

Dr B.R. Seth,
Deputy Secretary to the Govt of India,
Ministry of Labour & Employment,
New Delhi.

Sub: Convening of the Third Session of the
Industrial Committee on Mines other than
Coal Mines.

Sir,

As per the decisions arrived at the last session of the Industrial Committee on Mines other than Coal held on 24th April 1961 at New Delhi, we would suggest that the third session of the Industrial Committee be convened at the earliest. We would reiterate the following agenda for consideration:

- 1) Appointment of a Wage Board for Iron ore and Manganesee mining industry;
- 2) Tripartite enquiry committee to go into the working of manggneso mining that account for intermittent crises of boom and depression;
- 3) Introduction of the E.S.I. Scheme on non-contributory basis for the workmen employed in Mines other than Coal;
- 4) Abolition of Contract System;
- 5) Inclusion of Quarries within the purview of the Committee's deliberations;
- 6) Issuing monthly or quarterly report by Chief Inspector of Mines, ~~Minis~~ for mines other than coal, giving figures regarding employment, production, etc.
- 7) Ensuring trade union rights at the mines premises;
- 8) Statutory bonus schemes for iron ore and manganesee mines.

It is presumed that there will be a review on action taken on decisions of the last session.

An early reply will be much appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

(K.G. Driwastava)
Secretary

1469.2
No.188/A/61
Sept 19, 1961

Com.S.K.Sanyal,
Samyukta Khadan Mazdoor Sangh,
Tilak Statue,
Mahal, NAGPUR

Dear Comrade,


In reply to our letter of 6th September suggesting certain items for inclusion in the agenda of the next session of the Industrial Committee on Mines other than Coal, the Union Labour Ministry vide their letter dated September 18, stated: "It would be appreciated if the necessary memoranda (in triplicate) on the items are forwarded to this Ministry at an early date".

Please let us have your drafts of the memoranda on each of the items so that we may forward them to the Ministry.

As you will remember, the following items were suggested by us: (1) Appointment of a Wage Board for iron ore and manganese mining industry; (2) Tripartite enquiry committee to go into the working of manganese mining that account for intermittent crises of boom and depression; (3) Introduction of the ESI scheme on non-contributory basis for the workmen employed in Mines other than Coal; (4) Abolition of Contact System; (5) Inclusion of Quarries within the purview of the Committee's deliberations; (6) Issuing monthly or quarterly report by Chief Inspector of Mines, for mines other than coal giving figures regarding employment, production, etc., (7) Ensuring trade union rights at the mines premises; (8) Statutory bonus schemes for iron ore and manganese mines.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,


(Satish Loomba)
Secretary

1464-3
No.188/A/62
February 14, 1962

Shri R.C.Saksena,
Under Secretary to the Govt of India,
Ministry of Labour & Employment,
New Delhi

Sub: Third Session of the Industrial Committee
on Mines other than Coal - Agenda for the

Dear Sir,

With reference to your letter No.LC.10(67)/61 dated 27th November 1961, on the above subject, we enclose brief memoranda on the following items suggested for inclusion in the agenda of the Third Session of the Industrial Committee on Mines other than Coal:

- Item 1: Appointment of a Wage Board for Iron Ore and Manganese Mining Industry
- Item 2: Tripartite Enquiry Committee to go into the working of manganese mining that account for intermittent crisis of boom and depression.
- Item 3: Introduction of the ESI Scheme on non-contributory basis for the workmen employed in mines other than coal.
- Item 4: Abolition of Contract System in Mines other than Coal.
- Item 5: Inclusion of Quarries within the purview of the Committee's deliberations.
- Item 6: Issuing monthly or quarterly report by Chief Inspector of Mines for Mines other than Coal giving figures regarding employment, production, &c.
- Item 7: Ensuring Trade Union rights at the Mines premises

Please acknowledge receipt of this letter.

Yours faithfully,


for Secretary

Encl:

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Item 1: APPOINTMENT OF A WAGE BOARD FOR IRON ORE
AND MANGANESE MINING INDUSTRY

Memorandum

It will be recalled that at the 15th Indian Labour Conference (Delhi 1957), it was agreed that the appropriate machinery for wage-fixation would be tripartite wage boards. In the list of sectors of employment included in the conclusions of the Conference was included "Mines other than Coal". At the Second Session of the Industrial Committee on Mines other than Coal Mines, the demand was made for the constitution of this Wage Board. This question could not be discussed due to lack of time and the Chairman had agreed that this could be raised at the next meeting of the Committee.

Now that a Wage Board for Iron & Steel Industry has been constituted, it is but legitimate that the ore-mining industry, especially of iron ore and manganese, so much linked to the making of iron and steel, should also be covered by a Wage Board. Quite a large proportion of iron ore and manganese mining in this country is directly owned by the steel plants or ~~are~~ largely dependent on them. It would therefore be extremely advantageous if a Wage Board for Iron Ore and Manganese Mining industry works side by side with a Wage Board for Iron & Steel Industry so that uniformity in wage rates and conditions of service prevails in this vital sector of our economy.

Item 2 - TRIPARTITE ENQUIRY COMMITTEE TO GO INTO THE WORKING OF MANGANESE MINING THAT ACCOUNT FOR INTERMITTENT CRISES OF BOOM AND DEPRESSION

Memorandum

Hardly three months after the second session of the Industrial Committee on Mines other Than Coal held at New Delhi in April 1961, one of its important recommendations was held over by the Union Labour Ministry as not to be implemented. This was about the setting up of a welfare fund for the workers employed in manganese mines. It was alleged that "the condition of the manganese mining industry has still not improved and levy of a welfare cess is likely to have an adverse effect on our efforts to revive exports in a highly competitive market." (Union Labour Ministry letter No.7(5)59-MIII dated August 4, 1961 addressed to two central TU organisations). The Ministry also apprehended that an "additional burden at this stage may result in the closure of some of the mines, accentuating the problems of the workers and adding to the number of the unemployed." These arguments do not appear very convincing to the trade unions, as would warrant a reversal of the Industrial Committee's recommendations shortly after the Committee met. The assessment of the situation in the industry cannot obviously vary widely within a short period of three months. It is however, admitted that the industry does suffer from an intermittent crisis of boom and depression. In order that a proper picture of the industry and an assessment of the reasons for the intermittent crisis, it is necessary that a Tripartite Inquiry Committee is appointed to study the problems and report on them.

Item 3 - INTRODUCTION OF THE E.S.I. SCHEME ON NON-CONTRIBUTORY BASIS FOR THE WORKMEN EMPLOYED IN MINES OTHER THAN COAL

Memorandum

Medical facilities for workers in the mining areas are notoriously inadequate. This is particularly true of workers in mines other than coal which are mostly situated in remote areas.

It is therefore a most legitimate demand of the workers that the ESI Scheme should cover mines other than coal as well.

In view of the low wages which prevail in the industry, it is suggested that the Scheme may be made non-contributory for the workers.

Item 4: ABOLITION OF CONTRACT SYSTEM
IN MINES OTHER THAN COAL

Contract system prevails on a wide scale in mines other than coal and this has had a disastrous effect on the wages and working conditions of the miners. The problem has been generally dealt with by the 19th Session of the Indian Labour Conference. Following this, a bipartite agreement was also reached in respect of abolition of contract system in coalmining operations. It is therefore suggested that in this Committee, a satisfactory agreement is reached for the abolition of contract system in non-coal mines.

Item 5: INCLUSION OF QUARRIES WITHIN THE PURVIEW
OF THE COMMITTEE'S DELIBERATIONS

Memorandum

Since employment and problems relating to working conditions, etc., in quarrying are broadly similar to mining operations, it is necessary that problems relating to workers employed in quarrying operations should also be discussed by the Industrial Committee on Mines other than Coal.

Hence it is suggested that quarries should be included within the purview of the Committee's deliberations.

Item 6: ISSUING MONTHLY OR QUARTERLY REPORT BY CHIEF INSPECTOR OF MINES FOR MINES OTHER THAN COAL GIVING FIGURES REGARDING EMPLOYMENT, PRODUCTION, ETC.

Memorandum

In order to have a proper assessment of the progress of the industry and the situation relating to the condition of the workers, it is suggested that the Chief Inspector of Mines may be asked to issue a monthly or quarterly report for Mines other than Coal giving figures regarding employment, production, etc.

Item 7: ENSURING TRADE UNION RIGHTS AT THE MINES PREMISES

Memorandum

It has been the unfortunate experience of the trade unions that the employers in a large majority of cases pursue a policy of actively preventing trade union activities of the workers employed in mines other than coal. This they are able to do because the entire mining area including the living quarters of the miners belong to the mining companies and in the vast stretch of land, leased or owned by the companies, there is no possibility for the workers to assemble in a public meeting or even to have social and cultural activities without the consent of the employers. These private 'kingdoms' as they have come to develop constitute a serious attack on the democratic rights of the miners. It is therefore necessary that Government ensures that residential areas and immediate surroundings shall be deemed to be public places where the workers may exercise their democratic and trade union rights without being hampered by the employers.
