

12.00 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

ALLEGED RETRENCHMENT OF 10,000 WORKERS IN RAJHARA AND NANDINI MINES

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): Under Rule 197, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

The retrenchment of about 10,000 workers of Rajhara and Nandini mines under the Bhilai Steel project.

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): With your permission, I would like to place the statement on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 44] explained this briefly while replying to the Supplementary Demands.

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I want to know whether 10,000 workers were discharged on the 30th of last month. That is why I gave an adjournment motion. Under your advice, I have tabled this motion. I want to know whether they have been discharged.

Sardar Swaran Singh: A large number of them are employees of contractors. Only a few are direct employees of the project authorities. The essential point to be mentioned in this connection is that they are engaged in mining ore manually. Now that mechanisation is coming up, this work tapers off. Every one who was employed knew that this will come to an end. It is not something that has happened in an unexpected manner.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: When this matter was raised, there was a suggestion that as between contract workers and mine workers there should be no discrimination and a common pool must be established.

12.04 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

ANNUAL REPORTS AND REVIEW BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SINGARENI COLLIERIES COMPANY LIMITED, ETC.

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers:—

- (i) (a) Annual Report of the Singareni Collieries Company Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 1960, along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon, under subsection (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956.
- (b) Review by the Government of the working of the above Company.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-3393/61].
- (ii) (a) Annual Report of the National Coal Development Corporation Limited, Ranchi for the year 1960-61, along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon, under subsection (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956.
- (b) Review by the Government of the working of the above Corporation.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-3394/61].
- (iii) (a) Annual Report of the Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited, Neyveli (Madras) for the year 1960-61, along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon, under subsection (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956.