

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. "SALIM): You need not make a speech. You will be shown as having associated yourself with what he has said.

SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: It is a very important matter. The impediments that have been put in the execution of the project have led the people of Assam to believe that all the assurances made by the Government of India are false. Let them prove that it is not so by helping in the completion of the project. As my friend has said, the price will be escalated and it will be treated as an unviable project. This is something very serious and the people of Assam will take it seriously. We have to prove that we really mean to improve Assam. We must prove that industries will be set up in Assam. Merely saying that we are serious will not help. You have to show it by your actions. I hope the Government of India will take serious note of this.

RE. RENEWED THREAT BY THE U.S. TO ATTACK IRAQ

SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA (West Bengal): Hon. Vice-Chairman, I rise to reiterate the common concern expressed by this House last week on the question of US aggression against Iraq. This submission has been necessitated because of confirmed reports that the US is preparing for another round of attack. The US-based oil multinational companies and OPEC cartel are seeking to scuttle the oil for food deal sanctioned and approved by the United Nations after six years to Iraq. They have been successful in their attempt. But they do not want to take any risk. Therefore, they now want to change the Government of Iraq. They want to dethrone the present ruler there. This will lead to further escalation of the process of destabilisation of the gulf region. It will give rise to global tensions. It will lead to further escalation in oil prices and the price of essential commodities. It is clear from the finance Minister's statement in this House last week that our Oil

Pool Account cannot survive another onslaught of Gulf War or international oil price hike. And Iraq is not going to be the last victim. Sir, are we going to interfere although there as a universal concern about the explosion at the Olympic centre in Atlanta and the passenger-airline crash over Atlanta? Are we going to interfere over how the U.S. is going to deal with that part of the terrorism within the country. They are crossing all limits. They are sending their Ambassadors to interfere in our elections. They are threatening countries like ours to sign and ratify the CTBT. They are organising their election campaigns in other countries. And these oil multinationals, the OPEC, in order to keep the global oil ! price high and in order to avoid lowering of the oil price which the Iraqi 'Oil for Food' deal would have engineered, are financing Mr. Clinton's election campaign. My question to the hon. Minister is: Will the Government take proper action and will indigenous oil production be further energised?

RE. PROPOSED CONSTITUTION OF A COMMITTEE BY TAMIL NADU GOVERNMENT TO SETTLE CLAIMS OF COMPENSATION REGARDING LAND ACQUIRED BY N.L.C.

SHRI R. MARGABANDU (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I am happy that two Ministers belonging to Tamil Nadu are present here because this matter relates to Tamil Nadu. Sir, regarding the Neyveli Lignite Corporation, the DMK Government has recently announced that it is going to constitute a committee, in which representatives of the persons who have lost their lands, representatives of NLC and other connected persons will be included, in order to solve the problem of payment of compensation to persons who have lost their lands. Sir, nearly 9,000 acres of land were acquired in 1978 and the people asked for enhancement of the compensation. About 2,000 land acquisition cases are pending before the Court. Since 1978, due to some activities on the part of the