

Secondly, about the labour welfare fund, I wish to say this. It is true that we are collecting six annas on every ton of coal. But all that amount does not constitute this fund for housing. It is distributed in the ratio of 7:2 and only 2/9ths of that amount, that is Re. 0-1-4, per every ton goes into it. This may kindly be taken note of.

Then, again he referred to the constitution of the Coal Council. In that body, representation is given to some of the Government officials and some important magnates in the coal industry. They have forgotten the mining engineers, except those mining engineers who are in Government Service. The others have been omitted. I say that the Government is not at all properly advised in matters regarding the coal mining industry. I am sure that they will realise it at a very great cost, if they do not review the situation quickly. Today, the capital investment in the coal industry does not amount to more than Rs. 22-23 crores. By taking over the mines and agreeing to pay a reasonable compensation spread over, say, twenty years, the Government need not spend any heavy sum now. Anyway, the support extended by the friends here to my resolution clearly shows that it is in keeping with the aspirations of the people.

Mr Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"This House is of opinion that immediate steps be taken to nationalise collieries in India."

The motion was negatived.

**RESOLUTION RE. SCHOLARSHIPS
FOR CHILDREN OF POLITICAL
SUFFERERS**

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh (Shahbad South): Sir, I beg to move:

"This House is of opinion that the Government should award scholarships to the children of such political sufferers in the

country as have not got adequate source of income for their education."

I think that this resolution ought to have been moved in this House and accepted also on the very day the country achieved its Independence. I am sorry that it has not been done so.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: Better late than never.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Anyway, it has been moved to day and I am confident that this will find unanimous acceptance of the House. Most of the hon. Members who are present here had actively participated in the struggle for freedom of the country and they are well aware of the sufferings of their fellow political sufferers who have not got adequate sources of income. They also know to what difficulties these people are put at present because of the high cost of living. In such conditions, it is very difficult for those political sufferers to send their children even to schools.

This resolution which I have moved is intended to cover all the political sufferers who had participated in all the Movements since 1905 till 1942, irrespective of their present party affiliations. They may belong to any party today. I think they must be given the benefits of this resolution. The number of such persons may go up to hundreds of thousands but we can certainly exclude all the political sufferers who have at present some source of income. We can also exclude the members of the legislatures, local bodies and Ministers who are privileged to hold very high positions in the Government. I myself know a large number of political sufferers who bore the brunt of bullets and lathi charges. I know quite a few of our revered patriots who were sent to gallows and heroically fell a victim to bullets and lathi charges

[Dr. Ram Subhag Singh]

But, every body feels pained to see the family of those martyrs and patriots, and particularly their children leading a very miserable life at present. They are proud to belong to families which had staked all for the freedom of the country.

Therefore, I think that the country and particularly our national Government which is being led by one of the greatest patriots of the country should take care of those children who are in unfortunate circumstances these days and send them to schools. If we do not do that, those children and their helpless parents will feel that the country is unmindful of the sufferings of their forefathers and may discredit us and all the persons who are at present in the control of the Government.

It may be said that Gandhiji and the Congress, at the time of those events, had specifically declared that those who joined the movement should not think that they would get any return later on and all the persons who had joined the movement at that time also did not expect that they would get anything in return for joining the movement. But, now the days are changing and we are free and we occupy a very high position. Our country has also enhanced its prestige. In those circumstances, we must honour our martyrs and patriots and all the political sufferers by providing at least enough opportunities to their children to go to school and to have a good education.

It may also be said that the State Governments are giving certain facilities to the families of political sufferers. To some extent it is true. We are grateful to the State Governments which have given such facilities to the families of political sufferers. In spite of that, there are a large number of political sufferers in the country and their families are not in a position to have two square

meals a day. Such a situation is insulting to this country.

It is also said that it may be the fault of the political sufferers themselves. I am not ready to accept it because there are so many schemes which are virtually taken up by the State and the Central Governments. To deny in general any facility to the family of political sufferers on the ground that they are getting certain facilities from the State Governments is not reasonable; it is not understandable to anybody. There are numerous schemes of the State and the Central Government which virtually overlap. For instance, the State Governments award different categories of scholarships and the Central Government also awards certain scholarships. Then, there are libraries etc. receiving aid both from the Central and the State Governments. Such schemes overlap one another. Therefore, I would like to say that even though there is to some extent such overlapping in the idea contained in the resolution, the Government should accept for their sake. All the persons who had hanged our martyrs, who had jailed them, who had beaten them, who had killed them, they are all in key positions today. All the facilities given by both the State Governments and the Central Government—the merit scholarships, etc.—are being given largely to the children of those persons.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is the hon. Member likely to take some more time?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Then, he may continue next time.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi (Nellore): I suggest, Sir, that the amendments may be taken as moved.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Unless the resolution is moved we cannot take the amendments as moved.

This will be continued next time. We shall now take up the other item.