

13.09 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) **MALPRACTICES IN COAL INDUSTRY**
SHRI MUKUNDA MANDAL (Mathurapur): Sir, I wish to raise the following matter of public importance under rule 377.

13.10 hrs.

[**SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR** in the Chair]

A sorry state of affairs is prevailing in the coal industry even after it has been taken over by the Government. There appears to be no change in the affairs of the coal industry except, of course, the fact that before nationalisation the mine owners were exploiting the coal workers and the general consumers and that after nationalisation Government-appointed personnel are doing the same job in collusion with foreign agents.

The most disturbing factor to be taken note of is the enormous rise in the price of coal registered during the past 9 to 10 years. Besides the rise in the price of coal, the quality of coal which is being supplied to the general consumers, small traders and agents is worse. After the classification policy on coal was given up, third grade coal is being supplied to the consumers at the same cost as was being charged for high grade coal.

Another disturbing feature is that small traders and agents are finding it extremely difficult to obtain coal although they possess the requisite permit. As a result, they have to necessarily fall into the vicious trap of the middlemen, brokers, agents, black-marketeers etc. Without the help of these unscrupulous elements one cannot hope to get supply of coal.

Another fact which is to be noted here is that Government has given agencies to those who were mine owners before nationalisation. Thus, we see that old wine has been put in a new bottle. Nothing has changed, rather, things have worsened since

nationalisation. This is said not to discredit the policy of nationalisation, but to point out how nationalisation has become a mockery before the people. In fact, one is witnessing more accidents in mines after nationalisation.

Seeing all this, one is left with no alternative except to conclude that there is an organised conspiracy on the part of the former coal mine owners, bureaucrats and vested interests in collusion with foreign agencies to make out a theory that nationalisation means loss of production.

In order to defeat this conspiracy, Government must take the following steps to improve the situation in the coal industry:

(1) Responsibility of coal distribution should be taken over by the Government directly instead of depending on agents.

(2) The distribution should be done under the supervision of a Distributing Officer.

(3) Interest of the general consumers should be given high priority.

(4) Stern steps should be taken to punish those who are responsible for adulteration and other malpractices in the distribution system.

(5) Coal is an essential commodity especially to those living in small towns and villages where electricity and fuel gas are non-existent. Hence it should be at subsidised rates.

(ii) **REPORTED CLOSURE OF BRICK KILNS IN UTTAR PRADESH DUE TO SHORTAGE OF COAL.**

श्री मनोहर जास (कानपुर): सभापति महोदय, रूल नियम 377 के अन्तर्गत निम्न लोक महत्व कर का विषय उठाना चाहता हूँ :-

उत्तर प्रदेश में लगभग 5,000 ईंटों के बड़े कोयलों के अभाव में बन्द हो रहे हैं या बंद हो चुके हैं। लगभग दो लाख श्रमिक बेकार हैं। कोयला रेल बैगन से तो आता ही नहीं है। जिसकी वजह से उत्तर