

- (ii) Imposition of a specific obligation on holders of mining leases in respect of payment of royalty for minerals removed by their agents, sub-lessees or employees ;
- (iii) Provision of a statutory basis for calculation of dead rent ;
- (iv) Introduction of regulations governing mineral concessions in respect of minerals underlying the ocean within the territorial waters or the continental shelf of India ; and
- (v) Application of Minor Mineral Rules to Quarry leases.

Sir, the provision regarding the termination of mining leases which is going to be inserted in Clause 4A(1) and (2) is reasonable. It says :

"Where the Central Govt., after consultation with the State Govt., is of opinion that it is expedient in the interest of regulation of mines and mineral development so to do, it may request the State Govt. to make a premature termination of a mining lease in respect of any mineral, other than a minor mineral and, on receipt of such request, the State Govt. shall make an order making a premature termination of such mining lease and granting a fresh mining lease in favour of such Govt. company or corporation owned or controlled by Government as it may think fit."

I think that this is a reasonable provision.

Then, new section 6(1) would read thus :

"No person shall acquire in any one State in respect of any mineral or prescribed group of associated minerals—

- (a) one or more prospecting licences covering a total area of more than fifty square kilometers ; or
- (b) one or more more mining leases covering a total area of more than ten square kilometres ;".

Since a proviso has been incorporated, the limits fixed under these now sub-sections (a) and (b) could have been reduced further and that would have been a step towards a more

equitable distribution of wealth. The reduction of the limit should not be allowed to be made a pretext by the mineowners to victimise or retrench the workers, and the hon. Minister should give us an assurance to that effect. I demand here that for the development of the mines and for the progress of the country, all the mines should be nationalised.

In this amending Bill, provision has been made for a statutory basis for taking up investigations. I want to say that the powers given to the Geological Survey of India under the proposed sections 18A (1) and (2) should be exercised with great care and attention so that only a very small portion of the standing crop is destroyed. The hon. Minister should give an assurance in this regard so that the least possible damage is done, and I would also request the hon. Minister to see that the time for the standing crops is extended.

Lastly, I would like to say that unless we protect the interests of the workers and their rights, all the talk of regulating and developing the functioning of the mines will be of no use.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We shall resume discussion on this Bill on the next day. Now, we shall take up Private Members' Business.

14.58 hrs.

#### COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

##### SEVENTEENTH REPORT

SHRI MADHURYYA HALDAR (Mathurapur) : I beg to move :

"That this House do agree with the Seventeenth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 23rd August, 1972."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do agree with the Seventeenth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 23rd August, 1972".

*The motion was adopted*