

being set up at Bandalamottu for processing lead ore which will be produced during the course of the exploratory mining operations. The mill which is expected to go into production by the end of 1973, will also generate necessary design data for planning large scale process plants for the operational stage.

At Bandalamottu Mine, upto 31.3.72, cumulative progress of 1000 M was achieved for mining entries against the total work of 1200 M and a progress of about 500 M was achieved by way of development in the ore body. Further work of underground mine development and underground drilling is in hand. The work on the exploratory mining scheme is expected to be completed by the end of 1972.

At the Nallakonda Mine, upto 31.3.1972, the sinking of vertical shaft was completed and the progress at the Inclined Shaft was 80 M against the total work of 90 M. The work of development of two levels at 100 MRL and 80 MRL, has been taken up. The exploratory mining scheme at Nallakonda is expected to be completed by June, 1972.

On the basis of the results of the exploratory mining operations, the work of preparation of Detailed Project Reports for commercial exploitation of these two deposits will be taken up.

SIRI P. NARASIMHA REDDY: May I know that in view of the special significance of this project in the context of the scarcity of non-ferrous metals the country is facing and our dependence on imports and considering the long time that has already lapsed in the GSI's exploration— it is nearly two years now—whether any steps are being contemplated to step up the pace of work so that utilisation of these scarce materials may be made as early as possible.

SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN: The Geological Survey of India's teams are very busy working in that area and the hon. Member would be glad to know that they have done a good work in the Agnigundala area where they have proved large quantities of about 10 million tonnes of lead and the work is going on. We are going to set up a 100 tonne per day pilot plant and depending on the results of further investigation we hope that this plant will also serve as a model for setting up a bigger plant later on.

SHRI P. NARASIMHA REDDY: In

view of the importance of this project, it was originally envisaged that an autonomous corporation should be set up for speeding up this project and properly executing the project. Is such a proposal under consideration of the Government? If not, why not?

SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN: We will consider setting up of such a project after the investigations are completed and sufficient reserves have been established.

Gratuity Scheme for Employees in Construction Industry

*988. **SHRI B. S. BHAURA:** Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to extend the gratuity benefit schemes to the employees of the Construction Industry;

(b) whether Government have received representation to this effect from the Federation of All India Hindustan Construction Workers unions; and

(c) if so, the decisions taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) The Payment of Gratuity Bill, 1971, as amended by the Select Committee, which is now pending before the Lok Sabha, will apply to employees of the Construction Industry in some cases. In other cases, it will apply if its provisions are extended to contractors' establishments by issue of a notification.

(b) Yes

(c) The views of the Federation have been taken into consideration while preparing the Bill.

SHRI B. S. BHAURA: What are the cases in which the gratuity will apply? You said, some of the cases. I want to know what are the cases?

MR. SPEAKER: The Bill is pending before us.

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR): Do you want regarding construction industries?

SHRI B. S. BHAURA : You said some of the cases. So I want to know the cases.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : It has been stated that this will apply to the construction industry. I will give the details if you want. It will apply to employees of principal employer in clauses (a) and (b) whether employed directly or through contractors. They will get the benefit. Secondly, they will get if they are employees of contractors provided contractor's establishment is one covered by State laws relating to Shops and Establishments Act. The third case is of those employees of contractors provided the contractors' establishment is not covered by State law relating to Shops and Establishments but is notified under clause (c).

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : The Hindustan Construction workers recently gave a strike notice. They said they will go on strike from 1-5-72. With the kind intervention of the hon. Minister the strike did not take place. I want to know whether the construction workers working under Hindustan Construction unit and other big industries will be covered by this scheme or not.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : I am very clear, they will be covered.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Khadilkar, you should add another portfolio, Minister for Prevention of Strikes also.

Labour Holiday on May Day

*989. **SHRI NIHAR LASKAR :** Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state whether it was a labour holiday on May Day, 1972 ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA) : The Central Government did not declare May Day, 1972 as a paid holiday.

SHRI NIHAR LASKAR : Will Government give further thought to declare this day as a holiday under the Negotiable Instruments Act ? Already some commercial workers get the benefit of this paid holiday.

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : There was a suggestion to this effect and the question came if the employees were prepared to forego one of their holidays, be-

cause, as the house knows, we have too many holidays in this Country. Then this could have been done. But they were not prepared for it. So it was not possible. Some of the States like Kerala, Tamil Nadu etc. declared May Day as holiday.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Some State Governments like Punjab, Tamilnadu West Bengal and Kerala declared it as public holiday. All the institutions were closed. They got full pay, holiday with wages. The Central Government did not declare a holiday. Why should this be left to their discretion to select one of the holidays to be declared working day instead of the May Day ? Why cannot this additional day be declared as a holiday ? This can very well be declared as an additional holiday. May I know what is the hitch in it ? After all, if there are more holidays, it is so for the States also. Why is the Centre unable to take a decision, when you, Sir, were able to take a decision to close down Parliament on that day ?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : In this matter, the States are free to take their decisions keeping in view the general policy. The point is, as I said earlier, we have too many holidays, and we would not like to add even one more holiday, however much we may like to declare one, unless the employees and workers also agree to work on some other day, because we are concerned more with production and other economic matters.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Does he mean to say that the States are not concerned with production ?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA : The fact is that Government should make up their mind with regard to giving preference for this holiday. Why can Government not knock out one of those so many holidays which have grown from the feudal ages and give May day a preference and declare it a holiday ? Why do they not think in those terms ?

MR. SPEAKER : It is a suggestion for action.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : I endorse your remark that it is a good suggestion.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : It is not only a question of having a holiday on May day, but actually May day is a day which symbolises the revolutionary spirit of labour. In view of this, may I know from the hon. Minister why when Govern-