

grant loans to them. But it has been noticed that none of the unemployed graduates, whose names were recommended by this committee, has been given loan. On the contrary, loans are given to those persons who are in collusion with the officers of the banks or those who give Rs. 3000, out of Rs. 6000, to the employees of the banks. Only such persons are granted loans. Such is the standing of MPs that if an M. P. recommends some case, the application for the loan is turned down on the plea that the case has been recommended by an M.P. ... (Interruptions) ... In this way the bank officers are including in corrupt practices and they do not care for anyone, be it a situation or a collector or a District Industries Officer or any other officer. They do not care for anyone and thereby they are doing great injustice to the people.

[English]

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : I share the concern of the hon. Member. Here, there have been some complaints. Wherever there are specific complaints we have to take action. And, we have taken such action also.

Regarding the question why in the Budget there is scaling down, in the first year we have provided certain amount. The sanctioned amount, she mentioned, is Rs. 401 crores. Now, the subsidy that could be given is only 25 per cent. You can give only 25 per cent subsidy. That is only 25 per cent as per the rule. We can give only subsidy to the tune of 25 per cent, and not more.

If you are going to give Rs. 25,000 as loan, then the subsidy element will be Rs. 6,250 or so. Now, that has been scaled down further. This year we have made a provision of Rs. 65 crores. Last year, the provision was Rs. 175 crores. Then in the revised estimate, it has been scaled down to Rs. 149 crores. Even then if more funds are required, we are going to make available and adequate provision will be made for this purpose.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Chandrasekhara Murthy.

[Translation]

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : When the elections are over, the Government's responsibility is also over.

AN HON. MEMBER : It is a question of combating corruption in the banks.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : They do not get loans. Kindly get them justice.

MR. SPEAKER : I think the whole House is unanimous on the matter. There is need to amend the whole procedure again. We would have to discuss this matter in some other way. This should be looked into. The hon. Minister works with promptness but the laxity is there at the lower level. This would have to be looked into.

[English]

We will have to discuss it sometime afterwards. We will see to it. He does a good job. I know he exerts so much, but still we have to find out something much more in this. Mr. Chandrasekhara Murthy, we will take this up in the half-an-hour discussion.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : This should be discussed under Rule 193. This is a very important question for the whole country.

MR. SPEAKER : If time is available, we shall discuss it under Rule 193.

[English]

Production in Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.

*410. SHRI G. BHOOPATHY : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in spite of pressing modern machinery and equipment into service in Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. the target of production was not reached; and

(b) if so, whether there is any alternative proposal before Government to achieve the target of production ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(b) The main reasons for SCL not

achieving the targets have been weak management, a large number of strikes and heavy absenteeism and delay in the implementation and commissioning of new projects. At the instance of the Central Government, the following steps have been taken by the Government of Andhra Pradesh and SCCL to improve the working of the Company

(i) A selected officer has been appointed as Chairman-cum-Managing Director of the Company and two new functional Directors viz. Director (Technical) and Director (Planning) have been appointed on the Board of the Company. Another functional Director in-charge of Personnel is proposed to be appointed shortly.

(ii) The Planning, Monitoring and Vigilance Departments are being strengthened.

(iii) In order to improve industrial relations, a scheme for the participation of workers in the management at different levels is being evolved; the grievance machinery has been strengthened and discipline is being strictly enforced.

(iv) Modern technology and equipment are being introduced in the new projects, in collaboration with foreign export wherever necessary.

[Translation]

SHRI G. BHOOPATHY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the production in the Singareni Collieries Company Limited is going down steeply. Science and technology are advancing fast in the country but the production in this sector is decreasing. What steps do Government propose to take to increase production ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Singareni Collieries are regarded as one of the best collieries in our country, but for the past 4 years its production has stagnated at 12 million tonnes and *vis-a-vis* the target, it is going down year by year and now it has decreased at least by 4 to 5 million tonnes. The supply of coal to the whole South India for power, cement and small scale industries has gone down and this is causing loss.

The reason for this situation is that the top management *i.e.* posts of Chairman, Managing Director of the company has

remained vacant for the past several years *i.e.* the company remained topless.

AN HON. MEMBER : Topless's !

MR. SPEAKER : Have you ever been to the sea beach ?

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : So this is what you mean by topless ?

MR. SPEAKER : It is a matter of experience.

[English]

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Sir, every six months practically the Chairman is changed. Sir, you may find topless is good in some other sphere, but definitely not in industry.

AN HON. MEMBER : In the industries it is bottomless.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Bottomless is worse.

MR. SPEAKER : He is coining new words.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Unfortunately, the labour relations in Singareni Collieries worsened so much that you would be surprised to know that in a year there are 365 days but there have been more strikes than the number of days in a year.

In 1983-84, the number of strikes was 400.... (*interruptions*). It is possible.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Just as on the same day there can be three walk-outs in the House, similarly, there can be three strikes on the same day.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : They were following you there.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : I have not given opportunity to Shri Datta Samanta for the fear that he may not stage a walk out.

[English]

SHRI VASANT SATHE : This was in spite of the fact that Datta Samant did not go there.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : In that case there would have been one strike,

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Then, Reddy is responsible to a large extent.

In 1984-85, there were 395 strikes.

Therefore, the first thing that I did was to go to Singareni coalfields. I met the Chief Minister in Hyderabad also and apprised him of the situation. I am glad to say that he assured me that they would deal with the situation firmly. A Managing Director selected in consultation with the Andhra Pradesh Government has been appointed; Technical Directors have been appointed. I went to Ramagundam and Kothagudem; I met the employees myself directly in a public meeting and addressed and talked to them. I told them that we were willing to involve them in day-to-day management in advisory capacity, so that there is a feeling of belonging and causes for strike and bad labour relations are removed. I am hopeful that the situation in Singareni will improve.

[Translation]

SHRI G. BHOOPATHY : May I know the number of workers killed and injured in accidents in the Singareni Coalfield during the last three years, how many workers have been given *ex-gratia* payment and the amount given to each worker? What is the amount of the family pension given?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : These details are not with me at present. I shall sent them to you.

[English]

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDY : The Minister has stated that to improve the management, Government have appointed three Directors, two Functional Directors and one Managing Director and he thinks that this is going to improve the situation. Secondly, there is a proposal for the worker's participation, in the management. I would like to know whether the proposal has been considered, details worked out and whether it is going to be implemented soon.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Yes, Sir; they are being worked out, they are in operation already. We have told the unions that we will take their representatives on the advisory committee; I announced it there myself; they have been taken. Details are being worked out and they are showing results.

MR. SPEAKER : I would take the risk now and ask Datta Samat, the master craftsman in strikes, to put a question.

SHRI DATTA SAMANT : No worker would like to go on strike repeatedly unless there are some basic precipitating causes. As the Minister has given the number of strikes more than the days of the year, I would ask a specific question. What the average salary paid to these workmen? Secondly, you have met the workers and found out the causes of their dissatisfaction. What are the causes that the Minister has found out during his visit? The participation of workers in the management is a failure in this country. The workers should participate in the management, but what about shares? These announcements have been there unnecessarily for the last ten years. This is just academic propoganda. I would like to know, whether the Minister is going to work out the details for proper participation by the workmen. I would like to have specific answers to my three questions.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Sir, the first thing, *i.e.* as far as minimum wage in Singareni Collieries is concerned, it is one of the highest in the country in coal industry. And it is Rs. 1200 per month. It is the minimum and the average comes to Rs. 1600 per months. It is one of the highest in any public sector undertaking in the country in coal industry. This is one of the reasons why the people feel that they can work for a few days and they can afford to have a holiday.

DR. DATTA SAMANT : There must be contract labour and temporary labour also.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Secondly, I identified the causes. When I went there I found this. In the name of radicalism, the so called people who formely used to call themselves Naxalites (because that was a popular word then), now call themselves radicals. Now, what does this radicalism mean? Whom are they trying to protect there? Are they trying to protect these well-paid employees? Sir, there are a few extremists in some pockets who go on sporadic strikes to pressurise.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Somewhere they are called mafia also.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : They have become mafia. Unfortunately, the established trade unions find themselves helpless before these so called extremists. Therefore, I had to tell the established trade unions that their own credibility is at stake. The only way out is to involve them. If there are any genuine disputes, they can be settled by talking across the table with the management. The fault is with the management also. As I said, if there is no management, if there is no chairman, no managing director and if every three months, he is being changed, then with whom they can negotiate. It was a chaotic condition. But now this has been settled. There is a chairman and there is a managing director and there are technical directors and planning directors. All this has been done and as I said, now in two months, there is a result, there is a better atmosphere I am hopeful that with the support of the Government of Andhra Pradesh in law and order matters, if we are firm with these ruffian elements, production in Singareni will improve.

Raids by Tax Authorities

*413. **SHRI H. M. PATEL :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that recently the number of raids by income-tax and other tax authorities has greatly increased;

(b) if so, the extent of success achieved in a summary form;

(c) whether Government are also aware of the adverse effect the raids have on diamond exports; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to avert the fall in export of diamonds ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). During first three months of 1985, Income-tax Department conducted 1356 searches resulting in seizures of prima facie unaccounted assets valued at Rs. 7.75 crores approx. Drive against evasion of excise duty has been intensified and during January-March, 1985,

1616 cases were detected involving an estimated amount of excise duty of Rs. 37.59 crores. Customs searches were conducted for detection of under-valuation and consequent evasion of duty to the extent of Rs. 21.39 crores approximately.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

SHRI H. M. PATEL : The question was whether Government are aware that recently the number of raids had abruptly increased. The answer would have been correct only if they had given the number of raids during the previous three months or during the previous six months or any figure like that. You have merely given the figure for the last three months, which shows that the number is 1356 and it is large enough. But it is not easy to see whether that number is more or less than whatever was the case before. Secondly, I would like to know this. You said, 'prima facie unaccounted assets valued at Rs. 7.75 crores.'

Will the Minister please say, according to his previous experience, what was the amount involved, because 1356 searches have produced only Rs. 7.75 crores ? I see from a newspaper report in the month of March 1985, which says : "Tax evasion of Rs. 100 crores detected." It refers to the same thing, viz. income-tax raids, customs duty raids and excise raids. So, I would very much like to know in respect of previous cases prior to this first quarter, i.e. whatever raids were conducted and whatever evasion was discovered, suspected, prima facie evasion was found : how many of those were actually proved to be evasion, and what was the extent of evasion which was proved, and what was the amount actually recovered ? I ask this because it is the public and general information that not more than 10 or 12 people in a year actually get penalised. Therefore, I would like the Minister to tell us what precisely is the position.

This is not a second question. This is a question arising from the three answers that have been given. Secondly, he says one thing about customs duties : about customs, he says that customs searches revealed evasion of duty amounting to Rs. 21.39 crores. Is it a fact that as a result of this customs duty evasion, customs officers take action to