LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, November 24 1977/Agrahayana 3, 1899 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Welfare of Miners

*141 SHRI SURENDRA BIKRAM Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state

(a) whether Mines Safety Review Committee has made recommendations for the welfare of Miners, and

(b) if so the main recommendations and Government's reaction thereon?

THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA) (a) and (b) The reconstituted Mines Safety Review Committee at its first meeting on the 29th October, 1977 has recommended *inter-alia* that where an employee of a coal mine becomes disabled due to pneumoconiosis or any other occupational disease due to mining, a member of his family should be given employment temporarily or permanently depending upon the temporary or permanent nature of disablement This recommendation is under the consideration of the Government

The Committee also endorsed the proposal of Government to amend the

Mines Rules, 1955, for providing for compulsory medical examination of persons employed or to be employed in mines The draft of the proposed amendments has been issued for publication in the Official Gazette on 31st October, 1977.

श्री सुरेन्द्र विक्रम अगर कोई कोल-माइनर रिसेबन्ड हो जाता है या उसकी मृत्यु हो जाती है, तो क्या उसके परिवार को पेन्शन देने की भी कोई योजना है ?

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA· At the moment, the government does not have under consideration any proposal to pay pension, but this is a suggestion which will be considered

श्री सुरेन्द्र विक्रम क्या मंत्री महोदय के पास यह जानकारी है कि कोल-माइन्स मे एक्सिडेंट बहुत होते है । पिछले एक साल मे एक्सिडेंट्स का औसत क्या रहा है ?

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA Actually the number of accidents is not alarmingly on the increase As far as fatal accidents are concerned, if you compare the figures for this year and for the equivalent period of last year you will find that though the number of accidents has slightly gone up, the number of deaths has gone down both in the case of coal mines and non-coal mines Therefore, it can be observed that more emphasis is being laid on the mine safety regulations with the result that the number of fatalities has shown a marked decline both in the case of coal and non-coal mines.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय मंत्री महोदय ने यह स्वीकार किया है कि कोयला-खानों मे दुर्घटनायें काफी बढी हैं। मेरी जानकारी है कि उनमे मरने वालो की संख्या भी बढी है और यह स्थिति पिछले कुछ वर्षों से चली आ रही है। कोयला-खानो मे दुर्घटनाओं का मूल कारण यह है कि खानो के मालिक बचाव के आवश्यक उपाय नही करते हैं। जब इंस्पेक्टर किसी खान के सुरक्षा-उपायों की जांच करने के लिए जाते हैं, तो वे खान-मालिक के दफ्तर में बैठ कर चाय-पानी करके वापस आ जाते है, और जांच नही करते है। क्या सरकार ऐसी व्यवस्था करेगी कि खानो की जांच सख्ती से हो, और जिस खान मे कोई त्रुटि पाई जाये, उसके मालिक के खिलाफ कड़ी कार्यवाही की जाये, जिससे भविष्य मे खान-दुर्घटनाये कम हो, या बिल्कुल न हो ? मंत्री महोदय ने किसी खान-कर्मचारी के अपंग हो जाने पर उसके परिवार के किसी सदस्य को नौकरी देने की व्यवस्था की बात कही है। लेकिन इस पर सख्ती से अमल नही हो रहा है। सरकार इसके लिए क्या कदम उठाने जा रही है कि इस पर अमल सख्ती से हो ?

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA I shall try to remember the many questions that the hon member has raised

MR SPEAKER To the extent possible

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: To the extent my memoric power allows me He said according to his information the number of persons killed this year is higher than last year. The information we have is and we have no reason to believe that it is not as authentic or more authentic than the information the hon member has as far as coal mines are concerned, the number of deaths has gone down from 169 to 166 and that in non-coal mines has gone down from 62 to 46. That is why I said there is a marked decline in the figures. As far as enforcement of the safety regulations is concerned, the House knows that after this government came to power, we have taken special measures to ensure that every attention is paid to the safety regulations. The Review Committee which was constituted to review the implementation of the recommendations of the safety conferences is now meeting regularly. During the last two years it had become a casualty of the Emergency and after two meetings this Committee never met since 1975 Now this Committee has been enlarged and made more representative to include representatives of all trade union organisations that are related to the coal fields and we have made it amply clear that this Review Committee must meet every quarter and must review the implementation of the safety regulations I can, therefore. assure the hon. Member that every step is being taken by us to see that the safety regulations are honoured

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरे प्रश्न का उत्तर नही आया। जो त्रुटिया हैं खानो के अन्दर जिनकी लगातार जाच होनी चाहिये उस जाच मे काफी त्रुटिया होती है, तो वह जाच ठीक प्रकार से हो इसकी आप व्यवस्था करेंगे ?

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA As far as this question is concerned, if you permit me to answer it as you have permitted him to put the question, I would say that we are taking every step to see that inspections are carried out regularly and enquiries are made promptly and action is taken on the results of the enquiries promptly

श्री रामानन्द तिवारी मै माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हू कि आदमी कितने मरे यह न देखकर लगातार प्रति

वर्ष खदानों में जो दुर्घटनायें बढ रही हैं इसका क्या कारण है ? यह कहना कि आदमी कम मरे, दुर्घटनायें अधिक हुई, इसका कोई महत्व नहीं है क्योंकि आदमी भी मर सकते थे । इसलिए हम जानना चाहते हैं कि लगातार प्रति वर्ष जो दुघटनायें बढ़ रही हैं इसके लिए सरकार ने क्या उपाय किया हैं ?

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: First of all, I wish to say once more categorically that it cannot be said that the number of accidents has increased alarmingly.

Interruptions

The hon. Member understands what I am saying

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय मानतीय सदस्य ने हिन्दी मे प्रश्न पूछा है, उसका हिन्दी मे जवाब दिलवाइए । माननीय मंत्री जी बहुत अच्छी हिन्दी जानते है ।

MR. SPEAKER: Both languages are allowed.

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: Secondly, as far as the other question is concerned, the main causes of the accidents that have been identified are the fall of roof, the fall of sides and accidents happen sometimes as a result of use of explosives or asphyxiating gases and water levels in these mines. In regard to all these, we have taken steps.

श्री राम सेवक हजारी मै माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हू कि यह जो दुर्घटनाएं होती हैं क्या उसकी वास्तविकता को जानने की उन्होंने कोशिश की ? वास्तविकता यह है कि जिन खानो को तोपा जाता है, जिसमे मिट्टी और बालू डाली जाती है, वहां उसमें काफी चोरी होती हैं । उन खानों को मिट्टी से नही तोपा जाता है और फर्जी बिल बना कर उसके पैसे अधिकारी खा जाते हैं । इससे जो खाली बगल की खानों में आता है वह उसने कला जाता है और उससे दुर्घटनायें हो जाती हैं। क्या माननीय मंत्री जी इसकी जाच करा कर ऐसे अधिकारियों के खिलाफ कड़ी कार्यवाही करने को तैयार हैं ?

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: There are many causes for mine accidents and the hon. Member has referred to one of them. In the recent meeting of the Review Committee some attention was paid to this aspect as well and it was decided that satistics of accidents should be analysed both from the point of view of what happens above ground and what happens underground in the mines.

As far as the second part of his question is concerned, I can say that we will take every step necessary to see that negligence and non-fulfilment of the safety regulations are not the causes of any accident.

श्री मनीराम बागड़ी "अदर स्टैप्स" का क्या मतलब है ? इस तरह की हवाई बाते नही करनी चाहिये । क्या क्या कदम है उनका विश्लेषण होना चाहिये । आप मंत्रियो को इस तरह की खुली छुट मत दीजिए । (व्यवधान)

श्री गंगा सिंह खानों मे दुर्घटनाय होने के कारण बहुत से खनिक पर्मनिन्टली डिस-एबिल्ड हो जाते है और उनमे से बहुत से ऐसे आदमी है जिनके पास कोई साधन नही हैं । क्या ऐसे व्यक्तियो को अटेडेन्ट दिलाने की व्यवस्था सरकार करेगी ?

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: This is a question similar to the one that was asked earlier. I have already answered this question.