

LOK SABHA

Saturday, March 23, 1963/Chaitra 2,
1885 (Saka)

^b The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
s' Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

CALLING ATTENTION TO MAT-
TERS OF URGENT PUBLIC
IMPORTANCE

Mr. Speaker: The Prime Minister is not here. We will take up the second item first.

Shri Hem Barua.

(i) ACCIDENT AT JAMURIA

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Labour and Employment to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

“The accident at Jamuria colliery on the 21st March, 1963 resulting in the death of six workers and injuries to several others.”

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Labour and Employment (Shri R. K. Malviya): An unfortunate accident occurred in the Jamuria A & B Colliery at 1.30 A.M. on the 21st March, 1963. The accident resulted in the death of six persons, including one mining sirdar and five loaders. Two others, a timber mistry and another loader, sustained serious injuries.

The colliery is situated in Asansol and belongs to Mys Equitable Coal Company Ltd. The Deputy Chief Inspector of Mines at Sitarampur 3160(ai)LSD—1.

received telephonic intimation about the accident at 6.30 A.M. He and other officers rushed to the mine immediately. The Deputy Chief Inspector of Mines is personally inquiring into the accident.

The accident occurred in a depilating area in the Poniaty seam, where a stook of coal was under extraction. All of a sudden, a block of roof measuring approximately 60'x60'x3½' fell without any warning from a height of about 11'. The roof had been kept supported by props and cogs. The place is still disturbed and recovery of dead bodies from underneath the fall has not yet been possible.

The mine produces 24,000 tons of coal per month and employs 1900 workmen, of whom 1400 are employed below ground. The output or employment is not likely to be affected as a result of the accident.

Shri Hem Barua: If it is a fact that the roof of this colliery is still loosening which has made the rescue work impossible, may I know what steps were taken by the Government to see that these collieries are properly managed so that accidents might be avoided as far as practicable.

Shri R. K. Malviya: So far as this accident is concerned, the enquiry is still going on and we have not got any final report. After the final report is received, we shall be able to give some more information about this accident.

Shri Hem Barua: What about the rescue part of my question?

Shri R. K. Malviya: So far as rescue is concerned, the information just available discloses that the roof was supported by props and cogs and,

[Shri R. K. Malviya]

therefore, there does not seem to be, I think, any lack of support.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti (Dhanbad): The report says that for the last twelve hours the Deputy Chief Inspector of Mines has been trying to reach the people underneath the fall. May I know what is the latest position?

Shri R. K. Malviya: I have no information yet excepting that which I gave in the statement.

श्री द्वारका दास मंत्री (भीर) : जो इस प्रकार की दुर्घटनायें दिन ब दिन होती रहती हैं उन को पेशे नजर रखते हुये क्या सरकार जो लोग हलाक होते हैं उनके डिपेन्डेंस को तुरन्त नौकरी देने के लिये के लिय कोई संशोधन लाने का विचार कर रही है ?

श्री २० कि० मालवीय : जैसे ही एक्स-डेंट होता है और उस का पता हम को चलता है उसी वकत उन की फैमिलीज़ को सपोर्ट के लिये पैसा दिया जाता है, कोल माइन्स बेजफ़र आर्गेनाइज़ेशन अलग से देता है और एम्प्लायर्स से अलग से दिलाया जाता है। इसके साथ साथ जो उन का कम्पेन्सेशन का बलें होता है वह भी उन्हें दिया जाता है।

Shri Raghunath Singh (Varanasi): May I know when last the roofs and cogs were examined by the Mining Inspector?

Shri R. K. Malviya: That information is not available. The only information available is that the roof did not give any warning. Depillaring is a very common operation in the coal mines and when the pillar is removed, it gives creaks. In this case it did not give any such creaks and, therefore, there was no warning given by the roof at the time of the accident.

(ii) CONCENTRATION OF CHINESE TROOPS IN TIBET

Shri Yashpal Singh (Kairana): I call the attention of the Prime Minister to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

The reported heavy concentration of Chinese troops in Tibet.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Minister of Atomic Energy (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): On the 1st March the Ministry of National Defence of the People's Government of China issued a statement that their troops had withdrawn along the entire India-China border on China's own initiative and that this withdrawal had been completed by the end of February, 1963. The withdrawal was to points 20 Kms beyond what the Chinese claimed as the 'Line of Actual Control'. The statement added that the Chinese forces were "now far behind their positions on September 8, 1962."

On 3rd March, I received a message from Prime Minister Chou En-lai referring to this unilateral action by the Chinese Government and stating, "In order to promote direct Sino-Indian negotiations, the Chinese Government has done all that is possible for it to do. Therefore, I do not think that there should be any more reason to delay the holding of talks between Chinese and Indian officials." I sent a reply to Prime Minister Chou En-lai on 5th March in which I pointed out that "the obvious thing if the Government of China are sincere in their professions regarding peaceful settlement, is to accept the Colombo Conference proposals without reservations just as the Government of India had done. We can go to the second stage of talks and discussions only thereafter."

Since these exchanges took place, certain other developments have