

As far as Rath Committee is concerned, I disagree with the hon. Member. There is no question of difference of 22 points because the Committee has not pointed that out.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: My second point is that the Central Trade Unions have given representations in this regard. Will the Government discuss the matter with the trade unions and will not implement the present recommendation?

SHRI P.A. SANGMA: We are discussing with the trade unions at various levels. In fact, at the central level, I had chaired the meeting myself when we had a meeting on 8.1.87. At regional level we had a meeting at Kanpur 20.2.87, at Madras on 3.3.87, at Bombay on 6.3.87, at Delhi on 18.3.87 and in Calcutta on 2.7.87. These are the meetings which had been held with the traditions. We are going to have another meeting of the national level very soon.

Safety Measures in Coal Mines

*190. **DR. V. VENKATESH† :**
SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Committee to study the implementation of safety measures in coal mines; and

(b) if so, the measures taken to check rising accidents in coal mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

The provisions regarding safety in mines as contained in the Mines Act, 1952, and the rules and regulations framed thereunder are enforced by the Directorate General of Mines Safety, and for this purpose, statutory inspections are conducted regularly. The

position regarding accidents (fatal as well as serious) in coal mines during the last 5 years is given below:-

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of fatal Accidents</i>	<i>No. of serious Accidents</i>
1982	158	1135
1983	156	1169
1984	160	1196
1985	176	1007
1986	180	1145

The Department of Coal, have indicated that they have taken the following measures to promote safety in coal mines:-

(i) Workers' participation in safety matters through regular meetings of safety committee, holding of tripartite safety meetings at the mine level, at area level and at corporate level.

(ii) Implementation of recommendations of various Conferences and Standing Committees, beside compliance with the provisions of the statute.

(iii) Training and re-training of workmen.

(iv) Special attention to support of roof and sides in underground mines, and introduction of safer technology of long-wall mining and open cast mining.

(v) Introduction of tele-monitoring system, tele-communication system, observance of mine safety weeks and organising special safety drives etc.

DR. V. VENKATESH: According to the statement of the hon. Minister, from 1982 upto 1986 the number of fatal accidents in the mining areas is on the increase. I am coming from Kolar Gold Fields. There, the

mining is done about 2 kms below the ground level. And the number of fatal accidents has been increasing from 158 in 1982 to 180 in 1986. The number of serious accidents also has been increasing automatically. But the Minister is saying that there is no proposal to appoint a fresh committee to go into these things. In the Kolar gold mines everyday there is an accident. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether Government is going to introduce some modern technology in order to prevent accidents particularly in Kolar gold fields.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA: It is true that the number of fatal accidents has been increasing from 158 in 1982 to 180 in 1986. But we must also realise that the activity in the mining areas is also on the increase and the number of workers coming into the mining areas is also on the increase. For example, in 1982 the total production of coal was 134 million tonnes. This has gone upto 163 million tonnes in 1986. But I do not mean to say that since the activity is increasing, the accident should also increase. We must prevent accidents. We are trying to take every possible step in that direction. Actually the measures which are to be taken for prevention of accidents are under the administrative control of the Department of Mines and the Department of Coal. We are in touch with them. And all necessary steps will be taken to prevent accidents in future.

DR. V. VENKATESH: The Minister has just now said that because of the increase in production, there is an increase in the number of accidents. But what about Kolar gold mines? There, the production is less and the accidents are more. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether Government will apply a new approach to prevent accidents particularly in the Kolar gold mines?

SHRI P.A. SANGMA: I do not have figures for the Kolar gold mines at the moment. But I must point out that accident do not happen in India only. All over the world, accidents do take place. If we look at the comparative figures of what has happened elsewhere in the world, well, our figures are quite comparative. India's rate of fatal acci-

dents per thousand persons is 0.32 whereas in Japan it is 3.57. Like that the figure of accidents in other countries is higher than ours though they are going in for more modern technology than we are. In spite of applying the modern technologies in countries like Japan, West Germany and USA the rate of fatal accidents is much higher than the rate in our country.

Higher Priority to Drinking Water Schemes

***191. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN*:
SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN:**

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union and State Governments have included Irrigation and Power in the core sector and top priority is given to these schemes while making allocations;

(b) whether Union Government propose to solve the urgent problem of drinking water by giving still higher priority to this problem and making more provision for it and by persuading the States for doing likewise; and

(c) if so, when and how?

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) to (c). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) The Irrigation and Power Sectors have been given high priority in the Plans as these sectors play an important role in the development of agriculture, industry and other sectors of the economy. Irrigation sector accounts for 8.9% of the total Seventh Plan outlay. The approved outlay for power sector is 19% of the total Seventh Plan Outlay.