

14.28 hrs.

**COAL MINES (CONSERVATION
AND DEVELOPMENT BILL***

**THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND
MINES (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA):**
I beg to move for leave to introduce a
Bill to provide for the conservation of
coal and development of coal mines
and for matters connected therewith
or incidental thereto.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:
"That leave be granted to intro-
duce a Bill to provide for the con-
servation of coal and development
of coal mines and for matters con-
nected therewith or incidental
thereto"

The motion was adopted

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: I intro-
duce the Bill

14.37 hrs

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]
MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(1) RECENT SALT CRISIS IN WEST BEN-
GAL

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai)
There is a serious salt crisis in West
Bengal. Salt is essential for everyone
and is a must for cooking in every
family. The price of salt has gone
up by ten to fifteen times. In West
Bengal in rural areas it is being sold
at the rate of Rs 2-3 per kilo. The
reasons is attributed to the fact that
there are a few ships carrying salt from
Tuticorn which are not being un-
loaded. Government says it is due to
labour trouble but I do not think so.
It is known to this House how the

whole-salary and retailers even by
paying demurrage kept many railway
wagons unloaded in different sheds and
created artificial scarcity. I do not
know whether salt scarcity in West
Bengal has been created by adopting
similar tactics by the wholesale dea-
lers in salt, that is, by even paying
demurrage they will be able to sell
salt at a higher price and in black-
market. I want to know this from
the hon. Minister. They have been
using CRP, BSF, Industrial Security
Force and Territorial Army and so
many other forces on this or that plea
against the popular movements. Why
can't they employ CRP, BSF, Indus-
trial Security Force or Territorial
Army for unloading only two to three
ships?

This intolerable position has been
continuing for the last one month.
This is the twelfth day since I have
been trying to draw the attention of
the Speaker and ultimately succeed-
ed. The news about the salt crisis in
West Bengal has been appearing in
the newspapers of West Bengal every-
day.

I want to raise another point. Salt
production can be developed in the
Contai coastal belt area and also in
Orissa coastal area. There is large
potentiality of production of salt in
Contai coastal belt area. The Govern-
ment is having Soda Ash plant at
Haldia for which salt will be required.
Contai is only 30 miles away from
Haldia. Government is not taking any
step to develop salt production in
Contai. Coal is sent from Calcutta to
Tuticorn. The ships have to come
from Tuticorn to Calcutta carrying
salt. I do not know why for over a
month this situation is going on that
Government are unable to unload salt
from two or three ships that are wait-
ing at the Calcutta port, the whole-
sale traders are paying demurrage
with the knowledge of Government,
just to loot the people by creating an
artificial scarcity of salt and creating

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Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

[Shri Samar Guha]
a price hike in the case of salt I want to know from Government why they are unable to unload the salt and what steps they are going to take immediately to solve the salt crisis in West Bengal

SHRI S M BANERJEE (Kanpur). Who will reply to this?

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER We have another motion under rule 377

SHRI SAMAR GUHA I have raised this issue with the knowledge of the Speaker I have raised this after 12 days' effort

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER It is so clear I understand it

SHRI SAMAR GUHA I want that the hon Minister should come out with a statement

SHRI S M BANERJEE When no sugar was available, we did not shout But even salt is not available at least they should give us salt

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER He is confused, and I am confused, because we do not know

SHRI SAMAR GUHA The hon Minister should come out with a statement

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER Why does he not allow me to speak? He has spoken for so long Why does he not allow me to finish? I am confused and many of us here are confused

SHRI S M BANERJEE Why is the dealing Minister?

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER I do not know who the dealing Minister is We have to find out The only thing that I can say is that we have a very convenient omnibus Minister of Parliamentary affairs, and he will find out which Ministry is dealing with this and he will convey it to them What-

ever the hon Members have said has gone on record, and the Government may come forward

SHRI S M BANERJEE I have seen him while taking coffee; he does not take sugar, whenever he takes coffee, he always says 'I do not want sugar' But does he take at least salt or not?

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER Now, we have another motion under rule 377 There are seven hon Members who have given notice of this, Under this rule, we have not evolved any system Normally, rule 377 was not very much resorted to before Now, however, it has become very very important, and I think that it is one of the healthy developments But so long it has happened that only one person gives notice of one particular motion

SHRI S M BANERJEE From yesterday, it is two

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER Will he kindly sit down? Please let him not intervene So long it has happened that only one person does so When that is selected, and the hon Member makes a brief mention if the hon Minister is available and he is informed, he comes forward with a statement, if he is not ready, he comes forward some other day That has been the practice But, now another thing has developed that many Members have given notice about this

SHRI K LAKKAPPA (Tumkur) It depends on the importance of the subject

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER Why does he not allow me to regulate the proceedings? Why should he be so impatient? I see that his name is there and I shall give him a chance

I do not want to be rigid here and I do not want to be arbitrary The most fatal things that anybody sitting in the Chair can do to himself is to

be arbitrary. We have evolved certain rules about calling-attention-notice, because the names are so many, there is some kind of ballot, and we have now limited the number to five. Now, the stage has come perhaps when we have to resort to a similar measure with a thing like this also. Therefore, I would give a chance to all those hon. Members to say something, but only on this condition that I shall enforce another rule that whenever a Member repeats the arguments of another, I shall cut that out. I shall give a chance to everybody provided he makes a new point and is brief. Let hon. Members not abuse that. Now, Shri G. Y. Krishnan,

(A) PROPOSED CLOSURE OF KOLAR GOLD MINES.

SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN (Kolar): I raise a matter of vital importance affecting thousands of labourers in the Kolar Gold Mines. The Kolar Gold Mines which was started in 1884 by Messrs John Taylor Co. and nationalised during 1967 is facing a gloomy future on account of the ineffective and inefficient functioning of the managing director of the company. It is reliably learnt that he has often recommended to the Government to close the mines and the Government is seriously considering the same. As per the report of the Ministry of Steel and Mines, 1973-74, the estimated ore reserves in the KGF as on 31st March, 1973 are 44,86,536 tonnes. This is quite sufficient for the operations of the Kolar Gold Mines for another 15 to 20 years even if new ores are not located. It is a common feeling that the Kolar Gold Mines is uneconomically working. But the report of the Ministry of Steel and Mines itself states that the company is required to make over the entire gold production to Government at the IMF rate, which is very much lower than the market price

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: That is all right. You have made the point.

SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: It is said like that in the report. The quantum of subsidy being given to the company is also low. Hence, any proposal to close down the mines is not tenable. This gold mine which is the economic backbone of the country is producing one-third of the world's gold. The gold requirements for the industrial and economic purposes will have to come from these mines only. The total production of ore and gold produced has fallen to less than half of that in the preceding years....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You are only to raise a point; not to make a long speech.

SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: This is actually what is going on there.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You are to make a point only; not to make a long speech. Obviously, you have come prepared for a very big debate.

SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: The total production of the ore mined and the gold produced has fallen to less than half of what was therein the preceding years. According to the report of the Ministry....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You have raised the point. Let the others also have their say and the Government may come forward with their reply.

SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: I have not completed my say. This comes under my constituency.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: That may be so, but you are only raising a point under rule 377 and you are not to make a big speech on that.

SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: I have not concluded. (Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Order, please. It is going to be 3 O'clock, and you cannot go on like that.

SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: I will make only three or four points. That