

the moment we have 146 lakh tonnes of coal. This is the time for planning, more coal-based Thermal Plants in Tamil Nadu so that the power problem of Tamil Nadu can be solved once and for all. As on 31-3-1977 there were 6.45 lakh workers in the public sector coal industry, out of whom only 1.45 lakh workers have got residential accommodation. The remaining 5 lakh workers live in filthy environment. In 1976, the coal workers were compelled to go on strike demanding minimum basic amenities of life, which resulted a loss of 1.50 lakh tonnes of coal production. If the Government wants to step up coal production, then the only alternative is to accord all basic amenities for the workers whose work is both hazardous and arduous.

With these words, I conclude my contd.

15.00 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. DEATHS DUE TO CONSUMPTION OF POISONOUS LIQUOR IN DELHI

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHAPAN SINGH): Sir, it a matter of deep regret that some deaths due to consumption of poisonous liquor have occurred in Delhi last night, as also this morning. According to information available so far, 7 persons have died, 3 in Willingdon Hospital, 1 in Irwin Hospital and 3 in Karol Bagh area. 3 persons admitted in the Willingdon Hospital for consumption of poisonous liquor are still under treatment. 7 separate cases are being registered by the police u/s 304-A IPC in connection with this matter. The Crime Branch of the Delhi Police is being entrusted with the investigation of these cases. The District Magistrate, Delhi, has also ordered an enquiry by an ADM regarding the cause of deaths and other related matters. The SHO, Karol

Bagh, the SI in charge of the area and the beat constable have been placed under suspension for their failure to take preventive action in regard to distillation/sale of poisonous liquor in the area. Action is also being taken by the Excise Commissioner, Delhi, to get the liquor in various shops chemically analysed.

15.02 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, 1977-78—contd.

MINISTRY OF ENERGY—contd.

SHRI A. K. ROY (Dhanbad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at the very outset I wish the Minister of Energy would be more energetic in dealing with the affairs in the Ministry of Energy because it is not only that the things are stationary but also we have reached a point where we are feeling that we have started going back from where we started.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there were three causes for nationalisation of the coal industry. First, slaughter mining, bad mining and wrong mining; Second, scuttling in production and thirdly bad industrial relations. Sir, coal is the nucleus of energy as 57 per cent of the entire energy in electricity comes from coal only. In the industrial area coal has been accepted as the nucleus on which the entire citadel of our energy pattern has been made. I want to know from the hon'ble Minister whether he has gone deep into it that not only the very basic idea on which we did nationalisation has been lost sight of but also the fundamental proposition, namely, the recommendations of the Fuel Policy Committee are going to be reversed. Sir, today when the world is moving not only from the coal age but also from the petroleum age to the nuclear age we still stand in the fire-wood age where the industrialised countries were in the beginning of the 19th century.