

been able to submit this report so far? If their final report has not been received; some interim report must have come by now...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have said something in favour of CBI.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: You are a wise person, Mr. Professor.

[*English*]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I am only strengthening my case that our CBI machinery is very strong, very powerful and very competent and with such a competent machinery...

MR. SPEAKER: Now, you don't explain all these things.

[*Translation*]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, I have only submitted that if the C.B.I has not submitted its final report, then some interim report should be there.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please come straight to the question.

[*Translation*]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: The final report of the CBI has not been received, but if some interim report has come, the findings thereof should be presented in the House.

SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH: Sir, the matter was first investigated by the Departmental agency and all the facts came to light. This case was handed over to the C.B.I. on 6.4.88, though it was detected in 1986. Ac-

tion has been taken in certain cases but some cases are still pending. The Officers of the Department wanted this case to be referred to the C.B.I. All the cases are not complicated. It was in certain cases that CBI investigation was felt to be necessary. The CBI report has not been received so far. We have reminded them to submit it at the earliest so that early action could be taken on it.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: He has not stated whether the interim report has been received or not. *(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

### Pension Scheme in Coal Industry

\*164. SHRI KAMAL NATH†:  
SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to introduce pension scheme in the coal industry;

(b) if so, the broad outlines of the proposed scheme;

(c) the financial implications thereof; and

(d) the time by which the scheme is likely to be implemented.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C.K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) to (d). Coal India Limited is working on a retirement benefit scheme for its employees. The details of the Scheme are yet to be finalised.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, one of the policies of the Coal Department of the Government has been to replace physically unfit workmen and this has been announced and pronounced by the Ministry on various forums. Unless there is a Pension Scheme this replacement of physically unfit workers is

not very encouraging. Workmen do not want to retire because there is no proper pension scheme. We all know that pension is a concept which is applicable in one's lifetime. Since this scheme is being finalised for quite a long time, I would like to know from the hon. Minister when this scheme will be implemented. Can he assure the House that by such and such time—whatever be the period—the scheme will be implemented and executed for the benefit of the workmen of the coal industry?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): As soon as the scheme is finalised...

SHRI KAMAL NATH: When will that 'soon' be?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Soon will be soon.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Will it happen during the lifetime of the workers? Or in my lifetime? Give us at least an idea.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Nobody is sure of anybody's lifetime. But I am hopeful. The scheme has been more or less finalised in the JBCCI. The details have been worked out. It is yet to be approved by the Government formally because they feel that there will be some repercussions in the other public sector undertakings. As far as the Coal India Ltd. is concerned, this scheme has been more or less finalised. As soon as it is approved, there will be no delay from the side of the Government.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: How much time will it likely to take?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Even the discussions between the Management and the employees have taken so much time. I cannot blame anybody. But from the angle of the Government, on the Department's or the Ministry's side, we have, in principle accepted the scheme.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI: Sir, I am not

able to understand the answer. The question is relating to pension to the coal miners.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: He is talking about pension scheme.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI: He is speaking about pension scheme but.

[*English*]

My point is this. The actual scheme which has been approved by the Coal India Ltd. is the scheme of voluntary retirement and not the pension scheme. Pension scheme is something which has gone from the side of the Ministry. The Ministry can, perhaps be considering it. The point is whether the voluntary scheme finalised by the management of the Coal India Ltd. has been approved by the Government of India. Or are the Government of India and the Coal India Ltd. working at cross purposes in the sense that the Government wants the pension scheme while the Coal India is for the voluntary retirement scheme? Actually, what is the scheme which is likely to be operated and what will be its financial implications? How is it going to be a voluntary scheme? Will the workers be allowed to opt for it or would you require an agreement from the workers' union? What is the actual position?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: As I said, it is a retrieval benefit scheme. The voluntary retirement scheme which has been formulated is a different thing. The following are basically the broad features of the scheme which is for post-retirement benefits. Two percent will be contributed out of the provident fund by the employees' side; the management will also give two percent from their side. This will form the corpus of 4 percent. This is on the basis of the present 8 percent limit of the provident fund. But there is a proposal that it should be raised from 8 to 10 percent. If that is done, the additional two percent also will be contributed towards this retirement scheme which includes the concept of pen-

sion. This will apply to those whose minimum service is for more than 5 years. All the details of the normal pension concept, pension to the family and to the workers themselves, etc. have been worked out on the actuarial basis. As I said, it has to be formally approved by the Government.

[*Translation*]

SHRI C.P. THAKUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per the hon. Minister's Statement, it will have some bearing on other Public Sector Undertakings, as well. In that case, the Government should take a broad decision so that it benefits the employees of all the Public Sector Undertakings. Is any such scheme under the consideration of the Government?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I cannot say that this is so, but it often happens that on the pretext of the effects percolating to other Public Sector Undertakings, projects are shelved and even those who could have been benefited are not able to get the benefits. This, I think, is not right. It is welcome to think about the welfare of employees and to create funds for this purpose, but in doing so attempts should not be made to create hindrances in the scheme of others. I would request the hon. Member not to put obstacles in a matter which has reached the final stage.

[*English*]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Sir, what the hon. Minister has stated is not a fact that the discussion took much longer time. The agreement was finalised three years back. The JBCCI also gave its approval. Then, it went to the Government for its final approval. It is pending with the Government for months together. This scheme was approved by NCWA-III, three years back and the term of NCWA also expired in December, 1987. There are a number of welfare schemes like employment of one of the dependants of the retired employee, construction of quarters, residential accommodation, drinking water but none of them have so far been incorpo-

rated in the NCWA-III.

May I know from the hon. Minister as to how much time the Government will take to give its approval for the pension scheme of the coal mine workers?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I restricted myself only to this pension scheme. If the hon. Member wants to make a wide ranging allegation against the implementation, then I can only say that he is not factually correct. Quite a many recommendations of the NCWA have been implemented and there is a good rapport with the employees and the management as far as these welfare schemes are concerned.

The last meeting with the CMPF Board of Trustees on this question was held on 6.1.1989. i.e. just a few months back. So, to say that this has been going on and is pending with the Government is not correct. This is being considered. As I have said that because there is a feeling in the Bureau of Public Enterprises and the Government in some sectors that it will have its repercussions in other public sectors and therefore it must be considered more carefully was the reason why so much time was taken. If it was left to ourselves, then I can say to this House, through you, that this Ministry and the Coal India Ltd., would have implemented this scheme without delay.

#### Hydro-Electric Project on River Chenab in Jammu and Kashmir

\*167. SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a hydro-electric project on river Chenab in Jammu and Kashmir State is to be constructed in villages Serthalakote and Sawalkote of Tehsil Gool Gulab Garh of district Udhampur;

(b) whether the Civil Division sanctioned for Serthalakote has been established there;

(c) if so, when and if not, the reasons for