

उत्तर प्रदेश के लखितपुर जिले में लौह का खनन

*168. डा० गोविन्द दास रिझारिया : क्या इस्पात और खान मंत्री यह बनाने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) उत्तर प्रदेश में लखितपुर जिले की महतीनी नहमोन में लौह का खानों को खुदाई के काम में अब तक कितनी प्रगति हुई है;

(ख) क्या वहां लौह के अतिरिक्त अन्य धातुएं भी प्राप्त होने की संभावना है और यदि हा, तो कौन-कौन सी, और

(ग) प्रारम्भिक खुदाई परीक्षण का कार्य कब तक पूरा होना की संभावना है तथा खुदाई कार्य विभिन्न रूप में कब चालू होगा ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) As a result of survey being conducted by the Directorate of Geology and Mining, Government of Uttar Pradesh with the assistance of United Nations Development Programme, copper deposits of low grade have so far been discovered near Pisanari and Sonra, Village in Mahroni Tehsil of Lalitpur district. The investigation of the area is continuing by detailed mapping, drilling, Geophysical and Geo-chemical surveys.

(b) The investigations so far carried out indicate possibility of lead-zinc mineralization also in the area.

(c) The work is expected to be completed by 1976 with the assistance of the U.N.D.P. The above deposits are being examined in detail on the basis of surveys conducted so far and at this stage it cannot be said whether these deposits can be taken up for extraction of metals.

डा० गोविन्द दास रिझारिया : मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या अधिक लोगों को लगा कर और अधिक वैज्ञानिकों को लगा कर इस काम में शीघ्रता करेंगे जिस से तांबा या जस्ता सजुग धातुएं जो बहुत आवश्यक हैं शांति में इस्तेमाल में लायी जा सकें ?

श्री सुखदेव प्रसाद : जहां तक ज्यादा आर्दाभियों को लगाने का सवाल है इस में कोई शंका नहीं है और ज्यादाजित्तन सर्वे आफ इंडिया इस में बड़ी सम्मति से काम कर रहा है। उस म सब में बड़ी दिक्कत यह पड रहा है कि जहां पर उनक डिजाइजिटम है उन के उपर मिट्टी की एसी परत है जिन का हटा कर उन का देखना कि डिजाइजिटम का क्या पर अंज है बडा कठिन हो रहा है। अभी तक जो पता चला है उस में बड़ी लो ग्रेड डिजाइजिटम है, फिर भी उस का सर्वे बड़ी तेजी में हो रहा है और उम्मीद है कि 1976 तक उस का सब काम्पट हो जायगा।

Workers Rendered Jobless due to Power Shortage in West Bengal

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*169 SHRI S N SINGH DEO.
DR SARADISH ROY;

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether one lakh workers were rendered jobless due to power Shortage in the State of West Bengal in 1973-74;

(b) whether lock-out and lay-off in the mills and factories in the State are continuing;

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Union Government to improve upon the labour unrest in the State; and

(d) the extent to which Union Government have agreed to help the State in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) According to the provisional information made available by the Government of West Bengal, some time ago, the position regarding the number of cases and the number of persons laid off due to power shortage during the years 1973 and 1974 (upto May, 1974) was as follows:

Year	No. of cases	No. of persons laid off
1973 (P)*	122	5,53,799
1974 (P)* (upto May, 1974)	52	2,70,547

*P Provisional

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the house.

(c) and (d). The Industrial Relations Machinery both at Centre and the State continues to make efforts to minimise work-stoppages arising from labour unrest through informal discussions, conciliation, adjudication or arbitration as necessary under the existing statutory provisions and voluntary arrangements. Government have also been taking all possible steps to meet the situation arising from the power crisis. Some of the measures taken by Government to mitigate the shortage of power, which were announced by the Union Minister for Irrigation and Power in the Lok Sabha on February 28, 1973, in connection with the Calling Attention Motion on the power crisis, included:

(a) The power generation from the existing thermal power stations have been stepped upto the maximum possible extent.

(b) The supply and transport of coal to the major Thermal Stations are being continually monitored in order to ensure adequate supplies.

(c) Spare parts for the Thermal Units which are under repair are being arranged on priority basis.

(d) Captive plants of diesel sets are being permitted to be installed by private industries.

(e) The commissioning of the various power generation schemes which are in an advanced stage of construction is being expedited.

(f) The States have been requested to set up implementation cells to monitor the progress of projects and overcome the bottlenecks.

SHRI S. N SINGH DEO: In reply to part (a) of my question, the hon. Minister has admitted that due to power shortage, a large number of persons were laid off both in 1973 and in 1974. Still the power shortage in the State is continuing and in spite of government effort, no improvement has been noticed. Is Government thinking of giving the retrenched workers alternative jobs till the power crisis is over?

Also since the procedure for solving labour disputes by reference to tribunals is very time-consuming, will Government devise a speedy method to resolve these disputes and strengthen the existing machinery so that labour unrest in the State is removed?

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA: The hon member wants that those persons who have been laid off should be provided with alternative jobs. He knows that this is a temporary affair; these people are laid off for a very short period of time. Therefore, it is not possible to give them alternative jobs. What the Government is

doing is to see that these difficulties do not occur. I have already stated in the answer what the Government is doing in this regard to overcome the existing shortage of electricity in the State. The Government of India are also looking into it and they will be helping the State Government to the extent it is possible.

SHRI S. N. SINGH DEO: In reply to parts (c) and (d) of the question, the hon. Minister has given an account of what Government is doing in this direction. But I am sorry to say that in spite of all these steps taken, we find that in the case of power generating units managed by the private sector, Tatas, Hindalco and others they work 80-90 per cent whereas in the case of government-managed units, it is less than 50 per cent. So what steps have been taken to bring these units upto the mark in production.

He has also given an account of the different steps taken. But my personal experience is that coal which is being supplied to these generating stations is some time of very inferior and as a result the power generating stations are not in a position to give the maximum output. Further, poor maintenance of these power stations is also being noticed as a result of which there are occasional break-downs. What steps Government is taking so that such things might not recur in future?

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA: As the hon. member knows, we are concerned with lay-off, not with power generation.

SHRI S. N. SINGH DEO. It relates to labour interest also.

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA: The matter relates entirely to the Government of West Bengal. They have told us that they are taking steps to see that the generation of power is stepped up. This is what we can say in the matter.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Will he stay for a week in Calcutta and see how difficult the position is?

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA: For that, he should address a question to the Ministry of Power and Irrigation.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: It is joint responsibility.

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA: Joint responsibility is there. As I said earlier, we have drawn the attention of the Government of West Bengal to the shortage of power generation in the State and they have told us that they would be taking every possible step to see that the installed capacity of power is achieved. They are doing their best in the matter. They are also looking into whatever plants are under construction. Apart from that they have rationalised the distribution of power so that shortage is not felt in a particular sector alone.

DR. SARADISH ROY: Part (c) of the question refers to the steps being taken by the Union Government to improve upon the labour unrest in the State. So the question relates to labour unrest and in a casual way the Minister replies and wants to avoid the question. From the statement it is evident that the average lay off was about 46,000 per month last year while the figure for this year is 54,000 per month. In April only in jute industry production came down from 112,000 tonnes to 78,000 tonnes, a fall of more than 25 per cent. More than thirty per cent of the workers in the jute industry were laid off in one week. Even last month the workers of Hindustan Motors were laid off due to shortage of power. What steps is the Labour Ministry taking so that the workers does not get less wage due to shortage of power which is not a fault of theirs. The hon. Minister says that power distribution is going to be rationalised; it has not yet come. Under DIR it is being rationed. There is another proposal

that sometime in the future the workers will be compulsorily laid off once a week due to shortage of power. May I know whether the Labour Ministry is going to give protection to the workers so that they may not lose their wages? What is the amount lost by the workers during the last five months due to lay off and power shortage?

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA: I do not contest the point made by the hon. Member. It is a fact that there has been lay off in West Bengal due to shortage of power and it has affected adversely industrial production. The Government of West Bengal is alive to the situation and in order to see that intermittent lay off does not take place they have amended the Industrial Disputes Act itself. That Act is now under the consideration of the Government. They have taken action. The Government of India is also aware of this fact. This was considered in the Labour Ministers' Conference in 1973 and they are recommended that the Industrial Disputes Act should be amended and that the lay off compensation should be raised from 50 per cent to 60 per cent. We are taking action. That is under our consideration. Power shortage is not in our hands. We are trying our level best to see that power shortage is not there.

DR. SARADISH ROY: How much money have the workers lost?

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA: It is a question which would require notice.

SHRIMATI MAYA RAY: The power part is there, but we are talking of the consequential effects being shifted on to the workers. Would the Minister kindly inform the House as to what are the immediate steps they are thinking about in order to protect the labour from this terrible condition in the economic situation prevailing today?

MR. SPEAKER: You give the same reply which you sent to her husband!

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA: Government is very anxious to avoid intermittent lay-off. For that purpose, the State Government have amended the Industrial Disputes Act. We are going to bring about an amendment raising the lay-off compensation from 50 to 60 per cent. As I said, the State Government is taking prompt action to see that power generation is stepped up and installed capacity is achieved in every power station and also to see that now plants under construction are expedited at the earliest. To save the labour from financial difficulties, advances from the PF have been sanctioned.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY: It is clear from the figures given by the hon. Minister that the number of workers laid off has been rising from 46,000 and odd in 1973 to 31,000 and odd per month in 1974. So, the situation has worsened. The Minister has not replied properly as to what steps the Labour Ministry of the Government of India is taking to see that the workers are not being laid off this way. It is mentioned that in February, 1973 certain steps were taken. But I want to know whether the Union Labour Ministry has made any study whether the power position has improved. Some intermittent relief for laid off workers is not the solution. What steps has the Union Labour Ministry taken so that a large number of workers might not be laid off from year to year and month to month. Has the Ministry studied the situation in detail and if not, what further steps are in the mind of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY): The question has two aspects—power generation and lay-off as a result of want of power generation. The question is what steps the Union Labour Ministry has taken for protecting the workers from the consequences of the lay-off. Within the framework of the law, the West Bengal Government in their wisdom had thought it fit to go in for legislation to provide for intermittent

lay-off relief also. That matter is now pending with the Government.

Now, in matters like this, already the Industrial Disputes Act provides for lay-off compensation due to unforeseen circumstances or conditions which the employer will not be able to control. It is nothing very unusual or new. But it is very unfortunate that the power generation could not reach such a level as would provide full employment and avoid all kinds of lay-off. The lay-off is a consequence of lack of power generation. Both the West Bengal Government and the Government of India are trying their best to see that those calamities are averted.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE—rose.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Banerjee, you are not a Bengali.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: I am an Indian.

MR. SPEAKER: It relates to West Bengal. I am giving chance to Members from Bengal. You must tell me once and for all whether you are from U.P. or Bengal.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: My wife is in Calcutta.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: So far as the losses that have been suffered because of lack of power generation for which the Government itself is responsible may I know what is the policy of the Government of India in case of such losses as to who shall bear the losses, whether the labour or the industry which is in a more able position financially to bear the losses? Why should not a suitable legislation be made if it is the policy of the Government of India that such losses should be borne by the industry and not by the labour? If that is the policy, is the Government contemplating to take steps in regard to that?

So far as this Ministry is concerned, apart from quoting what the Minister of Irrigation and Power might have said in the Lok Sabha, has this Min-

istry got any duty to coordinate so far as labour problems are concerned with other Ministries to see that the consequences of the deficiency in the functioning of other Ministries do not fall upon the workers?

SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY: As far as the liability of losses is concerned, the existing law provides for lay-off compensation upto 50 per cent under certain conditions. The rest of the question is a matter for consideration by way of a suggestion. As regards the third part of his question, the hon. Member knows the steps that are being taken by the Government of India for enhancing power production. Certainly, the Labour Ministry has drawn the attention of the concerned Ministries in this regard. The hon. Member need not have any doubts so far as coordination is concerned.

Sino-Indian Relations

*170. **SHRI SAMAR GUHA:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the members of the Kotnis Memorial Committee which recently visited China have submitted any report to Government or expressed their views about the Chinese people and their Government regarding restoration of friendly relations between India and China;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) Government's assessment thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH):

(a) and (b): Being a non-official visit the Government did not expect members of the Kotnis Memorial Committee to submit any report. However, individual members have conveyed their impressions of friendly gestures by the Chinese people to the memory of the late Dr. Kotnis as well as towards the Indian people.