

14.33 hrs.

IRON ORE MINES AND MANGANESE ORE MINES LABOUR WELFARE CESS (AMENDMENT) BILL*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Iron Ore Mines and Manganese Ore Mines Labour Welfare Cess Act, 1976.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is.

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Iron Ore Mines and Manganese Ore Mines Labour Welfare Cess Act, 1976."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: I introduce the Bill.—

IRON ORE MINES AND MANGANESE ORE MINES LABOUR WELFARE FUND (AMENDMENT) BILL*

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Iron Ore Mines and Manganese Ore Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1976.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Iron Ore Mines and Manganese Ore Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1976."

The motion was adopted

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: I introduce the Bill.

14.35 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE

(i) Reduction in the export duty and royalty on chorme ore to increase its export.

*SHRI HARIHAR SOREN (Keonjhar): Orissa accounts for 90 per cent chrome ore exported from the country. It exports mainly high grade fines and friable chrome ore. Orissa chrome ore, once had a high premium both in Europe and Japan and the prices were very attractive. But it is a matter of regret that export of chrome ore is now being curtailed owing to fall in export prices and heavy export duty imposed by the Government of India.

In 1976, the export duty to chrome ore was Rs. 15/- and the royalty was Rs. 12/- a tonne. In anticipation that the export price for chrome ore would increase further, the Government of India raised the export duty from Rs. 15/- to Rs. 200/- and the royalty from Rs. 12/- to Rs. 50/-. Unfortunately, the price of chrome ore declined in the international market and as a result of which the export price also came down. Further the cost of transport from the mines to the port and the port handling charge rose sharply. Unless the export duty and royalty is brought to a reasonable point, the prospect of export of chrome ore from India will be bleak and the country would lose valuable foreign exchange worth lakhs of rupees every year.

In view of this, I appeal the Government of India to find a way for bringing down the export duty and

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†Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

**The original speech was delivered in Oriya.