

amounts are being utilised in the coal belt areas for sinking of borewells for drinking water, school buildings for education of children, roads for communication, drainage and electricity.

For the last two years, our local bodies are not getting the coal cess from Singareni Colliery not from the State Government and not from the Government of India. There is no drinking water facility in the area as there is no tap connection. Most of the labourers belong to SCs and STs and are suffering a lot, because safe drinking water is not being provided, and they are afflicted with all sorts of diseases. It is a human problem. The labourers are already frustrated and are agitating and an explosive situation is being created.

I urge upon the hon. Coal Minister, through you that the Government should come forward and provide, every year, minimum Rs. 3 crore for the singareni coal belt areas for drinking water, road communication, drainage and electricity. I request the hon. coal Minister to look into the matter personally and issue necessary instructions for releasing sufficient funds for the Gram Panchayat, Mandals and Zilla Parishad for providing the basic civic amenities to the labourers working in the coal belt area and who are mostly tribals, scheduled caste people. Before the situation gets further deteriorated, the hon. Coal Minister should intervene and provide sufficient funds for the local bodies, as the labourers are already agitating and have threatened not to allow coal to move from the coal belt area.

[Translation]

SHRI LALIT ORAON (Lohardaga): Mr. Speaker, Sir, since 1966, the Army has been conducting shooting exercises in the Bisalpur subdivision of Bihar, as a result of which 15-20 villages have been severely affected.

People belonging to primitive tribes or Assurs inhabit these villages. Ever since these exercises commenced in 1966, the Government has been paying them Rs. 1.50 per adult and 75 paise per minor as compensation. You know very well that the labour wages have considerably gone up, but these people continue to be paid the same amount i.e. 75 paise for minors and Rs. 1.50 for adults.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, those Assurs are in the original inhabitants of that area. Leaving all their work behind, they move out in the morning, only to return in the evenings. Even in this age of sky-high prices these tribals are provided only Rs. 1.50 or 75 paise on the name of wages or compensation, which is totally inadequate. Through you, I request the government to pay attention towards this problem and make arrangements to increase the compensation amount being given to these people.

SHRI TEJ MARAYAN SINGH (Buxar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, recently, on 9th and 10th, some of us and left front went to Tripura on behalf of the national Front and also visited the site where about 142 people have died so far on account of thirst and starvation. Therefore, supporting the contention of Shri Mohan Singh, I would like to say that I feel that the Government has so far not done anything, which was required of it. We held talks with a large of doctors. The Chief Medical officer told us that the sole reason behind the death of so many people was the non-availability of drinking water and food.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell you that it is the same locality in which the people are not able to eat rice and wheat. They are unable to get rice and wheat. Those people, eat wild potatoes over there. They do not have money to buy rice. This is the situation prevailing over there. That is why I urge upon the Government of India to make medicines available in that area.