

Laying off of Workers in Cement Factories for want of Coal

*550. SHRI D. B. CHANDRA GOWDA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cement factories have started laying off of workers owing to coal shortage; and

(b) if so, facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM) : (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The requirement of coal for the cement industry has been assessed at 5.20 lakhs tonnes per month against which an allocation of 4.57 lakh tonnes per month was planned. However, the actual supplies of coal to cement factories during the period September, 1973 to February, 1974 were much lower between 2.73 lakh tonnes and 3.47 lakh tonnes per month.

As a result, the following factories had either closed or laid off workers for varying periods according to the coal stock position in the respective factories.

Factories which have laid off workers

1. India Cements, Talaiuthu.
2. India Cement, Sankaridrug.
3. A.C.C., Madukkarai.
4. Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Dalmiapuram.

Factories which were closed for want of coal

1. A.C.C., Dwarka.

2. U.P. State Cement Corporation, Churk.

SHRI D. B. CHANDRA GOWDA : The statement does not give actually how many workers have been laid off. First it was wagon shortage, then power cut and water shortage. Now it is coal shortage. While acute shortage of coal had resulted in the hampering of production, non-availability of wagons has resulted in the accumulation of stocks. The net result is that already workers in four factories have been laid off and two factories have been closed. What steps do the ministry propose to take to reimburse the workers and help them?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : There are rules for payment to laid off workers. That will be done by the industrial units concerned. No special step need be taken by the Government in this regard.

SHRI D. B. CHANDRA GOWDA : May I know whether he has received any representation from the trade unions as well as the manufacturers urging the Government to avert the crisis that the industry is facing by allotting wagons to remove the mounting stocks?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Yes, Sir. Various representations have been received. The Ministry of Industrial Development have been taking up the matter with the railways and the Ministry of Coal and Mines. We are trying to improve the situation with regard to the availability of coal and the movement of coal.

जी वाम सिंह जीरा : क्या यकी वहाँवय इस बाब की बाब कराये कि वे सीमेंट फैक्ट्री बाने इक्टदे, हो कर सीमेंट की कार्टेज प्रीवट करने के लिये यकीरत

का से प्राकृत कर रहे हैं? क्या वह बात सही है और इस की दम्बावरी वह करायेंगे ?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : We all know the crisis is due to the inadequate supply of coal and, in some cases, non-availability of power. There is no question of the cement manufacturers coming together and then creating a crisis.

SHRI H. M. PATEL : What steps has he taken to improve the movement of coal by using coastal shipping?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : We are trying to use coastal shipping for moving coal in certain cases, particularly to the southern zone. But, unfortunately the availability of shipping is also limited.

SHRI K. GOPAL : From the statement I find that only four factories in Tamil Nadu have laid off workers. May I know how many factories are there in the country and why only the four factories in Tamil Nadu are affected. Why should there be this discrimination?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : There is no question of discrimination. The question specifically referred to factories which have laid off workers. It is not as if the other factories are not affected. They are also affected, but not to that extent. Almost all the factories are affected by want of coal and also the non-availability of wagons.

SHRI K. GOPAL : Tamil Nadu is the worst-affected.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : They are the farthest from the coal fields, being in the south. Therefore, it is becoming difficult for coal to reach there, particularly in this crisis.

SHRI P. R. SHENOY : What steps have been taken for the regular supply of coal

to cement factories in the southern and western region of the country?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Recently, the source of coal and the units to which coal has to be supplied have been linked together. In that way, they are trying to organise the movement. So far as the railways are concerned, the hon. Members are aware of the difficulties due to labour trouble. That is why coal is not moving. In addition to that, they are threatening a total strike in which case it will certainly affect not only cement but also other items.

Attempt to Liquidate Approvers in the Ananda Marg Murder Case

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*551. **SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD MANDAL :**
SHRI RAM PRAKASH :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the fact that there was an organised attempt to liquidate the Approvers in the Ananda Marg murder case;

(b) whether any high officials are involved; and

(c) if so, the names of the culprits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The facts are being ascertained from the Government of Bihar.

जी कृपया प्रत्यक्ष महोदय : अध्यक्ष महोदय, ये आनन्दमार्गी इतनी कूरता बेव में कर रहे हैं जिस की कोई हद और हिमायत नहीं है। क्या मैं चाप की इजाजत से मंत्री महोदय से पूछ सकता हूँ कि कितने विद्योप नवयुवकों