

13.09 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) MALPRACTICES IN COAL INDUSTRY
SHRI MUKUNDA MANDAL (Ma-
thurapur): Sir, I wish to raise the
following matter of public importance
under rule 377.

13.10 hrs.

[SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR in the
Chair]

A sorry state of affairs is prevail-
ing in the coal industry even after
it has been taken over by the Gov-
ernment. There appears to be no
change in the affairs of the coal in-
dustry except, of course, the fact that
before nationalisation the mine owners
were exploiting the coal workers and
the general consumers and that after
nationalisation Government-appointed
personnel are doing the same job in
collusion with foreign agents.

The most disturbing factor to be
taken note of is the enormous rise in
the price of coal registered during the
past 9 to 10 years. Besides the rise
in the price of coal, the quality of
coal which is being supplied to the
general consumers, small traders and
agents is worse. After the classifica-
tion policy on coal was given up, third
grade coal is being supplied to the
consumers at the same cost as was
being charged for high grade coal.

Another disturbing feature is that
small traders and agents are finding it
extremely difficult to obtain coal al-
though they possess the requisite per-
mit. As a result, they have to neces-
sarily fall into the vicious trap of the
middlemen, brokers, agents, black-
marketeers etc. Without the help of
these unscrupulous elements one can-
not hope to get supply of coal.

Another fact which is to be noted
here is that Government has given
agencies to those who were mine
owners before nationalisation. Thus,
we see that old wine has been put in
a new bottle. Nothing has changed,
rather, things have worsened since

nationalisation. This is said not to
discredit the policy of nationalisation,
but to point out how nationalisation
has become a mockery before the
people. In fact, one is witnessing
more accidents in mines after natio-
nalisation.

Seeing all this, one is left with no
alternative except to conclude that
there is an organised conspiracy on
the part of the former coal mine
owners, bureaucrats and vested inter-
ests in collusion with foreign agen-
cies to make out a theory that na-
tionalisation means loss of production.

In order to defeat this conspiracy,
Government must take the following
steps to improve the situation in the
coal industry:

(1) Responsibility of coal distribu-
tion should be taken over by the
Government directly instead of de-
pending on agents.

(2) The distribution should be
done under the supervision of a
Distributing Officer.

(3) Interest of the general consu-
mers should be given high priority.

(4) Stern steps should be taken
to punish those who are responsible
for adulteration and other mal-
practices in the distribution system.

(5) Coal is an essential commo-
dity especially to those living in
small towns and villages where elec-
tricity and fuel gas are inexis-
tent. Hence it should be at subsid-
ised rates.

(ii) REPORTED CLOSURE OF BRICK KILNS
IN UTTAR PRADESH DUE TO SHORTAGE
OF COAL.

श्री मनोहर लाल (कानपुर): सभापति महोदय,
मै नियम 377 के अन्तर्गत निम्न लोक महत्व कर का
विषय उठाना चाहता हूँ :-

उत्तर प्रदेश में लगभग 5,000 ईंटों के बड़े कोयलों
के अभाव में बन्द हो रहे हैं या बन्द हो चुके हैं।
लगभग दो लाख श्रमिक बेकार हैं। कोयला रेश
बैंगन से तो आता ही नहीं है। जितनी रैक्स उत्तर