

be arbitrary. We have evolved certain rules about calling-attention- notices, 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

[Shri G. Y. Krishnan] is all. The gold required for the industry—

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE:** The Finance Bill is coming, and this may be pointed out in that debate.

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** That is also a point. When the Finance Bill is taken up, this may be raised at that time.

**SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN:** The gold required for the industrial and economic purposes will have to come from the KGF and the Hat'i Mines. This being so, the present Managing Director is trying to close down the mines by withdrawing the worker

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Now, I call upon Shri Mallanna.

**SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN:** Sir, what I say is quite relevant.

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** The Minister will reply to you. Do not make a long speech. Now, Mr. Mallanna.

**SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN:** The Managing Director is trying to close down the mine by withdrawing....

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Order, please. He is trying to take too much advantage. Shri Mallanna.

**SHRI K. MALLANNA** (Madhugiri): Sir, there are three or four points to be considered in connection with this matter. One is, the report of the Ministry of Steel and Mines does not contemplate the closure of the mines. That is one thing. Then, the report of the Ministry of Steel and Mines does not say anything about the closure of the mines, and if the mine is closed there will be also the unemployment problem. The employees belonging to the weaker sections of the population will suffer the most. The third point is this. Many instruments and other articles are sold as scrap indiscriminately. The last point is, we are losing a sub-

stantial quantity of gold by closing the mines.

So, I request the hon. Minister to have an inquiry into the matter and appoint an expert committee. I request him to consider whether it is feasible or not.

**SHRI K. LAKAPPA:** It is not a question of discussion or drawing the attention of the Government. It is because of the urgency of the situation. The situation is serious. The entire economy of the country is based on the gold available in the gold mines. The technical issue involved has not been made out by many hon. Members and it needs to be discussed. Many issues are involved. The alarming situation is that the management is being pushed to see that the entire gold mine is closed. The reasons that they are giving, untunable and they are manipulated in such a way that the entire gold mine should be closed down. It is not only detrimental to the interests of large sections of employees who are working there but also detrimental to the interest of the nation. The availability of new reserves has not been explored; technical operations have not been begun. How can you close down a gold mine which can be operated in a remunerative way?

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** You have posed the question; let the Minister reply now.

**SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:** The management is making all efforts to close down the mines. We are having a competent Minister today we want to pay glorious tributes to him. A high level committee should be appointed to see that the whole thing is examined. Otherwise I would like to seek your permission to raise another full discussion on this issue.

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** That is suggestion for action. Now please resume your seat.

**SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:** I seek your protection. A high level committee