

MR SPEAKER: This motion is adopted. This is carried to the next session. Shri T.A. Pai.

18.02 hrs

COKING AND NON-COKING COAL MINES (NATIONALISATION) AMENDMENT BILL

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRY AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI T. A. PAI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to amend the Coking Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1972, and the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Sir, since the Coking Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1972, received the President's assent, it has come to notice that in certain cases there are minor discrepancies in the description of the various coking coal mines listed, in the Schedule to the Act. It is thought desirable to remove these discrepancies, and such other discrepancies as may be brought to notice hereafter, by issue of suitable notifications if the power in this regard is vested in the Government ...

MR. SPEAKER: How much is this? How many minutes you would need?

SHRI T. A. PAI: A short one. I will make it short.

Sir, in the course of the administration of the coking coal mines, we also found that considerable arrears were due to the employees by way of wages and statutory liabilities and we wanted to see that before the secured and unsecured debts were cleared these were deducted also in performance to both secured and unsecured debts. And, for this purpose, since it may not be possible for a large body of workmen or their dependants to make claims, we wanted to confer this power on the Coal Mines Provident Fund Commissioner.

With these objects, I have brought forward these Amendments, to bring it in conformity with the Recent Coal Mines Nationalisation Act which this House has passed. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the question is:

"That the Bill to amend the Coking Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1972, and the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973; as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

18.04 hrs.

RE: SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS

MR SPEAKER: Now, a Member has given notice of a Short Notice Question and the Minister has accepted it—some other Minister. Should we allow it? Because, the earlier decision was, we will not accept anything other than a straight discussion on the Plan.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Gwalior): Unless we know the nature of the question....

MR SPEAKER: Nature of the question may be urgent. But because it is a Short Notice Question, it has been addressed to the Minister and he has accepted it. I think I should not come in his way.

If there was any other question, I would not have allowed it. But, he has accepted the Short Notice Question. I think that I should not deprive the Member of his opportunity.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: You accept the Short Notice Question at your convenience.

MR. SPEAKER: What do you like me to do? If the Member gets the chance let him get it. Why should we come in the way? Otherwise, if it were with me. I would not have accepted the ordinary Question.

One will come up tomorrow and the other the day after.