

Commission

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 get 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 P. SHIV SHANKER: Whoever will speak on behalf of the Government, will speak comprehensively taking into consideration the involvement of the Finance Ministry or even the Petroleum Ministry. Whoever will speak on behalf of the Government, will speak taking into consideration comprehensively the whole issue. There is a joint and several responsibility.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Let there be a Calling-Attention on the subject.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: It is a joint and several responsibility. Whoever speaks, he will speak comprehensively taking all the aspects, and the hon Members may ask clarifications. They ask a lot of clarifications.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: There should be a discussion on the subject.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Leader of the House says, whichever Minister speaks will speak on behalf of the whole Cabinet, and if, after your clarifications, there is any need, we will see.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Mr Chairman, may I make a submission?

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, we want a discussion, a full-fledged debate.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI (Maharashtra): The Government is making a statement on Monday on the basis of the newspaper report. You can speak on Monday.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: You are looting the country. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Let them contradict "THE STATESMAN". *(Interruptions)* I only suggest a change in what Mr. Shive Shanker has said. *(Interruptions)* Instead of a statement by the Government, I would like a debate on that day. I agree with that.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Let there be a statement after the discussion.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: What else do you do? In seeking clarifications speeches are made. That is a debate.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: It should be a Calling-Attention Motion.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Let there be a debate.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Let him agree for a debate on Monday, at least on Monday let there be a debate.

SHRI ALADI ARUNA alias V. ARUNACHALAM (Tamil Nadu): The Members on the Treasury Benches are also agreed on a debate.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: I do not mind having a debate on Monday. Let there be a full-fledged debate on this issue. This is an important issue.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: When you seek clarifications, do you utter one sentence? You make a speech and seek clarifications. That itself will be a debate.

SHRI ALADI ARUNA alias V. ARUNACHALAM: If so, what is the difficulty on your part to accept a debate?

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Why do you feel shy of Calling-Attention notice? *(Interruptions)* You are looting the country, taking kickbacks. Hundreds of crores you are looting.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA (Himachal Pradesh): Nobody is going to believe what you say.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: We cannot allow our country to be looted by these people. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Sir, would you allow me a point of order?

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

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: 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 UPENDRA: No. I want a full 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 UPENDRA: 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.