

इस बात की जानकारी है कि आजकल न तो कोयला मिलता है और न ही जानी के लिए लकड़ी मिलती है, पहले कम से कम कोयला और लकड़ी तो मिल जाता करता था, मिट्टी के तेल की प्राप्ति में भी कठिनाई है, लेकिन मध्य प्रदेश में अनेक जिले ऐसे हैं जहाँ अभी तक गैस सप्लाई के लिए लाइसेंस नहीं दिए गए हैं। भोपाल में तो यह हालत है कि गैस खत्म हो जाती है तो 3—3 महीने तक क्यू लगती है। क्या इसकी जानकारी मंत्री महोदय को है और इसके समाधान के क्या उपाय किए जा रहे हैं।

श्री प्रकाश चन्द्र सेठी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, ये तीनों प्वांट, मुरा, उरान और आसाम, शुरू हो जाने के बाद 1981—82 में प्रत्येक जिले में, जिसकी पाव्लेशन 50 हजार है, वहाँ पर गैस की एजेंसियाँ खोलने का इरादा है। इस साल और अगले साल यह कार्य किया जाएगा। भोपाल के बारे में जो शिकायत माननीय सदस्या ने की है वह शिकायत सही हो सकती है, क्योंकि भोपाल कोयली रिफाइनरी से सम्बन्धित है। भोपाल की इस शिकायत को दूर करने की कोशिश की जाएगी, क्योंकि कोयली रिफाइनरी की स्थिति अब सुधर गई है।

**Memorandum regarding Activities of Eastern Coalfields Limited.**

+

**\*706. SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER:**

**SHRI E. BALANANDAN:**

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a memorandum dated 8th January, 1981 regarding activities of Eastern Coalfields Limited;

(b) if so, what were the problems and suggestions contained in the memorandum; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government on the said memorandum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) to (c). A statement is being laid on the Table of the House.

*Statement*

(a) Government have received a memorandum dated 18th January, 1981 on the subject.

(b) The memorandum suggests that Eastern Coalfields Limited should stop the alleged unplanned slaughter mining and unscientific mining, carry out sand stowing in all mines prevent surface, subsidence etc. refill all old and abandoned quarries, plan for rehabilitation of the persons affected by surface subsidence, paying them adequate compensation for both land and crop and offering employment. It also suggests that all construction by the coal company should be done with prior permission of Director General of Mines Safety and District and other authorities. It suggests procurement of foreign collaboration to find out ways and means to save the areas declared unsafe.

(c) All planning and operation are carried out under the guidance and supervision of experienced mining engineers. There has been no case of eviction or evacuation due to unsafe mining practice after nationalisation. Sand stowing is practised in all mines to protect important surface features as desired by DGMS. All new open-cast projects have provision for reclamation of quarried land. Refilling of subsided areas is also done for reclamation of land. The coal company have full expertise to decide the site of construction and it is not

considered necessary to seek prior permission of DGMS or other authorities. Government has sought expertise from Poland to study the problems in the areas declared unsafe by the State Government authorities.

**SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER:** Sir, I have read the statement and it is quite evasive. Even after nationalisation, unplanned and unscientific mining is still continuing. I would like to know whether it is a fact that in a memorandum submitted to the hon. Minister, it has been stated that the General Manager, Coordination, ECL had bluntly declared in the meeting presided over by the District Magistrate, Burdwan and attended by the MLAs, D.G.M.S., Mining Advisory, West Bengal that stowing operation would not be taken up due to high cost for its execution.

Is it not a fact that a major part of Raniganj city has been declared unsafe for habitation because of the subsidence that occurred near Raniganj station, Kumar bazar, Sishubagan, Mahavir Colliery etc.? Is it also not a fact that Barakar and Kulti towns have been declared unsafe and construction of more than two storeyed buildings has been prohibited? I would also like to know whether it is not a fact that ECL is constructing quarters, more than two storeys, in the unsafe area? If so, what steps does the Government propose to take to tackle the problem of lakhs of people of the Asansol-Raniganj area etc? What is the recommendation of the Polish experts in this regard?

**THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURY):** Attempts have been made to do the mining operations in these areas on a planned and scientific basis.

In the pre-nationalisation days, there was unscientific mining. That we agree. But after nationalisation, attempts have been made to do justice and plan on a scientific basis. Now

there are two types of areas, Mr. Speaker, Sir. One is the lease-hold area and the other one is the non-lease-hold area. In the leasehold area, it is the direct responsibility of the coal companies to look after the safety of the people as a whole. In the non-lease hold area that question does not arise. But, even then the present Government has taken the view that they have to evolve a harm policy for the lease-hold area as well as non-lease-hold area. In regard to this various suggestions have come to us, but we do not want to take any chance. So, we have sought the assistance and advice of the Polish. They have a lot of experience on this. They have accepted our invitation and we are expecting a team. Whatever suggestions the team makes after going round the area, we will try to implement the suggestions.

**SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER:** Sir, the first part of my question has not been answered. I asked the General Manager (Coordination) E.C.L. He said that the stowing operation will not be taken up due to high cost of its execution.

**SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI:** That question does not arise, as I have said that we will have a firm policy on safety measures.

**SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER:** Sir, it is estimated that in the next ten years about 50,000 acres of land will be affected in one way or other for mining operations in E.C.L. and about 50,000 people will be affected. I would like to know the policy of the Government in regard to giving compensation, rehabilitation and employment to the evicted persons, whether the Government will give employment to 70 per cent persons from the adjacent villages within the radius of five kilometres from the project or mines area? I would like a clear answer from the Minister on this.

**SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, our aim is to make the area safe. We are against shifting. For this we require expert opinion. Now, only for Raniganj town, if the shifting occurs, as per West Bengal Government's assessment, this will cost Rs. 750 crores. This is a colossal amount. So, we are against any shifting. So, we are thinking of experts opinion. This is the position at the present moment.

**SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER:** He has not understood my question. About 50,000 acres of land will be acquired and about 50,000 people will be evicted. For future, what is the policy for the evicted people in regard to giving them employment, compensation and rehabilitation?

**SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI:** Our policy is to give them jobs and employment in stages and also to give them compensation as suggested by the State Government.

**SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is really a dangerous position because thousands of people are going to be affected. Now, in his answer the Minister has said that they are awaiting expert opinion. But that is a matter for the future. I would like to know what are you going to do at present? when the whole area is facing imminent danger, you just cannot wait for expert opinion. Something has to be done at present.

I want to know what you are contemplating as an immediate step, especially when you have already received so many representations, including the representation from the local MLA?

**SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have said that this is the experts' job and we are expecting the experts' job and immediately we will take steps.

**DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the answer the Minister has said that Coal India Ltd. and the Government will take action against the culprit in the leasehold area if somebody is doing illegal mining. But after nationalization of coal is it not the obligatory duty of Coal India to catch hold of the illegal miners in different coal fields?

**SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI:** We don't have any power so far; but we tell the State Government to take necessary action. The difficulty which arises is this: somehow or the other, they get a stay order from the High Courts; and that makes things more difficult. But after the Supreme Court's judgement, things have become much better, and we are trying to stop illegal mining.

#### **Recommendation of Fazal Committee**

\*707. **SHRI CHITTA MAHATA:** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have rejected the most important recommendation of the Fazal Committee that the Coal India Limited as the holding company should be wound up and its four subsidiaries be converted into independent companies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN):** (a) and (b). The report of the Fazal Committee is still under the consideration of Government.

**SHRI CHITTA MAHATA:** I would like to know from the Minister when the report of the Fazal Committee was received by the Government. What are the specific reasons why Government has not so far taken any final decision on the findings of the Fazal Committee? In view of this, I would also like to know the terms and condi-