House to give me support. Since we are starting on this Chrome for the first time, I would wish the hon. Members to support me to enable me to start with this point.

So far as medical facilities are concerned, we have dispensaries, mobile dispensaries. The hon. Lady Member and you, Mr. Chairman, made valuable contributions. We shall see that all these points are taken care of. The present welfare measures will be augmented and increased.

Many Members have said about the decrease in labour. There has been de-

crease not in the welfare measures or it is not that they have been hard hit by the diseases. In this technological world, it being labour intensive, we do not permit them to bring modern techniques on a large scale. But there are some places where this technique is required. In some places we have modern technology, advance technology. Therefore, that decrease is there.

You, Mr. Chairman, have said about administration of the fund. All hon. Members—Shatstriji, yourself and some other Members—Vermaji, Arakal, have suggested that. It is most important. Not only this, but in all other things we do, legislation is good enough. We all support it. But the important point is implementation of it. For that we are trying to strengthen our administration, not only strengthening by numbers i.e. increasing the number of Welfare Commissioners but trying to improve the methodology of working. We are trying to do that so that we can give the maximum number to them. It is true that the workers are working in distant parts. In many places we have not got good infra-structure—the road to reach there. It is not possible to have dispensary everywhere. What are we trying? We are trying to group them, re-group them and give them facilities. Some hon. Members have said about Chest and T.B. beds in the hospital. We have reserved in the hospital the T.B. beds. We are giving Rs. 3000 and odd. We are giving for dieting Rs. 50/-. I do not think it is enough. We are trying to increase that fund at our disposal. We are trying to re-allocate or re-structure the amounts that are being spent on education, on health, housing, recreation.

Prof. Ajit Kumar Mehta has not spoken. He did not move his amendment. But I have taken note of that. He has said that the people should be careful with the employers. The management does not get quota and get away with the responsibility. We will take note of it. They have a statutory responsibility under the Act. That part we are not substituting. We are not going to give them that. But under the

Welfare Fund Act, we are to give subsidy for medical, housing, etc. Only in that part, we will be helpful; otherwise not.

So, I think, the important points of the hon. Members have been met, about the cess, about the welfare measures under different heads, how to administer them and all that. In regard to all these points, as I have said, the cess from time to time we will increase as per the demand and, about the welfare fund, we will spend it under different heads. As I have already said, they are not enough at present and we are trying to revise the standards.

Lastly, about the administrative point, the most important point, we will try to implement this not by adding the number but by taking the maximum out of the number that we have; not by spending the amount on the officers but by taking the maximum out of them and improving their services.

I have already replied to the hon. Member who has now come, an intellectual member of the House, a Professor of Economics whom I know....

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the total accumulation in the Fund?

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: About the total accumulation in the Fund, in 1978-79, we had Rs. 94.54 lakhs income and the expenditure we did was Rs 135.41; the balance was Rs. 294 lakhs. In 1981-82, the income is Rs. 185.56 lakhs and the expenditure is Rs. 134.08 lakhs; the balance now with us is Rs. 235.11 lakhs. If we see the expenditure figure, we will find that it is less this year than what it was last year. It is because, as I explained, the housing facilities and other things were not being done. We will try to revive that and we will do it.

Only one thing I will say for the hon. Member, a Professor of Economics—I am also a student of Economics. He said everything all right and supported it. But he made a very pungent remark—I think,

[Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad]

that was off the cuff, just by the way—that the Government policy is anti-labour. If he wants to put to me statistics, I will also quote statistics off-hand—it is belittling the workers if they say this—that during the last year, being a Professor of Economics, if he, remembers, the industrial production in the country has gone up by 10 per cent compared to (—)1.4 per cent during his party's regime.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: Lok Dal Government.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: All right; Lok Dal Government. Take, for example, the production of foodgrains. A large number of hon. Members have referred to the unorganised labour. I have not replied to that. By that, they mean the largest number of workers in the country who are working in agriculture. There we have got 130 million tonnes; in steel we have got 19 per cent; in fertiliser we have got 62 per cent; in crude oil we have got 52 per cent and energy we have got 13 per cent. All these increases could not have been due to anti-labour policy of the Government. But for the pro-labour policy of the Government, support of the labour and support and satisfaction of the labour, these increases could not have been there.

These statistics speak that hon. Member's remark was absolutely baseless, not justified by facts. As a matter of fact, this Government is for labour; this Government is of the labour because all the time we are thinking about them. It is expected of the hon. Members on the other side that rather than helping their political unions, let them try to use trade union as a trade union for the welfare of workers and, in that case, our meeting point will definitely be the welfare of the workers and the welfare of the country.

With these words, I am grateful to all the hon. Members who have given support to these two Bills.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the question is:

"That the Bill to amend the Iron Ore Mines and Manganese Ore Mines Labour Welfare Cess Act, 1976, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That Clause 2 to 11 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 11 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now the other Bill. The question is:

"That the Bill to amend the Iron Ore Mines and Manganese Ore Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1976, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House will take up clause by clause consideration.

The question is:

"That Clause 2 to 5 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 5 were added to the Bill.

Clause—6—Amendment of Section 4

MR. CHAIRMAN: Clause 6. Prof. Ajit Kumar Mehta.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur): Sir, I beg to move:

Page 3,—

after line 5, insert—

‘(e) the following sub-section shall be inserted at the end, namely:—

“(2) The fund shall not be applied to meet the expenditure on items of expenditure which fall in the welfare responsibilities of the employer.” (1)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Amendment moved by Prof. Ajit Kumar Mehta is now placed before the House.

प्रो. अजीत कुमार मेहता (समस्तीपुर) : सभापति महोदय, मुझे प्रसन्नता है कि मंत्री महोदय ने पहले ही मेरे सशोधन पर ध्यान दे दिया है। फिर भी मुझे एक आशंका है कि इस फण्ड को कहीं व्यवस्था पर ही अधिक खर्च न कर दिया जाए। इस बात को ध्यान में रखना चाहिये; जो पदाधिकारी व्यवस्था करते हैं, वे ज्यादा ध्यान अपने ऊपर ही रखते हैं।

दूसरी बात यह है कि जब आप इस बात को मानते हैं कि इस फण्ड को ऐसे खर्च नहीं होने दिया जाएगा जिसमें एम्प्लायज को दोहरा लाभ हो जाए तो फिर इसका प्रावधान बिल में ही क्यों नहीं कर देते हैं जिससे शक की गुंजाइश ही न रहे। यही मेरा आग्रह है।

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: I have replied to this in the general debate. We are taking care of that. Statutory responsibility of the employers is there. They are separate. In that we are not giving

them anything. We are only trying to give them subsidy where we have to help them. Only that part is there. The other part which the hon. Member has mentioned, we are not doing in that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you willing to withdraw your Amendment?

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA: Yes, Sir, because the Minister has assured.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it the pleasure of the House that the amendment moved by Shri Ajit Kumar Mehta be withdrawn?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

Amendment No. 1 was, by leave withdrawn.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

“That Clause 6 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 6 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 7 to 12 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: Sir, I beg to move:

“That the Bill be passed.”

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

“That the Bill be passed.”

The motion was adopted.