

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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Thursday, January 29, 1976/Magha 9, 1897 (Saka).

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[Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Amendment of Mineral Concession Rules

*306 SHRI Y. ESWARA REDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal under consideration to amend the existing Mineral Concession Rules, and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b). Yes, Sir. After taking into account the various suggestions, received from the State Governments and from other sources, comprehensive review of the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 is being made with a view to amending these Rules. The main features being kept in view are:—

- (i) to streamline the procedure for the grant of mineral concessions;

- (ii) to lay emphasis on workmanlike and efficient mining of minerals;

- (iii) to check illegal mining of minerals;

- (iv) to ensure prompt payment of mining dues by mine owners; and

- (v) to facilitate extension of loans by financial institutions to the mining industry.

SHRI Y. ESWARA REDDY: The State Governments are already equipped with adequate powers to prevent this illegal mining and the malpractices. They are equipped also to prevent such things and for taking punitive measures against mine-owners. What are the reasons for the failure of the State Governments to take such action against the mine owners who are practising these illegal mining and indulging in all these malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV): There is no specific reason. The State Governments have been taking measures, but it is felt that this organisation should be strengthened. And certain suggestions have been received from the State Governments. A little more time is wanted for processing the applications. Even the Federation of Mineral Associations etc., have also made some suggestions that certain amendments should be made in the rules. Therefore, these things are being considered—it is not as if actions have not been taken; they have been taken and we feel that this organisation should be strengthened so that the unscientific and illegal mining is not there.

SHRI Y. ESWARA REDDY: May I know from the hon. Minister when the rules are expected to be introduced?

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: They are under consideration. I have formed a departmental Committee in which all these suggestions had been invited; certain suggestions have also been made by the State Governments and, on behalf of the Federation too, certain suggestions have been received very recently. These are being discussed. If Members too have suggestions to make, they can also give. But, I hope that the decisions will be taken as soon as possible and, certainly, they will be placed before the House.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the accident which occurred recently in Chasnala was because of this illegal mining.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: The question has nothing to do with this. Moreover, there is a court of inquiry. It will not be proper to say anything at this stage.

श्री राम नारायण शर्मा : मानने कहा है कि आर जन्दी से जन्दी लैजिमेनशन ला रहे हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या आरका डगन इन प्रोग्राम है कि को बराइन नेशनलाइजेशन के दो विधेयकों के बावजूद भी गैर-कानूनी खदानें चल रही है और उसमें देश के मिनरल खन को बहुत डा अनिष्ट हो रही है और वह बूलेग्राम मस्टे दरों पर बाजार में बिकता है और इसकी वजह से हैवी रसायन कोयले का हो गया है ?

श्री चंद्रजीत यादव : गैर-कानूनी माइनिंग का काम हो रहा है उस पर कमे हम कार्यवाही

कर रहे हैं, इस पर बहुत सक्रिय रूप से हम विचार कर रहे हैं।

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO: The statement laid on the Table shows only some minor concessions in the mineral rules. The State Governments are clamouring for increasing the royalty rate. May I know whether this question of revision of royalty is also under the consideration of Government or not?

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: Very recently, the royalty question has been decided. There was a Committee formed which also went into all these aspects of royalties; royalties, in most of these cases, have very recently been decided.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: If I may just take up further the point raised by Mr. Sharma, the Minister replied by saying

हम विचार कर रहे हैं।

Previously, on several occasions, in this House, his attention had been drawn to the illegal mining of coal, particularly, in the State of Bihar, in your State and, at that time also, we were told that steps were going to be taken. I would like to know how many such cases of illegal mining of coal, without any concessions, in Bihar have been detected; what step has been taken to stop those things and whether the people responsible for these illegal minings have been punished in any way

या सिर्फ विचार ही हो रहा है।

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: Really speaking, I think the hon. Member is aware that the coal mining does not need anything. Moreover here is a separate Ministry. If he wants me to give details, he may put a question for that.