

[*English*]

## REGULARISATION OF CONTRACT WORKERS

1096. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of contract workers, in various coal washeries of Coal India Limited are engaged in permanent nature of work;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to regularise these workers; and

(c) the details in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGUDA) : (a) to (c) Contract workers are engaged in washeries of coal companies for removal of slurry and transport of middlings. While removal of slurry is of continuous nature, the transport of middlings is intermittent in nature. The coal companies are installing and commissioning froth-flotation plants in their washeries within the next two or three years to do away with manual handling of slurry thus thereafter, no work force, either contractual or departmental, would be required for removal of slurry. As for transport of middlings, a major portion of this work already stands departmentalised and complete departmentalisation is sought to be achieved soon.

In view of the above, the question of regularising the Contract Workers in the coal washeries, by the Government, does not arise.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi) Sir, I would like to know whether Hon. Minister has resigned and if so, on what grounds ?

(English)

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali) : Sir the Hon. Minister has to make a statement... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : The Hon. Minister is here. He can make a statement... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. I have allowed the Leader of the House to make a statement. One after the other, we can take up—not all simultaneously....

[*Interruptions*]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : Sir, so far as the question of Hon. Member Shri Khurana is concerned, I have to inform the House that the Hon. Minister has resigned and his resignation has been forwarded by the Prime Minister to the President for acceptance.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The Hon. Minister is present here. He can make a statement.

(Translation)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : The House wants to know as to how far the statement that has appeared in the newspapers is true ? ... (*Interruptions*)....

MR. SPEAKER : When I am on my legs, you please sit down. I have listened everything and followed it, why are you doing this, I am on my legs to say something.

(English)

Please take your seat. Now, the Minister has given me a letter saying that he wants to make a statement. I would like to receive his statement in writing and then I will allow to do it.... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Please don't do like this. Please don't force me like this. The rule says that if a Minister wants to make a statement, he has to give it in writing to the Speaker, the Speaker goes through it. He forms his opinion and then allow him. I have received it just now. I am not in a position to read it. .. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : It is not proper for him to do like this. .. (*Interruptions*)

**MR. SPEAKER :** I will read it I will allow him after I read it. Shri Ramamurthy, you can do it after some time. I will give you the time. Now, I am asking Shri Datta Meghe to make his submission. .. (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI DATTA MEGHE (Nagpur) :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, according to the provision of Article 371(2) of the Constitution, the Hon. President of India may be requested to constitute Development Boards for Vidarbha, Marathwada and rest of Maharashtra with immediate effect.

[*Translation*]

**MR. SPEAKER :** Sir, former Prime Ministers Shri V. P. Singh and Shri Chandrashekhar had said it that they would solve the problem of Vidarbha Board. This is an under-developed area. It is the demand of the whole of Vidarbha, Marathwada and rest of Maharashtra that unless this Board is constituted, development of the area is not possible. Nothing can be done until the board is constituted. Shri Rajiv Gandhi had also said that in case he came to power after elections, he would solve the problem of the Board. I want to ask why the Board is not being constituted ?

[*English*]

**SHRI PALA K.M. MATHEW (Idukki) :** Sir, I rise to point out that a very alarming situation has gripped Kerala which has to be urgently dealt with on a war-footing.

Incessant torrential rains have swept away vast areas of land and parts of some villages in the mountainous District of Idukki.

Massive land slides and hurricanes have caused untold misery and irreparable losses to the farmers. People have been swept away by the roaring floods and houses have been ruined; trees have been up-tops worth crores of rupees have been devastated; bridges have been shattered; roads have been damaged and even

blotted out. It is almost a cataclysm which has turned the concerned areas upside down. The peasants are already broken by the heavy debts, steep fall in cash crop prices, destruction of peppervines due to diseases and also by the general price rise and inflation.

I urge upon the Government to reach out immediate interim relief and also give them sufficient compensation, aid and rehabilitation after getting a report from the Kerala Government.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI MORESHWAR SAVE (Aurangabad) :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of Hon. Minister of Industry and Hon. Finance Minister to the crisis prevalent in small scale sector industrial units. Most of the nationalised banks have effected a heavy cut in credit facilities provided to small scale sector units throughout the country since May 1991 without prior intimation. In the beginning the Banks stopped providing credit facilities to them. With the result, most of the units have been closed down are on the verge of closure. Besides, the Banks have increased the rate of interest also and are charging interest arbitrarily sans uniformity. In this way, small scale industries are facing severe crises. Millions of labourers in the country are likely to face starvation.

Sir, out of the loans provided to industries in the country, most of the arrears are against heavy industries. According to the economic survey, out of the total arrears, only 24 per cent arrears are against small scale industries and the remaining arrears are against heavy industries. In such a situation, I don't think that credit facilities for small scale sector only be stopped in the name of economic crisis.

Since the Government have not announced industrial policy for small scale sector, uncertainty is prevailing in this sector. I request the Hon. Industry Minister to continue credit facilities for small scale industries and reduce the rate of interest for small scale industries in comparison to heavy industries as per the