

can be issued but it depends on the person receiving the directive whether he implements it or not.

[*Translation*]

“Closure of Mussoorie Lime Mines for Environment Protection”

*753. SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to close the sixtyone lime mines of Mussoorie hills permanently for protection of environment;

(b) if so, by what time; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN) : (a) After a detailed consideration of the environmental and socio-economic impact of the limestone mining operations in Mussorie Hills, the Supreme Court has ordered that—

(i) 27 mines be closed permanently and taken up for reclamation;

(ii) 6 mines be allowed to continue mining operations; and

(iii) 19 mines be reviewed by a High powered Committee to consider their continuation or otherwise.

(iv) 9 mines were not being operated even before the judgement.

(b) and (c) Supreme Court has set up a High Powered Committee to report about the 19 mines to decide whether they should be continued or not.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY : Sir, Mussoorie is a beautiful place and it attracts many tourists also from different countries. Is it not a fact that big businessmen are operating mining business there and the government is hesitating to take any drastic measures to close these mining operations ? These mining operations are doing more harm than good to the hill city of Mussoorie. May I also

know whether it is a fact that on this very subject villagers of the area submitted a petitions committee of Rajya Sabha in 1983 ? What were the recommendations of the Petitions Committee ? What action has the Government taken so far on those recommendations ?

SHRI VIR SEN : Sir, I require a fresh notice to answer this supplementary.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY : Sir, the petition was filed before the Petitions Committee.

MR. SPEAKER : He might have to find out the details.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY : As a result of the 27 mines having been closed how many workers were rendered jobless and what alternate employment has been given to them ? If not, why not ?

SHRI VIR SEN : Sir, the decision of the Supreme Court has been there recently and, I think, this particularly relates to the Labour Department.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY : Sir, I am not satisfied.

MR. SPEAKER : Please repeat your question.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY : After the clousure of the mines.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : Answers are not coming.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY : He has said that 27 mines have been closed. As a result of the closure of 27 mines how many workers have been rendered jobless ? How many of them have been provided with alternative employment ? If not, why not ?

AN HON. MEMBER : Quite relevant.

MR. SPEAKER : He does not have the information because Labour Ministry is dealing with this subject. Labour Ministry will be able to answer this subject, not he. This question is only for environment, asking whether those mines have been closed or not. If the closure affects

some labour that will be entrusted to the Labour Ministry. You can table a separate question.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY : They have already submitted a petition to the Petition Committee of Rajya Sabha. The Rajya Sabha's Petition Committee is there. The Minister should know it.

MR. SPEAKER : If he has any answer he can give it. If it is to be referred to Labour Ministry it will take time.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY : Generally questions are sent to them. The Minister should be ready.

MR. SPEAKER : It is concerning Labour Ministry. You have to ask Labour Minister.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, they must consult beforehand because it is a collective responsibility.

MR. SPEAKER : I think you can collect the information and pass it on.

SHRI VIR SEN : That, I will do.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : Labour is always our interest. We look after labour. I don't have the exact figures in front of me; but, if I remember rightly, the labour that was working there was not an absolutely local labour; they have come from outside and have been working there. But we have taken steps to protect the labour and we have put aside Rs. 25 lakhs under the Rural Development and N.R.E.P. to help employment of workers.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : The question as it appears in the Question List is clear. There are no lime mines in the country, either lime-stone quarry or domomite quarry. The Minister has been very kind enough to give the answer. This particular thing, how to maintain the eco system of this particular area, has been debated in the last Parliament, in your presence, Mr. Speaker, several times. Has the Minister taken up the matter with Ministry of Labour that under Clause 4 of Mines and Minerals Regulation Act of 1964 the provisions can be enforced for

closure of the mines detrimental to eco system in that area ?

SHRI VIR SEN : Supreme Court has set up a High Power Committee. That Committee will be reporting and recommending what should be done. The Supreme Court will decide whether the mines will be closed or kept open.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Government can take over any mines whenever it likes in the interest of the public if mine-safety is not there, if there is environmental pollution which is detrimental to the people. The Mines and Minerals Regulation Act clearly says that the mines can be taken over.

SHRI VIR SEN : I think we can take any decision after the Supreme Court has come to a decision.

SHRI C.P.N. SINGH : Sir, this question of closure of these mines has been debated in Dehra Doon for a long time. Fortunately, it is not the Government, but the Supreme Court which came to the aid and the limestone mines were closed. What is happening is this. Certain roads are constantly springing up where the mining has been stopped. Under the 'head' of road, lime-stone is being removed illegally. Will the Government kindly look into this aspect also ?

SHRI VIR SEN : Yes, we can look into it.

Relaxation to Females in Government Jobs

***754. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO :**
SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether female participation in jobs has considerably declined from 28 per cent in 1961 to 21 per cent in 1981;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to give some relaxations to female candidates as in the case of SC/ST in appointments in all the Government Departments; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof ?