

[SHRI DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI]

rani had been elected in the Tripura Assembly in reserved seat has become Minister now. Therefore, the statment of the State Home Minister terming the Bodo tribals as "anti-national" is not unfortunate. I am here for so many years. I am part of the country. Every time I got elected overwhelmingly. Just to cover their failures and inefficiency AGP is evicting the Bodo tribals from the forests. Bodos are mostly inhabiting in the forests as forest villagers. They are looking after the forests. AGP Government do not know why Bodo tribals are there in the forests. Our Congress Government has established High Schools and colleges also for them here and there. Our Agriculture Minister is not here but he knows very well that there is a big agriculture farm consisting of 700 acres of land belonging to the Central Government and this farm is being looked after by the Bodo people and they are also being evicted from their homes and hearths because they are surrounded that farm. Madam, if you ring the bell, then I cannot speak.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I would like you to speak but I am only reminding you about the time. You can speak now.

SHRI DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI: Thank you. Now, why the Government has failed to do anything? Why can't they do anything themselves and why do they request the Central Government to deploy the army? I would like to tell you that even the army cannot stop them. This is happening because from the very beginning, they did not observe any norm. 137 ASIs were appointed recently but not a single person from this tribe has been taken. 200 posts of clerks and officers were filled up recently but not a single tribal was appointed. Why these reservations are not being observed by the Government? If the situation continues like this, then naturally the students will come and join the agitation. The agitating people requested the Chief Minister to help them.

But the State Home Minister did not allow them to meet the Chief Minister. He played his role. Neither he himself talked to them nor he allowed the Chief Minister to talk to them. They have allowed a recently appointed junior Minister, who does not know anything, to talk to them. I asked many questions from him but he could not reply to their questions. Since the Government has failed to listen to their grievances, they are fighting. About 139 Bodo boys have been killed. Therefore, if the Central Government does not intervene and take necessary steps to defuse the situation, the bloodshed would continue. In order to protect the interests of these tribals, our Congress Government taken certain steps. No non-tribal person can purchase land and no non-tribal person can stay there. But the present Government does not understand this. They do not follow any rule. Naturally, the tribal people are getting agitated and they are fighting for their right. So, through you, Madam, I urge upon the Government to intervene in the matter and do something. Shri Jacob Sahib is there. I appeal to him directly to take up the matter with the concerned Ministry.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You cannot go directly. You have to go through me. I have noted your sentiments and the Minister will take care of them.

Delay in Fixation and Payment of Royalty on Crude Oil to Gujarat

SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH (Gujarat): Madam, before I make my special mention, I want to draw the attention of this august House that today is the 31st Death Anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. This year, we are celebrating his birth centenary and I plead through you, Madam, that the Government should observe the celebration with due solemnity and importance. (*Interruption*). No, I thought that today being the 31st death anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, I must observe so that the Government can take necessary action.

Madam, Gujarat and Assam are the major on-shore oil producing States. Gujarat alone accounts for 46.22 per cent of the on-shore crude oil production of the country. It is justifiable, therefore, that the State of Gujarat gets its due share in terms of royalty in crude oil. The Government of India had fixed the royalty on crude oil at Rs. 192/- per metric ton with effect from 1st April, 1984 under the provisions of the Oil-fields (Regulations and Development) Act. The Central Government can enhance the rate of royalty after every three years. The State Government and the people of Gujarat feel that the present rate of royalty at Rs. 192/- per tonne does not reflect the intrinsic worth of crude oil. The State Government has sent a memorandum on 16th March, 1988 for revision of royalty and requested for the fixation of the rate of royalty based on the net back value of the crude oil which can be arrived at by calculating backwards from the prices of the final products derived from crude oil. Accordingly it was represented that the rate of royalty works out to Rs. 683.50 per tonne of crude oil and the State Government has rightly claimed this amount. The State Government is also entitled to a sum of Rs. 200 crores as arrears of royalty for the period from April, 1987 to March, 1988.

Madam, in view of the critical financial position of the State due to three consecutive years of drought, the State Government requested the Union Finance Ministry and the Ministry of Petroleum to consider the release of Rs. 200 crores which can be adjusted towards payment of arrears on account of the royalty rate that may be announced later with effect from 1-4-1987. It is unfortunate that the Central Government is delaying this payment on the plea that the royalty is paid by the oil companies and it is only fixed by the Central Government. We have also come to know that the whole issue of fixation of royalty rates is now under the consideration of a Secretary-level committee in the Union Government. But the delay, for whatever reason, is

most unfortunate and the people of Gujarat are dismayed over the Central Government's delaying tactics.

Madam, whenever the royalty rates are fixed, they should be just and should be arrived at in a logical and fair manner. The real value of crude oil should be arrived at by the net back value method and should not be subjected to deduction of elements like oil development cess, sales-tax, etc. And the royalty should be payable at 20 per cent of the sale price as arrived at by the net back value method. Madam, it is a well-known fact that the prices of petroleum products fixed by the Government of India are considerably higher than what would be justified on the basis of the cost of production of each product. The huge surplus between the cost of production and the final prices payable by consumers is credited to the Government of India either in the form of excise or in the form of other levies or by way of profit. It would, therefore, be reasonable that the rate of royalty should have a direct relationship to the prices of petroleum products and the surplus generated from the point of extraction of crude oil to the consumers' use should be shared between the Centre and the oil-producing States. The Central Government gets a much larger revenue as compared to the State Government and thus deprives it of its legitimate source of income. The net value of crude oil has been worked out by the State Government to be Rs. 3417.47 per metric ton. Twenty per cent of this amount, that is Rs. 683.50 per metric ton should accrue to the State Government as royalty.

Madam, I therefore plead that the royalty on crude oil payable to Gujarat should be released immediately by the oil companies after its fixation by the Union Government. Thank you.

SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL
(Gujarat): Madam, I support his plea.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA (Gujarat): Madam, I associate myself with the special mention made by Mr. Valiullah.

SHRI CHHOTUBHAI PATEL (Gujarat): Madam, I also associate myself with Mr. Valliullah. What is due to it should be immediately paid to the State Government of Gujarat.

1.00 P.M.

SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI (Maharashtra): I associate myself with the viewpoint of Shri Raoof Valliullah. Maharashtra is also entitled to royalty for oil and gas from Bombay High. Maharashtra should get its due share.

Delay in the Completion of the Work of the Wage Board for Working Journalists and Non-Working Journalists due to Non-Cooperation by Employers' Representatives

SHRI KAPIL VERMA (Uttar Pradesh): Madam Deputy Chairman, through you I wish to draw the Government's attention to a very important matter. Working journalists and non-working journalists all over the country who were eagerly looking forward to the Wage Board's report are feeling deeply concerned at the decision of the employers' representatives to abstain from attending the meetings thereby creating a serious apprehension in the minds of newspaper employees that the fresh wage fixation is likely to be indefinitely delayed. It appears from the concerted action of the Indian Newspapers Society and the Indian Language Newspapers Association to abstain from the meetings of the Wage Board and making certain allegations that they are all building up a case for challenging the decision of the Government on the fixation of the rates of wages in a court of law and also delay the process of wage revision in the newspaper industry which has been long overdue. The employees' organisations which have held a massive demonstration in front of INS building in Delhi on February 16 have made it clear that they will not tolerate any further delay in wage revision in the newspaper industry as a result of certain moves of the employers. The employees have threatened a struggle if it

is forced on them. It is the duty of the Government to ensure that there is no unrest in the newspaper industry and the Wage Boards conduct their business smoothly and all sections cooperate so that their work is completed by March 31 as scheduled. I hope that the Wage Board will complete its work by March 31. It is good that the Wage Board which had to adjourn due to lack of quorum because of the employers' representatives absence on February 13, sat for 12 hours on February 16 despite the boycott. Government should call the representatives of the employers and ask them to attend the Wage Board's meetings "and cooperate with it. The Board should also be asked by the Government to expedite and submit its report by March 31 so that the journalist and non-journalist employees get what is long overdue for them.

SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL (Gujarat): I support the Special Mention of Shri Kapil Verma.

Need for a Comprehensive Legislation for the rehabilitation of the disabled

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN RED-DY (Andhra Pradesh): Madam, Deputy Chairperson, through you, I would like to bring to the serious notice of the Central Government the need for an early legislation with regard to the disabled persons in the country. There are a large number of people in the country suffering from disabilities and who are in need of rehabilitation services. Job opportunities and prospects for the disabled are minimal and tackling this problem of rehabilitation of the physically handicapped is quite a gigantic task. It should be tackled in a most dedicated spirit, of course, schools and institutions do a certain amount of service but they cannot arrange for a complete rehabilitation of the disabled unless suitable jobs are identified for them. Although there are certain executive orders in force in the country for providing suitable employ-I ment to the handicapped, these orders do