

REPORTED PAYMENT OF COMMISSIONS BY OIL AND NATURAL GAS COMMISSION

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, we have written to you about today's report in *The Statesman* of another scandal relating to the ONGC... (Interruptions) ...This is a very serious matter. They are looting the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Government is going to make a statement on Monday.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Madhya Pradesh) : On what?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- On the report in *The Statesman*.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: (Karnataka): We want a discussion on this, Sir.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI (Maharashtra) : On the news in *The Statesman* or what? Who is going to make the statement?... (Interruptions) ... Mr. Brahm Dutt or somebody else?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He will make the statement.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: We want to have a discussion first. Let them make the statement later on... (Interruptions)...

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH (West Bengal) : Sir, I have a point of order.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Let there be a statement, but let him make it now.

SHRI SATISH KUMAR SHARMA (Madhya Pradesh): Sir _____ (Interruptions)...

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Mr. Satish Sharma wants to make a statement. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Sir, you declared that Government will make a statement... (Interruptions).

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: The Petroleum Minister and Mr. Satish Sharma, they are all here.

THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): Sir..... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You hear the Leader of the House.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (Uttar Pradesh): He was also the Minister.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are also interested in getting at the truth of the matter. We have also discussed this issue... (Interruptions)... Government is seized of what has been reported in the newspaper. We would come out with an exhaustive statement on Monday. Thereafter, honourable Members may seek clarifications and get at the truth. Let us set at the truth of the matter. This is precisely what we would like to do.

SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA (Uttar Pradesh): Why not today?

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Let me seek a clarification. We want a full discussion on this issue. As you have stated and as the Leader of the House stated, the Minister will make a statement. But the question is, the revelations made in "THE STATESMAN" involve a number of Ministries. Not simply the Ministry of Petroleum but the Ministry of Finance is also involved because the Income-tax Act violations, the FERA violations, all violations are there. Naturally, may I know which Ministry is going to reply, whether Mr. Brahm Dutt as Minister of Petroleum or the Minister of Finance will come into the picture? I have a question about how the income-tax laws are violated, how the FERA is violated.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: There should be a Calling-Attention motion on this.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Don't give sermons to us. Go to the lobby and do it.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPEN-DRA: Sir, on Monday, will there be a statement or a debate? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: Every day our demand for discussion is turned down, (*Interruptions*)

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: My submission is, you announce that on Monday there will be a statement and there will be clarifications.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPEN-DRA: No. I want a discussion. Please tell me.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER. As you were pleased to make an observation. ... (*Interruptions*) we will make a statement and after the statement, if necessary, you will consider for a debate. What is wrong in it?

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPEN-DRA: No. Why don't you decide? What is your objection for a discussion, please tell me. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: With all due respect. ... (*Interruptions*) will you hear me? With all due respect to all the Members, I would like to say that the Government has agreed to make a comprehensive statement. There will be questions and you will get clarifications. Now the Leader of the House has agreed that if afterwards there is a necessity, we can have a discussion. So, let us proceed.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: What more do you want?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a very simple thing. Let us proceed now. Special Mentions. Shri Ram Jethmalani. He is absent. Shri Gurudas Das Gupta.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Reported cancellation of several Air India flights causing hardships to passengers

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal); I never suggest that the President and the Prime Minister of our country should not go abroad. I believe the President and the Prime Minister should visit other countries and build bridges of communication and extend bonds of solidarity with other countries. But the point is whether the visit of the President and the Prime Minister should be so arranged that it gives rise to the criticism of extravagance, lavish spending and using of national airlines of India, the Air India, in a way that brings further loss to the already deficit Budget. The question is one of propriety in the context of India's poverty and underdevelopment. The question is also one of compatibility with India's national tradition, the tradition of austerity. A number of big capacity aircraft had to be withdrawn from national and international routes between 2nd July and 8th July and 9th July to 22nd July. The number of aircraft withdrawn is reported to be about five and the flights cancelled are around fifty and the number of passengers affected is said to be 15,000. All this has resulted in loss of revenue to Air India. Moreover, Air India has to spend a large sum of money to arrange food and stay for the stranded passengers. The point that arises is whether the foreign trip and tour by the President and the Prime Minister should not have been arranged in a way that they do not leave the country together. Simultaneous foreign tour has caused air traffic disruption in a big way. I would also like to know whether it is also proper for the President and the Prime Minister to leave the country together. It is a matter of... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA (Karnataka); I am sorry, Madam.