

12.45 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO  
MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC  
IMPORTANCE

ACCIDENTS IN CERTAIN MINES

**Shri Indrajit Gupta** (Calcutta—South West): Under Rule 197, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Labour and Employment to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

Successive accidents in Burragarh, Kusunda Nayadih, Gus, Chinakuri and Ratibati mines.

**The Deputy Minister of Planning and Labour and Employment (Shri L. N. Mishra)**: It is a fairly long statement, and if you permit me, I will lay it on the Table.

**Mr. Speaker**: Yes. He may do so.

**Shri L. N. Mishra**: Sir, I lay a statement on the Table.

*Statement*

As Hon. Members are aware, accidents occurred in Burragarh, Kusunda Nayadih, Gua, Chinakuri and Ratibati mines during the months of June and July, 1961, involving a loss of 13 lives. Four of these accidents were due to the fall of roofs or sides and the fifth to the premature explosion of a cartridge. All of them were fully enquired into by the Mines Inspectorate. On 10th June, 1961, while supports were being withdrawn from a depillaring area in Burragarh Colliery, the roof collapsed and buried 4 timbermen. On the same day one of the two loaders engaged in loading coal in Kusunda Nayadih Colliery was struck fatally by a mass of coal which fell from the side of the working place. On 26th June, 1961, four persons were killed in Gua iron ore mine in the process of dislodging a stuck-up liquid oxygen cartridge. While a cog was being withdrawn on 13th July, 1961, masses of coal fell from roof and sides in Chinakuri Colliery dislodging the supports and killing 2 persons. In the Ratibati mine, the accident on 14th July, 1961 was

due to an air blast caused by a roof fall in a depillaring area. No violations of rules or regulations were noticed and there was nothing to suggest that mining operations had not been carried out with due care and caution. All the accidents were, therefore, classified as cases of misadventure.

On an average there are about 4,000 accidents every year in mines. Of these, some 300 are fatal involving a loss of about 400 lives. While loss of life through accidents in mines is naturally a matter of deep concern, mining is a hazardous operation from which risks cannot be eliminated altogether. The best that can be done is to minimise such accidents and their severity. I venture to say that in recent years there has been steady reduction in the fatality rate mainly through improved safety legislation and its strict enforcement. The fatality rate per 1,000 persons employed in coal mines was 0.59 in 1960 as against 0.90 in 1951. The corresponding figures for all mines were 0.51 and 0.77. In this we have a record which compares very favourably with that of other industrially advanced countries.

Legislation by itself cannot ensure a high standard of safety in mines. A large number of accidents happen as a result of the unsafe acts of workers which must be attributed to lack of vocational training, of safety consciousness and of adequate and proper safety equipment. Fatigue and want of fitness of workers also contribute to accidents. Moreover, there are technical problems of dust, lighting and ventilation which must be solved adequately to render a mine safe.

As members are aware, a Conference on Safety in Mines was held in 1958-59 which considered at length safety problems and on its recommendations, several committees are now at work probing into the specific problems referred to them. Three such Committees have already sub-

mitted their reports and action is being taken on their recommendations. The reports of the remaining committees are awaited.

I have briefly referred to these facts to show how complex and varied mining problems are and what we are doing to solve them. All these efforts, including amendment of the legislation and strengthening of the enforcement agency, have been directed towards improving safety and reducing accidents.

I have got a note on safety in mines prepared for circulation among the hon. Members, so that they may know all aspects of the problem in their true perspective. If members desire to see the working of some mines, necessary arrangements can be made for the purpose.

**Shri B. K. Gaikwad** (Nasik): May I request one thing?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. There are more calling attention notices. Will the hon. Member kindly resume his seat? There are 12 more calling attention notices. Under Rule 197(3), not more than one calling attention notice could be admitted for the same day. But, today being the last day, the other calling attention notices are put down on the Order Paper. Statements in respect of them will be laid on the Table of the House by the Ministers concerned as is usual in such cases.

They will be available to all Members of the House.

#### REPORTED REDUCTION OF EMOLUMENTS OF ICS OFFICERS

**Shrimati Ha Palchoudhuri** (Nabadwip): Under Rule 197, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

The reported recommendation of the Comptroller and Auditor-General regarding reduction of the emoluments of I.C.S. Officers.

**The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri):** I lay a statement on the Table.

#### Statement

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India has, in a communication to the Government, indicated his views on the scope and extent of the guarantee relating to remuneration embodied in Article 314 of the Constitution. In particular, he has referred to the remuneration to be allowed to the ex-Secretary of State officers in posts held by them which were created subsequent to 14th August, 1947. The views expressed by him and the interpretation which he seeks to give to the express provisions in the Constitution are now under detailed examination in consultation with the Ministries of Finance and Law. It will take some time for the questions raised to be thoroughly examined and decisions to be taken by Government.

#### HOLD-UP OF A TRAIN AT FARRUKHABAD

**Shrimati Ha Palchoudhuri:** Under Rule 197, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Railways to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

The holding up of the North-Eastern Railway Farrukhabad-Shikohabad Passenger train at Farrukhabad station on the 26th August, 1961.

**The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram):** I lay a Statement on the Table.

#### Statement

It was on the morning of 26th August, 1961, which was a day of festival on account of Raksha Ban-