

MR. SPEAKER: Whatever you have got, you lay everything on the Table.

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA: Yes, Sir. I lay the statement on the Table. *(Placed in Library. See No. LT-4349/A/7331.)*

12. 56 hrs.

MATTER UNDER RULE 377

ACUTE SHORTAGE OF COAL IN GUJARAT

MR. SPEAKER: Shri P. M. Mehta.

SHRI P. M. MEHTA: (Bhavnagar): Sir, with your permission, under Rule 377, I would like to make the following statement.

Gujarat is facing acute shortage of coal I have received telegrams from Bhavnagar, headquarters of my constituency and also from Baroda. Telegrams are to the effect that they have received very meagre quantity of coal against their requirements of the months of May, June and July 1973. Practically, there is no stock of coal.

A textile unit at Bhavnagar viz., the New Jehangir Vakil Mills has received only 52 coal wagons against 180 wagons of their three months quota since May 1973. Stock with this Mill will hardly last for five days or so. If coal wagons are not rushed, the coal crisis will result into the closure throwing 2500 workers out of employment. This will affect nearly 10 000 souls of my constituency headquarters.

Similarly slack coal required for manufacturing bricks at Baroda is not supplied by Colliery authorities as well as Railways since May, June and July 1973. It is apprehended that two lakhs of workers, mostly Harijans, and Adivasis would be jobless if coal is not supplied and wagons not rushed to Baroda.

I draw the attention of both the Ministers of Railways and Steel and

Mines to this serious situation and demand immediate a rush of coal and coal wagons to Gujarat, specially to Bhavnagar and Baroda.

I may add that some coal has come to Bhavnagar by sea. I do not know to what extent this will solve the problem of shortage of coal. Government should see that because of coal transported by sea, prices do not rise.

12.59 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha adjourned for lunch till Fourteen of the clock.*

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at three minutes past Fourteen of the Clock*

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

RE STRIKE BY STATE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES IN RAJASTHAN

SHRI S M BANERJEE (Kanpur): Sir, you are aware there is a complete strike by the State Government employees in Rajasthan and the whole administration in Rajasthan is paralysed.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: How does the Centre come into the picture?

SHRI S M BANERJEE: The leadership of the Central Government employees in Rajasthan has also taken a decision that if the strike is not settled after negotiation the Central Government offices in Rajasthan also will be closed. Even MPs and M.L.As. are not allowed to go inside the jail and see the arrested employees. The Centre should take the initiative in requesting the Rajasthan Government to settle the strike soon.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): This is the 29th day of the strike. One thousand employees have been demoted and more than 2,000 employees have been arrested and 600 convicted. This is a matter which