

कि सी० बी० आई० जांच कर रही है। जिस आदमी ने खबर की उसके बारे में कहना ठीक नहीं है।

श्री रामचन्द्र विकल : मंत्री जी ने यह बताया कि विभिन्न एजेंसियां काम कर रही हैं। ये एजेंसीज कौन-कौन सी हैं जो यह जांच का काम कर रही हैं... (व्यवधान) विभिन्न एजेंसीज कहा, विभिन्न एजेंसियां कौन कौन हैं... (व्यवधान) स्वयं तो करते हैं।

श्री ब्रह्म दत्त : सी० बी० आई० है, और स्टेट एजेंसीज भी हैं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q. No. 165.

*165. [The questioners (Shrimati Sudha Vijay Joshi and Shri N. Rajangam) were absent. For answer, vide col. 40 to 42 *infra*].

Abolishing of Oil Selection Boards

*166. SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a demand for abolishing Oil Selection Boards;

(b) whether any complaint of corruption has been received against Oil Selection Board in different States; and

(c) what decision Government have taken to abolish the Oil Selection Boards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT):

(a) and (b) Apart from complaints about the functioning of the Selection Boards, the abolition of these Boards has also been suggested by members during meetings of the Consultative Committee.

(c) It is not proposed to abolish the Oil Selection Boards.

SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am surprised to read the reply of the Minister. Even in the Consultative Committee meeting Members have suggested that the Oil Selection Board should be abolished. Everybody knows that there is rampant corruption in the...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You should know that you cannot make any reference to the discussion of the Consultative Committee meeting.

SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: But the Minister in his reply has mentioned about this matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You cannot refer to any decision.

SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: May I know from the Minister what are the reasons for not accepting the suggestion to abolish the Selection Board?

SHRI BRAHM DUTT: Sir, this question refers to the allotment of dealership. If the Minister announces it, he will be subjected to it. If some other committee announces it that would be subjected to it. The Government thought it proper to have a Selection Board consisting of a retired Judge and a retired I.A.S. officer. When there are complaints, we refer these back to them.

SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: Sir, may I know from the Minister whether he would hold an enquiry into the dealership cases in Gujarat? I want to know whether the dealership has gone to the genuine persons or wrong persons.

SHRI BRAHM DUTT: If I receive the details of that agency, I shall definitely inquire into them.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: I am also very, very surprised at the answer of the honourable Minister. He concedes that there are a lot of complaints. This matter of dealership was being handled very efficiently by the various oil companies. The oil companies knew what a dealer should be like. But ever since the matter has been handed over to the Oil Selection Board...

there has been rampant corruption. We know it; many people come to us; everybody comes here; they want gas connections, they want gas dealership, etc. And people here say, go to the Oil Selection Board. But they come back and tell us of the rampant corruption; without passing any money, no dealership is given there. I think that the Oil Selection Board should be scrapped. In view of the various complaints received and the demand now made in the House, would the honourable Minister kindly revert back to the old system of dealership being awarded by the oil companies who know the system?

SHRI BRAHM DUTT: I have to submit that complaints of this nature were received in the past also. I have looked into the files for complaints of corruption, of taking money, and I have found from the records that there is no complaint. Even if the Minister himself makes the selection, if the industry has a selection committee, even then such complaints are bound to arise. We, therefore, thought, it is our thinking as at present, that this is the better way.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will you please at least consider the suggestion?

SHRI BRAHM DUTT: We always consider suggestions.

DR. H. P. SHARMA: I did not quite get the answer. If there are any complaints, are they referred to the Committee itself? How many complaints have you received so far and what action has been taken?

SHRI BRAHM DUTT: I do not have the exact number of complaints but I can tell you the nature of complaints. There are about eight or nine types of complaints received from those people who do not get their allotment. In some formali-

ties have not been fulfilled. For each allotment there are ten to eleven applications. Naturally only one application can be selected for allotment and the rest are bound to be rejected. We are trying to avoid any scope for complaints.

Merger of small and Competitive Companies

*167. **SHRI KAILASH PATI**

MISHRA:†

**SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJ.
PAYEE:**

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of public sector companies which suffered losses last year and, by how much in each case, and what were the performance targets fixed for each one of them for the current year;

(b) whether there is any proposal to merge small and mutually competitive companies into big holding companies to improve performance and ensure non-interference from bureaucracy and giving them greater freedom for commercial results; if so, the steps taken in this regard so far; and

(c) the performance targets fixed for the above units for the current and the next year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. K. K. TEWARY): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Kailash Pati Mishra.