

**MR. SPEAKER :** Questions should not be asked in a provocative manner. That is not good. Do not provoke them. Then it will be a headache which is transferred to me. You quietly sit down and I have to deal with them.

**SHRI P. M. MEHTA :** As amicable relationship between the management and labour does not exist in the public sector undertakings of this country, do the government propose to have strict application of this legislation to the public sector undertakings ?

**SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR :** Industrial law will apply to public sector undertakings as well.

**Closure of Iron ore Mining Industries  
in Bihar and Orissa**

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\*242, **SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO :**  
**SHRI RAM SHEKHAR PRASAD  
SINGH :**

Will the Minister of **STEEL AND  
MINES** be pleased to state :

(a) whether iron ore mining industries in the Barajamda and Banspani areas of Bihar and Orissa are facing closure;

(b) whether 10,000 workers have already been retrenched from January to March, 1972; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this regard ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES  
(SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) :** (a) Government is aware of the difficulties being faced by some of the iron ore mines in Bihar-Orissa resulting in the closure of some of them.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The matter has been under constant review, in consultation with the Ministry of Railways with a view to improve the supply of the required number of wagons for movement of the iron ore.

**SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO :** May I know whether it is a fact that the General Secretary of the Orissa Chamber of Commerce has made a categorical statement that the retrenchment has been much bigger because of the failure of the railways for the last two years to move iron ore from mine site for export via Paradip and the shortfall was one million tonnes during 1970-71 and 1971-72 ? If so, how far this statement is true ? What steps have been taken in this regard ?

**SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN :** It is true that the railways had some difficulty in moving the iron ore from the area for export via Paradip. Even though the target for export through Paradip was 18 lakhs tonnes, the actual performance was 13.45 lakhs tonnes, leaving a shortfall of about 5 lakhs tonnes.

**SHRI RAM SHEKHAR PRASAD  
SINGH :** In reply to part (a) of the question the Minister has stated that some of these mines have been closed. Which are those mines and how many of them are in Bihar ? What is the position of the workers in those mines which are closed ? Will they be absorbed elsewhere or will they continue to be unemployed ?

**SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN :** The total number of workers affected so far varies from 1,800 to 2,000. Though there has been no large-scale retrenchment, there has been fairly large-scale lay off. The mines affected are : Kasia-Barpada Iron Ore Mines No. 1 and 2, Seramda-Bhadrasai Manganese Mine No. 1 and 2, Guali Iron Mine Jaruri Iron Ore Mine, Gorumahisani Iron Mine and Purnapani Iron Mine.

**SHRI VASANT SATHE :** In view of the fact that a large number of employees as has been stated just now, are laid off, may I know from the hon. Minister whether these persons have been paid lay off compensation under the Industrial Disputes Act ?

**SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN :** That strictly does not come within the purview of the Ministry of Steel and Mines. I presume that the law on the subject will be obeyed. (Interruption) There are definite rules and regulations on the subject of lay-off and those are adhered to.