

12.00 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

ALLEGED RETRENCHMENT OF 10,000 WORKERS IN RAJHARA AND NANDINI MINES

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): Under Rule 197, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

The retrenchment of about 10,000 workers of Rajhara and Nandini mines under the Bhilai Steel project.

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): With your permission, I would like to place the statement on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 44] explained this briefly while replying to the Supplementary Demands.

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I want to know whether 10,000 workers were discharged on the 30th of last month. That is why I gave an adjournment motion. Under your advice, I have tabled this motion. I want to know whether they have been discharged.

Sardar Swaran Singh: A large number of them are employees of contractors. Only a few are direct employees of the project authorities. The essential point to be mentioned in this connection is that they are engaged in mining ore manually. Now that mechanisation is coming up, this work tapers off. Every one who was employed knew that this will come to an end. It is not something that has happened in an unexpected manner.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: When this matter was raised, there was a suggestion that as between contract workers and mine workers, there should be no discrimination and a common pool must be established.

12.04 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

ANNUAL REPORTS AND REVIEW BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SINGARENI COLLIERIES COMPANY LIMITED, ETC.

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers:—

- (i) (a) Annual Report of the Singareni Collieries Company Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 1960, along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon, under subsection (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956.
- (b) Review by the Government of the working of the above Company.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-3393/61].
- (ii) (a) Annual Report of the National Coal Development Corporation Limited, Ranchi for the year 1960-61, along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon, under subsection (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956.
- (b) Review by the Government of the working of the above Corporation.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-3394/61].
- (iii) (a) Annual Report of the Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited, Neyveli (Madras) for the year 1960-61, along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon, under subsection (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956.

(b) Review by the Government of the working of the above Corporation.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-3395/61].

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: (Khammam): Mr. Speaker, with regard to the Neyveli Lignite Corporation Annual report, the Corporation authorities sent us a copy a month ago. I do not know why the Government took such a long time in laying on the Table of the House this Annual report.

Sardar Swaran Singh: They should be placed on the Table of the House within three months after the reports are adopted at the Annual General Meeting. Then, a review by the Government is also to be prepared. It takes some time, because we must prepare the review carefully when we present it to Parliament.

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Originally, the reports were always placed on the Table of the House and then alone given to the public or to newspapers. A letter was written to me by some of the Ministers—I remember Shri Manubhai Shah or some others—that they may be permitted to send copies of the report to hon. Members here for the reason that they need not wait, that they have Board meeting and that they give these reports to the public and also to the press. For that reason, instead of allowing hon. Members to learn this matter only after they come to Parliament, long after it is issued to the public and the press, copies are made available to hon. Members. It is to enable them to circulate to hon. Members and the press whatever is placed before the Board of management that permission was granted by me. What difficulty can there be in placing copies of the report immediately as soon as they are received or in the first week of the session which comes after the publication of the report? Hon. Members evidently

want to suggest that if it had been placed earlier, they would have taken the earliest opportunity to have a discussion on this matter in this House. This does not apply to this case where they make it already available to the public and the press.

Sardar Swaran Singh: There is no difficulty. If that is the desire of the hon. Members, it can be done: that is, supply a copy as soon as the report has been approved by the Board of directors. But, there is this difficulty. A review by the Government on this report has also to be prepared and presented to the House when these reports are presented. If it is the desire of the Chair or of the House that the reports should be placed on the Table of the House as soon as they are received, even without the Government review, we can adopt that practice.

Mr. Speaker: Very well.

Shri Naushir Bharucha (East Khandedsh): It should be adopted.

CERTIFIED ACCOUNTS OF THE INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, KHARAGPUR FOR 1959-60 AND AUDIT REPORT THEREON

The Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Shri Humayun Kabir): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the certified Accounts of the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, for the year 1959-60 along with the Audit Report thereon, under sub-section (4) of section 23 of the Indian Institute of Technology (Kharagpur) Act, 1956. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3396/61].

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: This annual report relates to 1959-60. I think the 1960-61 report is overdue. How is it that we are getting this report after one year?

Mr. Speaker: Are the accounts of 1960-61 available?

Shri Humayun Kabir: As soon as they are available, they are placed before the House.