

**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-

tions under which the Fazal Committee was constituted; and when it was constituted.

**SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN:** The Fazal Committee was constituted last year. By the fog end of the year the report was given. It was passed on to us by the Finance Ministry. The Finance Ministry has to deal with it, and the question should be referred to the Finance Ministry. *(Interruption)* I said: fog end of last year. About the date, I will give you later.

**SHRI CHITTA MAHATA:** I would like to know from the Minister whether the Company Law Board was consulted before constituting the Fazal Committee, and whether the Government would again send the findings of the Fazal Committee, for approval, to the Company Law Board.

**SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN:** I have said that the Fazal Committee was constituted by the Finance Ministry, and that the question should be referred to the Finance Ministry. It does not relate to our Ministry. We are considering the report which has been sent by the Finance Ministry.

**SHRI CHITTA BASU:** Is it the Finance Ministry, or the Ministry of Energy? Sir, you had admitted it in the name of the Ministry of Energy. It is your responsibility to see that the papers are allotted to different Ministries. And this question relates to the Finance Ministry.

### Royalty on Coal

\*708. **SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2905 on 10th March, 1981 regarding 'Royalty on Coal and state'?

(a) what is the basis of fixation of royalty on coal for each State concerned;

(b) whether Government of West Bengal proposed a different formula in this regard; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN):** (a) The rates of royalty on minerals including coal are governed by Section 9 of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act 1957. The Act, inter alia, also provides that the rate of royalty shall not be enhanced in respect of any mineral more than once during any period of four years. The rate of royalty on coal has been fixed on a tonnage basis.

(b) and (c). The Government of West Bengal had suggested fixation of royalty rate on ad-valorem basis for all grades of coal. This matter was carefully considered by a Study Group appointed by the Department of Coal and subsequently by Government; and it was finally decided to continue the practice of adhering to fixation of rates of royalty on a tonnage basis.

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:** Firstly, he has mentioned the Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act 1957—when my friend Mr. Vikram Mahajan was perhaps in his shorts. *(Interruption)* It is relevant because it has become totally out-dated. At that time, the price per tonne of coal was only a fraction of what the price is today. *(Interruptions)* He does not mind a small joke; but his *chamchas* here are shouting all the time.

Section 9(3) says: "The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, amend the Second Schedule"; and what they have read out as the proviso, is correct, viz. that they cannot enhance it more than once in four years. But the Second Schedule unfortunately is so much out of date and irrelevant today. The Government should have taken steps to amend it. The Second Schedule says with regard to Section 9 as follows: