

[Shri K. T. Kosalram]

Nadu—nil; Kerala—nil; Karnataka—nil.

Government should immediately re-organise the distribution pattern of soft coke and ensure adequate supplies of soft coke to the Southern States. In any case, the present discrimination against the Southern States must be ended.

(i) Reported danger being faced by coal field areas after the rains and floods.

SHRI ROBIN SEN (Asansol): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, under Rule 377, I make the following statement on a matter of urgent public importance.

After the rains and floods, the coal field areas are facing yet another serious danger, that is, subsidence of land over the mines. Knowledgeable sources are seriously concerned about such possibilities, particularly as the soil dries up. 25 such places are thickly populated, namely, Jamuria Bazar, Ranijung, Barakar, Kundue Bazar of Kulti, Barachak, Fatepur, Haripur, Jemahari, Khairadanga, Aluthia, Kalipahari, Bharatchak, Palashban, Chotadimo, Kuardihi, Central Kenda, etc.

Total population in these areas is about 4 lakhs. About 1500 inhabitants from Khas Kajora area had to be evacuated recently following subsidence and development of cracks. Before the nationalisation of coal mines, the erstwhile owners had resorted to slaughter mining for huge profits and yet did not do the obligatory operations like sand stowing or timbering in these mines. The fear of subsidence has its roots here. The most distressing point is that during emergency, in the name of higher production the same kind of slaughter mining was started and that has enhanced the danger.

(iv) Reported agitation by the Employees of General Insurance Corporation.

PROF. DILIP CHAKRAVARTY (Calcutta South): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, with your permission, under rule 377, I would like to make the following statement:

Refusal of the management of the General Insurance Corporation to negotiate with the representatives of the Union for more than 18 months now on the basis of a character presented by them and the resultant harassment of the employees.

The suspension of the entire union leadership in South India and consequent harassment through arrest etc.

It is common knowledge that the management of 106 Indian and foreign general insurance companies were taken over by the Government on 13th May 1971 which were subsequently nationalised by the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, 1972.

There are three trade unions viz. the National Confederation of General Insurance Employees, the General Insurance Employees, 'All India Association and the All India Insurance Employees' Association. The National Confederation of General Insurance Employees is independent of any political affiliation and is the strongest. The management of New India, it is learnt with the support of GIC, are not happy with this mighty strength of one organisation and for obvious reasons, it is reported, they are out to weaken the said organisation by patronising other rival trade unions in the industry.

The employees were hopeful that on nationalisation of the industry, the management of a nationalised public sector undertaking will give a fair deal to them in accordance with the declared labour policy of the Government. Unfortunately, these vested interests and feudal elements who are heading the industry have borne a grudge against the employees' trade union for the following reasons:—

(a) Those persons who were in power during pre-nationalisation days were exposed by the employees' trade union for various malpractices and anti-national acts. The organisation continues to expose the misdeed of the management even now.

(b) Employees' trade unions were responsible for CBI raids on the offices and residences of various corrupt officials which had received