

[English]

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : No time limit can be given nor can any details be given when the inquiry is going to be completed. But the CBI has been requested to expedite its inquiry and give its recommendations.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : At least say during the term of this Government.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : Most certainly.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Vishnu Modi. Absent.

Shri Ram Bhagat Paswan. Absent.

Employees killed in Coal Mines

*186. SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI GUPTA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

Year	No. of Fatal accidents	No. of persons killed	No. of serious accidents	No. of persons seriously injured.
1	2	3	4	5
1980	58	72	372	390
1981	68	71	344	379
1982	56	76	343	368
1983	60	84	326	348
1984	51	58	175	183

Accidents were caused mainly due to fall of roof, fall of side, use of explosives and movement of transportation machinery within the mine.

The provisions of the Mines Act, 1952, and the rules and regulations framed thereunder, which take care of safety in mines, are enforced by the Directorate General of Mines Safety. These provisions were strengthened by the amendment Act of 1983, which came into force on 31st May, 1984. This, among other things, provided for appointment of Workmen Inspectors, setting up of statutory Pit Safety Committees and gave powers to Inspectors to prohibit employment for

(a) whether a large number of employees of coal mines in Bihar died in accidents due to non-adoption of safety measures; and

(b) the steps Union Government propose to take to enforce safety measures in these mines to save the lives of the people ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) : (a) and (b) A statement is given below.

Statement

The number of workers of coal mines in Bihar killed and seriously injured in accidents during the last five years was as under :

reasons of continuous violation of safety matters. The penal provisions were enhanced and a minimum fine of rupees two thousand was provided for gross negligence or recklessness. Violation of orders prohibiting employment in dangerous places would meet with compulsory imprisonment. The Inspectors are given powers to conduct special surveys and studies, particularly in relation to occupational health matters.

The Directorate General has been instructed to examine the existing procedures regarding inspection of mines and follow-up action on inspection reports as well as specific action to be taken in case of

accidents in mines. They have also been advised to initiate prosecution action against mine managements beside recommending departmental action against the erring officers so that mine managements take extra care in following the safety regulations. Measures are also being taken for strengthening the mine inspectorates and improving their service conditions so that more number of inspectors are available for increasing the frequency of inspections.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI GUPTA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in reply to my question he has put the number of fatal accidents during 1980 to 1984 at 293 and the number of persons killed at 361; the number of serious accidents has been given as 1640 and the main causes of these accidents have been given as fall of roof, fall of side, use of explosive and movement of transportation machinery within the mine. I want to know from the hon. Minister what safety measures have been adopted by the Central Government to see that such accidents do not take place in future ?

SHRI T. ANJIAH : Mr. Speaker, for this a new provision is being made whereby the workers are also being given the right to initiate prosecution proceedings for their safety. Amendment to this effect has been made and the rules are being framed for this purpose to ensure their safety.

SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI GUPTA : Sir, the land of Bihar abounds in mineral deposits and the nationalisation of coal mines in the State was done with the exclusive object of increasing coal production, to adopt safety measures and formulate schemes for the welfare of the workers. The hon. Minister has also stated in detail about this aspect in his reply and has said that the provisions of the Mines Act, 1952, and the rules and regulations framed thereunder have been strengthened by the amending Act of 1983. I want to know from the hon. Minister the number of Managers and Officers who have been fined; the number of prosecution cases filed and the number of persons

punished under the provisions so strengthened ? I would also like to know the number of persons against whom departmental action has been taken ?

SHRI T. ANJIAH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in 1980, 5 persons, in 1981, 10 persons, in 1982, 7 persons, in 1983, 9 persons and in 1984, 16 persons were prosecuted.

Sir, in other countries, the number of such accidents is more. Here in our country, very few accidents have taken place after the nationalisation of mines. To check these accidents, we are giving additional rights to the workers and the rules are also being amended.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the question of production is concerned, you know that production in other countries is more as compared to our country. The main reason for this is that we have a number of unions here and inter union rivalry causes loss in production. Sir, every person has formed a union of his own. This is a misfortune for the country that inter union rivalry causes loss in production.

SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI GUPTA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply is *gol mol* (vague). My question was how many officers were punished ?

SHRI T. ANJIAH : Sir, the reply is not *gol mol* (vague). She also...

PROF MADHU DANDAVATE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply is not *gol mol* (vague), but the Minister is *gol mol* (roly-poly).

SHRI T. ANJIAH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, she was also the Labour Minister and she knows how many accidents took place in Bihar and how many persons were punished; she has got complete information with her.

Sir, the condition of workers has improved a lot after nationalisation; there has been a substantial increase in their pay. Safety measures have also been increased as compared to past; what more can we do ?

SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI GUPTA :
Hon. Speaker, Sir, I had categorically asked from the hon. Minister whether any provision to give employment to the dependents of those killed has been made or not ?

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, our problem is that the workers get nothing out of it; only part prosecution is done.

[*English*]

But in this you bring such pressure on them; the people are going to die. There my specific question is this—

[*Translation*]

—I want to ask a specific question, as has also been asked by the hon. Member preceding me, how many persons were imprisoned for both types of offences and how many persons were severely punished ?

SHRI T. ANJIAH : There is no question of imprisonment. If it is a question of only imprisonment, a number of labour leaders can also be imprisoned.

DR. DATTA SAMANT : I have been imprisoned 25 times. I had been to Bombay the day before yesterday, I was arrested there. I have been released today only.

SHRI T. ANJIAH : The workers are squarely at fault. They do not use the equipment supplied to them for safety purposes. Now, what can we do ? Should we imprison them ? The Government is trying its best to enforce safety regulations, but the workers do not use the safety equipment supplied to them. If they do not use the equipment, should they be jailed for that ? How can we do it ? We can jail the leaders of the workers if you so desire.

SHRI SHIV PRASAD SAHU : Coal mines are located in various parts of the country but how is it that most of the accidents take place in Bihar ? Is it not the major reason that these accidents are caused due to illegal mining which takes place in connivance with the higher officials ? Has any investigation been conducted into it ?

SHRI T. ANJIAH : It is not that these accidents take places in Bihar alone!

SHRI T. ANJIAH : Sir, Government of India have issued instructions about that.

MR. SPEAKER : It is not a debate.

[*English*]

It is all right. No more questions. Is it in the lady's interest, or a special privilege that you are going to answer four or five questions ?

[*Translation*]

DR. DATTA SAMANT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I want to tell the hon. Minister that the number of accidents and persons killed given by him is certainly on the high side. In his reply the hon. Minister has stated twice that strict instructions have been given to the factory inspectors to initiate prosecution against the defaulters. In the later part of the reply, it has also been stated that these are the offences.

[*English*]

—for which a penalty can be imposed. They can be prosecuted under the rules. The punishment for this is imprisonment.

[*Translation*]

In reply to the question asked by the hon. Member he has stated that after 1982, prosecution has been initiated in respect of 5 cases only, but my question is how many persons were imprisoned or punished after prosecution. The hon. Minister should give a detailed reply to both these questions. The same question was asked by the hon. Member preceding me.

[*English*]

I am not interested in all this.

there are other places also where such accidents take place. Accidents do take place elsewhere also, in view of the fact that there are as many as 8 to 10 lakh workers.

SHRI SHIV PRASAD SAHU : My question is why these accidents are confined to Bihar alone ?

SHRI T. ANJIAH : No, they are not confined to Bihar alone.

[English]

Pilot Project for Watershed Development

*188. **DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether watershed development approach has been adopted by Government as a national strategy for development of dryland agriculture in the country;

(b) if so, whether a pilot project for watershed development in limited areas in some States is being launched with the assistance of World Bank; and

(c) if so, the names of those States and the amount sanctioned by the World Bank for this project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Funds sanctioned by World Bank for different States under the Pilot Project for Watershed Development in Rainfed Areas is indicated below :—

States	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
1. Andhra Pradesh	582.00
2. Karnataka	552.00
3. Madhya Pradesh	863.90
4. Maharashtra	443.20

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : I was not expecting such a pithy reply from the hon. Minister.

MR. SPEAKER : Do you like it ?

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : My original question was : Whether watershed development approach has been adopted by Government as a national strategy for development of dryland agriculture in the country. And the hon. Minister's reply is, Yes Sir. This is just a bureaucratic reply. This is the highest body of the country, but the hon. Minister has given a very pithy reply through his bureaucracy. I want to know from the hon. Minister the total cultivable land in the country ; out of this, what is the total percentage of irrigated land ? According to the geo-physical conditions of our country, on how much land dry land farming can be done ? This is the main object of this question. But the hon. Minister has given the answer to just befool the country. He should first answer this and then I will put my supplementary.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Though this question does not relate to my Ministry, I can tell the hon. Member from my memory that the total area in the country is about 328 million hectares. Out of this about 142 million hectares is not sown area. Out of this nearly 40 million hectares is under irrigation. So far as the dry land farming is concerned, various strategies are adopted by the Government for this. They consist of research, improved varieties of seeds, extension services, providing inputs to farmers, credit and crop insurance.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Sir, now I will come to my question.

MR. SPEAKER : No, one question is answered and now the second question.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether a pilot project for watershed development in limited areas in some States has been formulated by the Government of India and if so, what is the acreage out of