

SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY: Sir, I am fully aware of the points that have been made by the hon. Member. I can assure the hon. Member that every care will be taken to see that the provisions of this Bill are implemented, and we would also request the State Governments to see that the provisions of this Act are strictly enforced. And we have already taken steps, Sir, to write to the State Governments and the Union Territories about the necessity of extending the provisions of this Act to all industries not covered by the Act and also agricultural labourers and home workers of all industries like the bidi industry, etc. Well, as we continue our discussions with the State Governments, I can assure the hon. Member that it is our desire and our endeavour to see that the provisions of the Maternity Benefit Act are made applicable to all the working women. Well, it may take some time, and the hon. Member knows that it is not easy to secure all the social security measures in one breath. And, therefore, as time passes on, all the working women will have to be covered, and this can be considered as one of the steps in that direction.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

**STATUTORY RESOLUTION SEEKING
APPROVAL OF THE PROCLAMATION
ISSUED BY THE PRESIDENT IN RE-
LATION TO THE STATE OF TAMIL
NADU**

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDI) : Sir, I rise to move the following Resolution :

"That this House approves the Proclamation issued by the President on the

31st January, 1976, under article 356 of the Constitution, in relation to the State of Tamil Nadu."

Copies of the report of the Governor of Tamil Nadu were laid in the Table of the House on the 2nd February, 1976. The Governor, in his report, spelt out the reasons why he came to the conclusion that a situation had arisen in which the Government of the State could not be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. He has explained that the DMK Ministry which started its term of office in March 1971 had, by acts of mal-administration, corruption and misuse of power for achieving partisan ends, set at naught all canons of justice and equity which are the hallmark of a democratic administration. The DMK Ministry had hardly been in power for a year when serious complaints were received about its failings. Affairs in the State steadily deteriorated and more particularly during the last few months. At last, a stage was reached when the confidence of the people in the ability of the Government to provide a clean, impartial and efficient administration was completely eroded and the Governor felt that the continuance of the Ministry in office would be causing serious detriment to the interests of good Government and the interests of the people of the State.

The Governor has dwelt at length on various grave acts of omission and commission on the part of the DMK Government. He has stated about the instances of serious administrative and financial improprieties. There was large scale interference and misuse of Government machinery including the use of police force for the purpose furtherance of partisan ends. The Government machinery was also liberally employed for collection of party funds. Of the large number of specific allegations against the DMK Government, the Governor has reported that quite a few of them are serious and not without substance. I would refer to one of them only. Veeranam Project was designed to meet the urgent needs for drinking water supply

for Madras. The contract of this project was awarded to a firm without verification of its capacity and financial viability in a manner that smacked of favouritism and malpractice. The execution of the project which was thus handled in callous and total disregard of public welfare made little headway and the hon. Members are too well aware of the acute sufferings of the people of Madras last year due to water famine.

As the House is aware, allegations of corruption personally against Shri Karunanidhi, the former Chief Minister and other State Ministers of Tamil Nadu have been received for some time. These allegations had first been brought from within the party itself, resulting in a serious split and formation of ADMK. Subsequently, other parties which were at one time with DMK also denounced DMK on charges of corruption. These allegations were never convincingly refuted by Shri Karunanidhi. Complaints about rampant corruption in the State continued, the latest being a memorandum dated the 1st December, 1975, received from Sarva-shri K. Manoharan, M.P., and G. Vis-wanathan, M.P. The Governor in his report had recommended the appointment of a high-powered commission to inquire into the several serious allegations against the former DMK Ministry and the Ministers involved. As hon. Members would recall, a Commission of Inquiry consisting of sitting Supreme Court Judge has since been appointed to inquire into the allegations with a view to restoring public confidence in administration.

While mal-administration, mal-practice and partisan interference in the administration became the order of the day, public interest and public welfare was relegated to the background and Tamil Nadu once regarded as one of the most advanced States in the country slid down in economic and industrial progress. The DMK Government allowed the treasury being denuded for financing wasteful and unproductive projects. This resulted in the shrinkage of plan outlays and slowing

down the process of economic and industrial growth. On the point of per capita investment the State which had in the earlier plans occupied an eminent position amongst States in the country slumped down to the 18th position in 1975-76.

After the Proclamation of the Emergency when the country as a whole was generally showing a welcome return to a sense of discipline, the DMK Government in Tamil Nadu continued to adopt a policy of calculated indifference to the instructions of the Central Government. There were several glaring violations of the censorship regulations resulting in free circulation of literature including newspapers containing exhortations and public speeches highly critical of the Emergency. A number of activists of the banned organisations were not apprehended and the Government made no serious efforts to put down the circulation of clandestine literature. On sensing their progressive isolation from the people of the State the DMK leaders sought to whip up sentiments on chauvinistic and parochial considerations.

Under the cover of demand for State autonomy some important DMK publicly held out from time to time veiled threats of secession in case the desired autonomy was not granted. The sustained campaign involving propaganda, agitational approach and indirect encouragement to a climate of violence on the part of DMK to achieve "a separate Tamil Nadu" was the very antithesis of national integration.

I have recounted in brief the facts and circumstances that had inexorably led to the Presidential Proclamation in relation to the State of Tamil Nadu. The decision has been welcomed by all sections of the people of Tamil Nadu who have since been whole-heartedly co-operating with the administration in maintenance of law and order and in speedy implementation of social and economic measures for their uplift. Many of the All India newspapers, including the vernacular press in the State, have widely welcomed the imposition of

[Shri K. Brahmatranda Reddil

President's rule. A leading English daily, published from Madras, stated editorially on February 2, 1976 that the removal of the DMK Ministry from office was overod will be endorsed by large sections of the public who have suffered under nine long years of such misrule

The paramount task now is to give people of Tamil Nadu a clean and efficient administration and ensure accelerated progress in all spheres so that this important State gains its rightful place once again in the country. I have no doubt that all sections of this House and the people of Tamil Nadu will give us full and earnest co-operation in this task.

With these words. Sir, I commend the Proclamation issued by the President on the 31st January, 1976, under 356 of the Constitution in relation to the State of Tamil Nadu for approval by this august House.

Uion was proposed.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Before we proceed with the discussion. I would like to call upon the Minister of Petroleum to make a statement.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER RE S DISCOVERY OF OIL IN THE OFF-SHORE AREAS OF WEST COAST

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM (SHRI K.D. MALAVIYA): Mr Deputy Chairman, Sir. it is with a sense of considerable gratification that I rise to make this statement today. The hon. Members are aware of the efforts made by us in off shore exploration in an area of about 100.000 sq. km., spreading from the Snitra-shtra Coast to Konkan Line. I have already stated about the special project known as the 'Deeper Continental Shelf Project' covering an area of about 20.000 sq. km. where seismic surveys have been completed in a record time of two months. The data obtained from the seismic survey of the deeper continental shelf project area

are being processed and evaluated and the preliminary results are quite encouraging. In all probability, exploratory drilling in the deeper continental shelf area will also be taken up during this year.

Against this background of good work done by the ONGC, I would like to announce another good oil discovery made by ONGC in the off-shore areas. On the basis of seismic surveys conducted previously, several independent structures were delineated o!V the Western Coast. One such structure is located about 70 km. west of Bassein. In the light of the optimistic interpretation given by the ONGC's geo-scientists about this structure and some others, a programme for off-shore exploratory drilling was dis cussed at a two-day conference in the first week of February, 1976. As a icsult of these deliberations. ONGC launched a programme of simultaneous drilling at Bassein structure and at another structure 90 km. south of Diu. The drilling was commenced on the Bassein structure on the 11th February, 1976 and the well has been projected to a depth of 2300 metres. After drilling about 1714 metres, a 71 metre thick lime-stone section containing oil and gas has been encountered. The preliminary testing could only be of a short duration but it indicated good production characteristics. A more precise estimate of the potential of this structure can be had after the well is drilled to the projected depth and the conventional production test completed. However, I dare say that the discovery is of very great significance and the oil is of good quality. The drilling has been resumed and is likely to be completed during the course of the next few days. In order to get a quick idea of the potential of the Bassein structure as well as the prospects of the neighbouring area, a programme has been chalked out for commencing exploration and appraisal drilling without losing anytime. The exploratory-cum-assessment drilling will be completed by October. 1976. This new discovery would take us one more step towards the goal of self-sufficiency in oil.