

MR. SPEAKER : I will explain it to you in the Business Advisory Committee. I shall place the difficulties at the Business Advisory Committee meeting.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Sir, I rise to a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned till 2-30.

13-29 hrs.

The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch Till Thirty minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

The Lok Sabha Re-assembled after Lunch at thirty-four minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair.]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Jaganatha Rao.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU (Diamond Harbour) : Sir, I have given a calling attention notice on the reported re-shuffling of the West Bengal Administration by Mr. Chavan's emissaries who have gone to Calcutta. This is a very important thing. That calling attention has not been admitted. Will you please ask Mr. Chavan to make a statement whether this is true and what designs they have in mind about West Bengal ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Jaganatha Rao.

COAL MINES (CONSERVATION AND SAFETY) AMENDMENT BILL*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI JAGANATH RAO) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Coal Mines (Conservation and Safety) Act, 1952.

श्री शिव चन्द्र झा (मधुवनी) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं इस विधेयक के इंट्रोडक्शन का विरोध करता हूँ, क्योंकि यह सविधान की धाराओं के खिलाफ है। यह बिल कोलमाइन्ज

(कनज़रवेशन एण्ड सेफ्टी) एक्ट, 1952 में संशोधन करने के लिए लाया गया है, लेकिन इस के द्वारा आरिजिनल एक्ट में जो कुछ जोड़ा जा रहा है, वह कांस्टीट्यूशन में दिये गये डायरेक्टिव प्रिंसीपल्स के खिलाफ है। आरिजिनल एक्ट के लांग टाइटल में कहा गया था : " . . . मेक फ़रदर प्राविजन फ़ार सेफ्टी इन कोलमाइन्ज"। इस बिल में "सेफ्टी इन" के बाद "एण्ड डेवेलपमेन्ट आफ़" बढ़ा दिया गया है, जिस का अर्थ यह है कि सरकार कोलमाइन्ज के विकास के लिए भी कुछ कदम उठाने जा रही है।

इस वक्त कोलमाइन्ज मोटे तौर पर निजी सेक्टर में हैं। जिस रूप में यह बिल लाया गया है, उस का नतीजा यह होगा कि निजी हाथों में कानसेन्ट्रेशन आफ़ वेल्थ और कानसेन्ट्रेशन आफ़ मीन्ज आफ़ प्रोडक्शन बढ़ेगा, जबकि कांस्टीट्यूशन के आर्टिकल 39(बी०) और (सी०) में कहा गया है :

"(b) that the ownership and control of the material resources of the community are so distributed as best to subserve the common good;

(c) that the operation of the economic system does not result in the concentration of wealth and means of production to the common detriment;"

इस प्रकार सरकार डेवेलपमेन्ट आफ़ कोलमाइन्ज के नाम पर निजी सेक्टर में वेल्थ और मीन्ज प्राडक्शन के कानसेन्ट्रेशन को बढ़ा रही है, जो हमारे डायरेक्टिव प्रिंसीपल्स के खिलाफ है।

इस लिए मैं इस विधेयक के इंट्रोडक्शन का पुरज़ोर विरोध करता हूँ।

SHRI JAGANATH RAO : This is not a constitutional objection to the introduction of the Bill. By this Bill I am not going to reverse the policy of the government. There are several coalmines in the country and what this amendment seeks to do is to include the word "development" in the Act. The Bill, as it originally stood,

[Shri Jaganath Rao]

referred only to "safety" in coalmines. Now I am introducing a clause to include "development of mines" on scientific lines. The mines have to be developed on scientific lines to preserve the reserves and also exploit them on scientific lines. At present the private sector is doing it. This Bill does not mean that I am going to stop with it. As I have stated repeatedly in this House, I am contemplating bringing forward a legislation which empowers the government to acquire these mines.

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

Moved That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Coal Mines (Conservation and Safety) Act, 1952."

The motion was adopted

SHRI JAGANATH RAO: I introduce the Bill.

14-38 hrs.

NORTH-EASTERN COUNCIL BILL

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN): I beg to move*:

"That the Bill to provide for the setting up of a Council for the North-Eastern areas of India to be called the North-Eastern Council and for matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration."

At this stage naturally I will be explaining the reasons why we thought of having this new set-up. As we know, there are zonal councils in the country in which we have grouped States the after the reorganisation in 1956. When the proposal for reorganisation of Assam was considered, it was decided to have the autonomous State of Meghalaya. It was also thought that there should be a forum where a coordinated integrated view of the entire eastern area national can be taken. As far as the aspect of the problem is concerned, There are two aspects which need coordinated attention--one is the security aspect and the other is the development aspect. Even though the area could be divided into political units in a different way,

there are some economic problems or aspects which need to be tackled in a uniform and integrated manner. These were the two compelling reasons to make us think of some other organisation. It can very well be argued that instead of having this new set up one could have thought of one more responsibility to the Eastern Zonal Council. The Eastern Council consists of this area plus West Bengal and Bihar. I have an experience of attending the meetings of the Council as Chairman. Naturally, all the problems are taken into consideration but the special aspects of the problems of this particular region and particularly the security aspect are driven to the background because there are the administrative and other urgent problems which take precedence. So, it was thought that it would be better for members of political units of this area to sit together and consider this problem from angles all. Then they will be able to give more careful attention. Therefore, it was decided to have this Council.

Essentially, this Council is an advisory body. We do not propose to make it another decision-making body because that will further complicate the issue. Our idea is to enable the leaders of these political units to come together, to sit together, understand their common problems and if there are any projects which are of common interests to all the States concerned, to think about them and argue with the Central Government in a more cogent way regarding resources, etc. It would be even more helpful if there is similar understanding among the different political units regarding the basic question of security of this part of the country. Therefore, we have decided to include the Chief Ministers of both Assam and Meghalaya, the Chief Minister of Tripura and Manipur. As far as Nagaland is concerned we have not yet made it a member but we are having an enabling provision so that they may join it later on.

SHRI DHIRESWAR KALITA (Gauhati): Why has Nagaland refused to join this Council?

*Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

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