

12.29 hrs.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

**REPORTED SHORTAGE OF COAL ON STOCK
VERIFICATION AT A QUARRY OF CENTRAL
COALFIELD LTD. (HAZARIBAGH)**

SHRI R. P. DAS (KRISHNAGAR):
I call the attention of the Minister of Energy to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

The reported 3 lakh tonnes of coking coal worth rupees 6 crores found short during the stock verification at the fourth quarry of Central Coalfield Limited (Hazariabagh).

12.30 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair].

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): Sir, Central Coalfields Ltd., one of the subsidiary companies of Coal India, operates 67 collieries which are grouped into 11 areas in the States of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa. The Kedla opencast mine run by this company is situated in the Hazariabagh area in Bihar. The production of this colliery in 1979-80 was 3.26 lakh tonnes and in 1980-81, 4.98 lakh tonnes out of the total production of Central Coalfields Ltd. of 27.45 million tonnes in 1980-81. This opencast mine produces medium coking coal which is despatched mainly to the Gidi Washery of CCI in Bihar to be beneficiated for despatch to steel plants.

2. Before I deal with the case of the Kedla mine, I would like to apprise Hon'ble Members of the procedure for verification of coal stocks with the companies. Verification of coal stocks at pitheads is carried out periodically according to established procedure. The procedure is for the collieries to

physically measure stocks at the pit-heads at the beginning of each month and reconcile it with the production and despatches to detect variations if any. The coal company also carries out an independent verification of the stocks every six months by sending a team of surveyors from the headquarters of the company. In addition to this, Coal India deputes Coal Stocks Audit Teams to carry out a physical check and prepare an inventory of the coal stocks held by the collieries. This is done at least once in a year for each subsidiary company.

3. Verification of stocks on these lines has been carried out from April onwards this year in respect of all collieries under the Central Coalfields. The position that has emerged is that for the CCL as a whole, the shortage on actual verification against book stocks is well below 2 per cent. It might be mentioned that coal stocks are not susceptible to very accurate measurement on account of factors such as undulations in the ground where the stocks are kept, irregular shape of coal heaps, differences in the degree of compaction that has taken place in the stocks etc. Therefore, a variation of 5 per cent against the book stocks is considered within permissible limits as laid down by Coal India Ltd. Wherever the shortage is in excess of the permissible limit, detailed enquiries are made to fix responsibility.

4. I now come to the case of Kedla mine. According to the report received from the Company, Kedla being a taken-over mine, there are a number of old worked out opencast areas which were lying unoccupied. With the sharp increase in production in 1980-81, the colliery did not have enough open space to dump the coal. It had earlier applied for acquisition of land but due to some procedural delays, it was not able to obtain possession of it. As a result, due to the inadequate availability of space, coal had to be stocked in the old worked out quarry beds. The production

from this mine had to be optimised because of the demand for the medium coking coal which it produces. According to the Company, a large quantity of coal was, therefore, stocked in the quarry with the result that the old quarry was totally filled up with coal which formed a mountainous heap and also overflowed on both sides. Consequently, the survey teams deputed by CCL and CIL for carrying out stock measurement could not ascertain the depth of coal at various points stocked in the quarry. In these circumstances, the company has reported that the actual physical verification of coal stocks at Kedla opencast mine had to be deferred. With this exception, coal stocks in all the 66 collieries of CCL as on 1st April 1981 have been duly verified.

5. Action has now been taken by the company to reduce these stocks in Kedla opencast mine by despatching coal from this heap. From 1st April till the end of July, 1981 about 80,000 tonnes of coal has been despatched from this stock heap. Despatches of coal from this heap are continuing and the company expects that in about six to eight weeks time the full depth of the coal in the quarry would be exposed and it would then be possible to carry out a physical verification of the stocks.

6. In the circumstances, it would be evident that no shortage of coal stocks has so far come to light in the Kedla opencast mine. However, in view of the concern expressed by Hon'ble Members, I am directing that verification shall be done by deputing an independent team of experts.

7. It may be mentioned that the sub-committee comprising of Honourable Members of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee of my Ministry had also inspected the stocks at this mine, in the course of their visit to various mines and establishments of Central Coalfields Ltd., with a view to assessing the position regarding coal stocks.

8. In the conclusion, I would like Members to appreciate that the Company has a proper procedure for regular measurement and physical verification of stocks in all the collieries and that this procedure is being rigorously enforced. Whenever shortages beyond possible limits are discovered, a proper enquiry is held and action duly taken against persons found responsible.

SHRI R. P. DAS: Sir, at the very outset I would like to make one submission. The statement has been given to us a few minutes back. We did not have it earlier. The minister read it out here and the Members heard it, but we could not make out what he has to say. Therefore, the Statement on the Calling Attention should be given to the Members at least half-an-hour before the House sits. Otherwise, it will be very difficult for us to formulate the questions from the statement of the Minister.

Sir, we have just heard what the Minister has said, and we find that the people who have come to judge those against whom the charges have been levelled are also in the same category. The Ministers are just as the officers are. So, we cannot entirely depend on the statement. We cannot say that the Coal India Ltd. and all the collieries and all the subsidiary companies are working regularly and in a proper manner and there is no mismanagement, there is no mishandling and there is no scandle. It is not true. There is mismanagement, there is mishandling and there are scandals all over the coal industry. Therefore, Sir, before we go into the question, I should say that this question of reported missing of 3 lakh tonnes of cooking coal from the quarry of the Central Coalfield Ltd. (Hazaribagh) viz. Kedla Colliery, can be seen from different angles either the claim of accumulation of coal at the pitheads of the quarry No. 4 was false and therefore, the stock entered in the stock register was also deceptive and was

[Shri R. P. Das]

done without physical presence of coal—most probably it was never dug out from the mines—or the entire quantity of three lakh tonnes of coking coal was fraudulently sold out to the coal racketeers in collusion with the C.C.L. officials who were on the charge at the quarry and who generally work from behind the scene or both the methods were put to work together with a view to melt away quantity of three lakh tonnes of superior grade coal from the quarry which found its way to the parallel coal market of the country conducted by a mafia group so well entrenched in the coal belt area.

Mafia ? Who are they ? What do they do? What is their *modus operandi*? Mafia run transport business and lend money to the coal miners and their gangs frequently pilfer first grade coal from the quarry with the help of the officials of Coal India Ltd. and sell it at high premium, as high as Rs. 1200/- per tonne at Amritsar. Not only this, the Mafia's tentacles have a firm grip on the Bihar State Government. They have their representatives in the State Assembly and even in the Cabinet. Their bosses now have their men in Congress (I) Party and previously they had their men in Janata Party and Janata Government.

In this connection I quote from the Tribune of 25th June, '81

"Coal Smuggled to Pak via Amritsar Smuggling of Coal to Pakistan has been detected by the Railway administration, it was claimed to-day.

Senior railway officers from Asansol detained seven coal wagons on Monday night at Barabon. The railways staff at Baraboni told reporters that high quality coal meant for industries in the Hooghly area was being brought by truck to Baraboni from Dalurband Collier for being loaded in wagons bound for Amritsar from where they were being smuggled to Pakistan."

Another is of August 9, 1981.

"The Panjab Railway Police have arrested one more millionaire coal king from Amritsar District in connection with the coal wagons scandal....."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have already taken more than six minutes.

SHRI R. P. DAS : These are scandals, How is Coal India Ltd. working in the area ?

I come to stock verification. The stock verification was conducted by the Survey Department of C.C.L. on the recommendation of a three-member parliamentary team headed by Mrs. Rajinder Kaur, which visited the site some time in April, 1981.

Now on physical verification of the stock about three lakh tonnes of coking coal worth Rs. 6 crores was found short. Is it a joke ? One day some one will say that the entire standing 10 million stock of the Coal India Ltd., was but a dream, an illusion, a non-reality. Should this House take this as a matter of fact? Should we leave this missing 3 lakh tonnes of coal un-noticed, unchallenged?

I do not know, whether the Survey Department of the CCL, or bosses of the C. I. L. of authorities at Delhi will take pride for letting us know a tit bit of the big black diamond drama. It only shows the tip of the big ice-berg submerged in the icy-water. If anybody dare come near it, he will either be liquidated or maimed by the musclemen who work from behind the black screen.

While considering the mismanagement of the entire Coal India Ltd. and mis-handling of the officials, the scandals and the failure to fulfil the production target and the reported missing of 3 lakh tonnes of coal, the entire blame should be squarely put on the shoulders of the CIL, the Ministry of Energy and the Minister himself.

Here is a Weekly News Magazine, Sunday of 23rd August, 1981 publi-

shea from Calcutta which asks: "Is this Minister destroying the coal industry?" The picture depicted on the cover is none but Shri A. B. A. Ghani Khan Chaudhuri...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You must prepare the questions and put. Then only you will get a specific reply from the Minister. This is not the way. By making a speech, you will not get a reply from the Minister. (Interruptions)

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN (Kangra): He is not interested in putting questions.

SHRI R. P. DAS: This Department has been working without a Secretary for the past 1-1/2 years. (Interruptions).

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: Still you are not coming to a question. I will now allow a speech. The rules are very clear. Every Member of Parliament who has given a Calling Attention Motion shall not take more than 3 minutes. You have taken 10 minutes. This is lack of home work. If home work had been done properly, the questions will come. The questions do not come because there is no home work done.

SHRI R. P. DAS: The House should realise that coal is a national industry....

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No debate is permitted. (Interruptions) This is not permitted. You must take my permission. Please sit down. Everything that goes without my permission shall not go on record.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY (Calcutta South): With your permission, Sir, may I speak?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No permission. Even after 35 years of parliamentary democracy, if we behave like this, we cannot help it. Please come to the question.

SHRI R. P. DAS: In view of this, I would like to put questions to the hon. Minister.

Firstly, I want to know whether the persons who were in-charge of the fourth quarry of CCL, Hazaribagh at the time of reported missing of 3 lakh tonnes of coal had been removed on the spot after verification, as is customary, and placed under suspension and, if not, the reasons therefor.

Secondly, I want to know whether the hon. Minister has got the report of the CBI about Shri B. Kanungo, the then General Manager (Sales), CIL, and now the General Manager in the Executive Establishment of CIL (Headquarters). What action has been taken against him or is he just waiting to cut his throat as and when the CBI report will be available, which will never be available.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You put a question and you also give a reply.

SHRI R. P. RAS: Before I conclude, I would like to quote a letter of Mr. Kumar Pati Mukherjee, for Director (Commercial) of CIL. He wrote a letter to the Chairman, Mr. R. N. Sharma. "Sometime from the middle of April last year the minister's displeasure was conveyed by you as well as the minister, Energy, himself personally.... Alternatively, if there are charges, these may kindly be spelt out."

But Mr. Mukherjee was dismissed from his services.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Why can't you put your question?

SHRI R. P. DAS: I would like to put this question:

"What are the charges against Mr. Mukherjee for which he has been dismissed."

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thought that the Hon. Member will give us concrete suggestions so that we can deal effectively with corruption, if any. But unfortunately the Hon. Gentleman has said so many vague things that I do not know what to answer and what not to answer.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Order, order please. You are helping the Government only.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: It is the established practice of Coal India that the coal company, each mine, carries on its investigation once every month. When it is done by Coal India, so far as Ministry is concerned, unless something very wrong appears, we take the figure of the Coal India. In this case, I have given a detailed answer as to what really happened and there is no reason to believe even now anything wrong has gone there. I would like to assure the Hon. Member of this House that I am sending an independent team to enquire into the matter and I can also assure that any erring person found guilty will be seriously dealt with. We are in a very tight position.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No personal accusations.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: So far as the Hon. friends are concerned, when we take action they shout at the top of their voice, narrating some stories here and there and saying that I am destroying coal companies. Do they mean to say that we should tolerate dishonest persons? Do they mean to say that we should not try to improve things?

About Shri Mukherjee, I do not want to make any comment because the matter is *sub judice*. It would not be proper on my part to say anything on this. I was shocked to see that progressive forces of India,

the so-called progressive forces, are taking a leaf out of the discredited persons.

They have mentioned about corruption in transport. Unfortunately, we cannot transport by railways all the coal that is produced. We have to transport quite a significant quantum by trucks. I will give you certain figures.

In the year, 1979-80, the coal transported by railways was 61.14 million tonnes. 23.33 millions tonnes of coal was transported by trucks. It is quite significant.

In the year, 1980-81, the coal transported by railways was 62.56 million tonnes, 26 million tonnes of coal was transported by road by trucks.

In the year, 1980-81 (Up to June), 20.36 million tonnes of coal by railways and 6.88 million tonnes of coal by trucks was transported. Whenever the question of corruption comes, the question of transportation by trucks invariably crops up. If we have to carry all the coal by Railways and we have to do away with the services of trucks, we require about 12,000 wagons per day which unfortunately we do not have. Naturally we have to take the help of the trucks. That is, more or less, indispensable in the present circumstances. Even today the coal despatches are not to our satisfaction simply because we do not get so many railway wagons as we should have obtained in the normal circumstances...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I think, you will not incur any extra expenditure, the charges will be the same, for using trucks. Or, are you incurring any extra expenditure?

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: Much more, the consumer, not we. *(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Wagons are not available. What can they do? You ask the Railway Minister to give more wagons.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: The railway functioning has improved, but not to the extent of meeting the demand or requirement of the country.

Chilly winds are blowing into the hearts of my friends on the Opposition because they are seeing that we have turned the table for the better so far as the coal company is concerned. I can assure them that we have accepted the challenge and we will meet the requirements of the country in future also.

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. B. V. Desai, No discussion. Put only the questions. The point is very clear. He says that it has not happened, the Consultative Committee has gone. You have to say whether it has happened or not. For that, you must put the points before him.

SHRI B. V. DESAI (Raichur): Sir, I have done my home-work. I do not come without doing my home-work. The Minister should give this paper a little earlier, so that we could formulate our questions.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: I owe an apology for that. As a matter of fact, I was told that the paper had been sent by 10.30. I am extremely sorry to know that the paper did not reach in time. I offer my apologies to the Members concerned.

SHRI B. V. DESAI: The question of shortage of three lakh tonnes is a very specific thing, and in a colliery which has produced in 1980-81 some 4.98 lakh tonnes, a shortage of three lakh tonnes, by no stretch of imagination, could have been missed by any stock surveyor or independent audit man or the colliery themselves; they cannot miss it. I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the procedure which he has mentioned regarding stock-taking, that is, monthly by the collieries, every six months by a team of surveyors and at least once in a year by the audit party, how rigorous it

is, and if it is so rigorous, how is it that three lakh tonnes had been missed. He has said that it had been stored in a pit and an independent team of surveyors is unable to gauge the depth of the pit. Yes, I do consider that, we can give some margin for that.

13.00 hrs.

But, there cannot be any margin for a production of 4.98 lakhs tonnes with a shortage of three lakhs tonnes. In his words, he has stated:

"In the circumstances, it would be evident that no shortage of coalstocks has so far come to light in the Kedla open-cast mine."

He has not said whether it is three lakhs tonnes or one lakh tonnes. He is absolutely vague on that. I would like to know from him one thing. At least let him not shield the corrupt officers or the corrupt people. Let him take action against them. Otherwise not only in this coal field but anywhere else it may happen. I am telling this from the consumer's point of view and the industrialists point of view. Everyone of us is suffering because of lack of coal. One fine morning we find that three lakhs tonnes of coal have vanished. How is it that we must be very efficient in having the rigours of the stock-taking of coal? He has already mentioned this and he has assured us that he will go into the case in detail and he will have an independent enquiry made into this case and see that the culprits are punished. I agree there.

In stock-taking, in view of the concern expressed by hon. Members, I am asking him whether verification will be done by a team of independent experts. I take it they will not be from the C.C.I.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: Not from the C.C.I.

SHRI B. V. DESAI: It is very good. All the points which were made have been conceded. I have one single request to make to the

[Shri B. V. Desai]

hon. Minister. He should keep a strict vigilance in different coal-fields. Otherwise, we see how right from the beginning, from these collieries coal has gone to Punjab. We do not know where they have vanished from there. We come to know the details of it from the market place. So, we would like to pass on that information to the hon. Minister to see that the loopholes are plugged so that, for the utilisation by the genuine consumers, the coal is made available.

In this direction, I want to know what action he will take for plugging such loopholes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You will also take the same time as the hon. Member took.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: I have answered the earlier question. There is no difference of opinion on this. As regards security measures, I can say that they are being strengthened to guard against this pilferage. Compound wall construction has been made in the dumps where we keep the coal. To guard that, we are putting one search light for the night etc., etc. which was never prevalent in the coal companies. We have now been introducing that. We are intensifying our efforts to check the pilferage of coal from the coal-stocks.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA (Vishnupur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Coal India Ltd. is one of our public sector enterprises of this country whose annual turnover is about Rs. 14,000 crores. This is a vital sector which is going to be destroyed by some corrupt officials who are in the good books of Mr. Chaudhuri.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You say direction.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA: In the statement, the Minister says that the coal production has been raised.

In the Kedla colliery, there is no shortage. He has said all these things. The manner in which this minister functions demoralises the whole of the good officials. One of our colleagues asked about Shri Bijoy Kanungo. He has not said anything about this man. He is talking that he will fight corruption. Talking of fighting the corruption has now become a cruel joke.

This gentleman, Shri Kanungo, has been promoted.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: He has not been promoted, Mr. Deputy-Speaker. As soon as the chargesheet is framed, I shall take severe action against him. (Interruptions).

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA: How long will he take?

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY: May I ask one question?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Order please. He is capable of asking the question himself.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA: Now, Sir, the price of coal is rising every year. Corruption is also increasing every year. The hon. Minister has just now said that he will take action. But, Sir..

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Calling Attention is not on that subject.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you are a trade union leader. You know how the colliery workers live in the colonies of these collieries. If a worker is found to have indulged in some corrupt practice, what happens? The Officer-in-charge immediately suspends him and orders an enquiry. But in the case of officers, nothing is being done. If the officer is found guilty, instead of getting punishment, he gets promoted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: How much coal is found short? Is it worth Rs. 6 crores or less than that or more than that? You may say on that.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA: The Government appointed a Committee known as Man Mohan Committee. That Committee has stated so many things for the welfare of the colliery workers. Now, Sir, we do not know why the Report of that Committee was not placed on the Table of the House.

Even drinking water is not there in the colonies of these colliery workers.

Sir, I want to put only one question. I want to ask the Hon. Minister as to when this Report will be placed on the Table of the House. May I know whether the recommendations made by the Committee will be implemented forthwith?

SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: This does not come up from the Calling Attention Motion. Anyway, when the hon. Member has stated about all these matters, I will look into them. As soon as possible we will try to place the Report on the Table of the House.

As regards the Welfare Measures, we are very much interested to provide them. We are really very serious about this. But I would confess to the House that resources position has been one of the serious constraints standing in our way. We are approaching the Planning Commission for more resources. Also, the hon. Finance Minister has assured us that resources will not be a major constraint so far as Coal Department is concerned. Well, as soon as resources are made available, we will start work in right earnest regarding Welfare Measures like Housing, like Sanitation, like Health Hazards etc. etc. So, I am seized of the problem and I know these problems. I will try my best as soon as possible, as far as practicable, within the resources available, to solve these problems.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Mallanna, absent. Now, Mr. Ajit Bag. He can transform it into a maiden question.

***SHRI AJIT BAG (Srerampore):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is my maiden speech in the Lok Sabha, therefore. I will speak in my mother tongue, i.e. Bengali.

Sir, such happenings in the coal industry are published in various newspapers and publicized through other media also. The people feel greatly agitated when they come to know of them. But here the replies are given by the Minister in a casual manner and sometimes replies are evaded. During the last session there were detailed discussions here about the corrupt practices followed in some collieries in "Dhanbad" area. At that time the existence of a 'Coal racket' in the Dhanbad collieries came to light. The collusion of top officers of the I.C.I. in the prevalent corruption was also exposed. As stated by some previous speakers, many honest and capable workers in these collieries have been unjustly punished or victimised and some have even lost their jobs. On the other hand many corrupt and incompetent hands have been rewarded. The whole administration and management in these collieries are in a chaotic state and honest workers and officers are finding it difficult to work. In this context I would like to quote some portions from a paper called 'Gaurha Bhoomi' which is published in Maldah District, the constituency of the hon. Minister himself. These quotations will throw some light on the matter I am going to state. I quote, "Recently a decision has been taken to remove some high ranking officers of Coal India Limited, Bharat Coaking Coal Limited and the Eastern Coal Fields Limited. To protest against this, the Coalmines Officers Association, various Trade Union organisations and other citizens organisation are very soon going to embark on "Gani Khan Chowdhary quit and save the coal industry" agitation. They have also taken a decision to submit a memorandum to the Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi. This memorandum has exposed all the underhand activities of the Energy Minis-

*The original speech was delivered in Bengali.

[Shri Ajit Bag.]

ter. It has been alleged therein that in recent months some people in 'Malda' district have been sanctioned delivery orders for 20 lakh tons of prime coaking coal. The officers' Association have also collected information about the distribution of coal by the Energy Minister to some other parties under the guise of 'V.I.P. quota'. One highly placed officer of the B.C.C.L. disclosed that while issuing V.I.P. quota, the energy Minister uses code language. The exact term used by him is "The destination will be made known at the time of loading only". Shri Ghani Khan Chowdhury has created such a chaotic atmosphere that the officers are feeling totally discouraged to work in the coal industry. One officer of the B.C.C.L. gave an example to drive home his point. He said that delivery orders for prime coaking coal and hard coke are being issued in favour of such persons whose conduct is not above suspicion at all. One such person is so powerful that he requisitions the vehicles of B.C.C.L., he uses the guest house of B.C.C.L. as a guest of the company and enjoys all other facilities admissible to a V. I. P. He introduces himself as a member of A.I.C.C. whereas his real occupation is blackmarketing in coal. He openly says that he is doing it to collect party funds for the impending bye-election. Apart from issuing delivery orders for coal, it is also alleged that the Minister is providing jobs to his own people in the coal companies and other organisations associated with them. A retired I.A.S. officer was brought in the B.C.C.L. as officer on special duty. Other officers, of course, resisted this and did not allow him to join duty.

As a result he went back to his own place.

Sir, I will now put a few pointed questions:—

Can hon. Minister assure this House in clear words that the theft of 300,000 tons of coal has not taken

place? In the statement supplied to us a vague and evasive reply has been given. Secondly, will he tell this House what the constitution of the independent enquiry committee which he proposes to appoint will be? Thirdly, Sir, the method of physical verification of coal stock is not very advanced in our country. Why has the advanced scientific methods prevalent in the advanced countries of the world not been adopted so far?

One more thing Sir, it was announced sometimes back that departmental enquiry has been initiated against 120 officers of the Coal India Limited on charges of corruption. I want to know what action has been taken against those corrupt officers who were associated with the 'Coal Racket' relating to Coal industry in Bihar. Have they been suspended or have they been dismissed from service? Lastly, Sir, is it not a fact that those honest and competent officers due to whose expertise the targets of coal production are realised, are being transferred or even dismissed? Furthermore, these corrupt and incompetent officers who are associated with coal Racket are being rewarded with promotions etc. I hope the Hon. Minister will reply to these questions clearly.

SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, when I talked of an independent Committee, what I meant was that this Committee would be of experts from outside Coal India. Today, I again assert that there is no question of shortage till the whole thing has been verified. I cannot say that there is shortage.

With regard to giving coal to Malda people, there has been a discussion with my hon. friends and I do not know what to answer, what to tell and what not to tell them. I do not think, you can kill malda people simply because they have voted a Congressman. I accept that policy.

About the distribution policy, I have been doing a new thing. As part of

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the policy to improve its service to coal consumers, Coal India has already opened a number of dumps at the consuming centres. The number of dumps under operation is gradually being increased and has now reached 26. These dumps are in operation in West Bengal, Bihar, UP, Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and a number of other States.

We are also going to have dumps in the rural areas.

Apart from this, with the intention of improving service to the consumers, Coal India is appointing a number of fuel technologists in its regional and branch offices. These fuel technologists will help in assessment of the genuine demands of different types of coal and also provide a fuel efficiency service to consumers. They will be able to advise consumers on how to reduce their fuel costs by making changes or improvements in their fuel burning equipment. They will also make an assessment of the scope of conversion of industrial consumers from oil to coal. In previous years, considerable quantities of oil have been saved by conversion from oil burning equipment to coal burning equipment. This programme will now be given a further impetus by the provision of fuel efficiency service in the regional and branch offices. This will go a long way in improving our services.

With regard to other charges the Hon. Member has made, I again say I have answered each of them and I don't think I should waste the time of the House.

13.20 hrs.

**STATEMENT BY A MEMBERS RE:
CERTAIN REMARKS MADE ON
19-8-81 ON MOTION RE: FIRST RE-
PORT OF COMMITTEE OF PRIVI-
LEGES**

**SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV (Na-
landa): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, on
19th August, 1981, while speaking on**

the motion for taking into considera-
tion the First Report of the Committee
of Privileges, the hon. Member, Shri
Harinath Misra, Chairman, Committee
of Privileges, stated that I was present
in the meeting of the Committee of Pri-
vileges held on 6 September, 1980,
when the Committee decided to recom-
mend to the House that "the apology
tendered by Shri J. R. D. Tata during
his evidence before the Committee on
12th July, 1980, be accepted and the
matter be dropped", but that no note
of dissent had been received.

I wish to clarify that I did not agree
to the above decision of the Committee
at that sitting and that I had sent a
written communication saying that I
did not agree with the above minutes
of the Committee. The note of dissent,
which I referred in the House, was
about this communication.

I was not present in the meeting
when the report of the Committee was
adopted

13.25 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for
lunch till twenty-five minutes past
fourteen of the Clock.*

*The Lok Sabha ressembled after lunch
at thirty minutes past fourteen of the
clock.*

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair].

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now we
shall take up motions for election to
Committees. Shri Veerendra Patil.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

(i) NATIONAL WELFARE BOARD FOR
SEAFARERS.

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND
TRANSPORT (SHRI VEERENDRA
PATIL: I beg to move:—

"That in pursuance of rule 4(b)
of the National Welfare Board for
Seafarers Rules, 1963, the members
of this House do proceed to elect,