

different ethnic groups for recruitment to the Armed Forces ranging from 152 cms to 168 cms. These prescribed standards can, in the case of the Army, be relaxed upto 2 cms. where in the opinion of the Recruiting Medical Officer the recruit is likely to come up to prescribed height by the time he attains 18 years. There is no proposal under consideration at present to further relax these existing prescribed conditions.]

श्री जगदीश जोशी : माननीय मंत्री जी क्या यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि गोरखा लोगों के कद की विशेष छूट अंग्रेजों ने दी थी इसलिए कि वह उनके लिए ईमानदारी से लड़ते रहे और आदिवासियों ने, हरिजनों ने अंग्रेजों के खिलाफ विद्रोह किया इस लिए उन्होंने उनको छूट नहीं दी। यह उनकी कम खायी या बिना खायी जो पीड़ियां हैं वह कद में बहुत ही छोटी हैं। तो अंग्रेजों ने जान बूझकर ऐसे नियम बनाये कि वे फौज में भर्ती न हो सकें। अब चूंकि हिन्दुस्तान आजाद है, और यहां आदिवासी हैं, गोंड हैं, भील हैं, शंकर शाह को खोला है, अगर वह फौज में भर्ती होना चाहें तो उनका कद छोटा है। इसी तरह से अनेकों आदिवासी हैं जो निपुण होते हैं लड़ाई में, लेकिन वह सेना में भर्ती नहीं हो सकते . . .

श्री सभापति : आप प्रश्न करिये।

श्री जगदीश जोशी : मैं प्रश्न पर ही आ रहा हूँ कि क्या हरिजन और आदिवासियों के लिए विशेष तौर पर कद की सीमा को घटाने या उसको रिलेक्स करने का कोई विशेष नियम आप कुछ वर्षों के लिए बनायेंगे ताकि जब तक वह खा पी कर के लम्बे नहीं हो सकते तब तक फौज में भर्ती हो सकें ?

श्री विशाचरण शुक्ल : मैंने मूल उत्तर में बताया कि यह विभिन्नता अभी भी हम माने हुए हैं और जो हमने ऊंचाई अहीर, गुजर, जाट, सिख, इत्यादि के लिए रखी है उस से काफी कम हमने भील, गोंड, संथाल, गोरखा आदि के लिए रखी हुई है। मैं बता सकता हूँ कि जब अहीर, गुजर, जाट आदि के लिए 168 सेंटी मीटर तक की ऊंचाई रखी गयी है तो भील, गोंड, संथाल और आदिवासियों के लिए 157 सेंटी मीटर ही रखी गई है। इसी तरह से हाइट, वेट आदि का देखो भी उन के लिए कम है। तो यह बात नहीं है कि इसमें किसी प्रकार का सोच विचार करके नहीं रखा गया। बाकी जो माननीय सदस्य ने बातें कही हैं वह बातें तो सही हैं, लेकिन उन सब बातों का विचार करके ही यह स्टैंडर्ड रखा गया है। अभी पिछले साल एक समिति हमने बिठवाई थी आर्मी की, जिसमें वायू सेना और जल सेना के लोग नहीं थे, वह आर्मी की समिति थी जिसमें सेना के सदस्य थे, वहां इसको फिर से देखा गया था कि वर्तमान सामाजिक और आर्थिक परिस्थितियों को देखते हुए और

उनके हिसाब से जो और संतुलन बिठलाना था वह बिठाया गया है।

श्री जगदीश जोशी : माननीय मंत्री जी ने कहा कि 157 से 160 आदिवासियों के लिए है और हरिजनों का नाम उसमें नहीं है और 152 से 160 गोरखों के लिए है। तो वह गोरखों के लिए 152 इस लिए किया गया कि गोरखा बटालियन अंग्रेजों के लिए लड़ी थी किसी जमाने में और शंकर शाह की जो खोला है उसके लिए 157 है। इस अनुमोली को दूर करके क्या आप हरिजनों और आदिवासियों को एक ही श्रेणी में लायेंगे और उनका प्रतिशत सेना में कितना है ? हरिजनों और आदिवासियों का सेना में क्या प्रतिशत है ?

श्री विशाचरण शुक्ल : इस में अंग्रेजों के प्रति ईमानदार रहने या न रहने का प्रश्न नहीं है। इसमें तो केवल यह सवाल है कि किस बटालियन ग्रुप में किस की ऊंचाई कितनी रखनी है। यह सर्व विदित है गोरखों की ऊंचाई दूसरों की अपेक्षा कम होती है इस लिए उनकी ऊंचाई कम रखी गयी है। तो माननीय सदस्य इस बात के बारे में निश्चिन्न रहें।

जहां तक हरिजन भाइयों का सवाल है, जहां तक कि माहर्स हैं, उनमें जो हमारी आखिरी श्रेणी है दूसरे भारतीय नागरिक, उसमें वह सम्मिलित किये जाते हैं और उसमें जो ऊंचाई निर्धारित की गई है वह 162 सेंटीमीटर की गई है।

SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY : Sir, we want an half-an-hour discussions on this. This is very important.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question Hour is over.

SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY : Sir, this is very important. Nothing comes out from his reply.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question Hour is over.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

(MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN IN THE CHAIR)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Now, let us take up the Short Notice Question. Yes, Mr. Niren Ghosh.

Expert Committee Report on Synthetic Oil Project

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Expert Committee Report, 1956 on Synthetic Oil Project has been brought to this notice only recently;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for this delay;

(c) whether Government propose to implement the recommendations of the Committee without any further delay in view of the acute oil shortage and price hike in crude; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES
(SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise-

, (c) & (d) The report of the Ghosh Committee prepared nearly 20 years ago is outdated. The Government propose to set up an Expert Group to formulate and evaluate a scheme of coal carbonisation, central tar hydrogenation plant, gasification and oil synthesis, locate the appropriate know-how and suggest further action.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : Sir, this suppression of the Ghosh Committee Report, the Report by Sir J.C. Ghosh, the world-renowned scientist, is the greatest single act of sabotage of the entire economy and a fraud on the entire economy. Sir, his Ministry was concerned with this at that time and he was associated with the formulation of this project. The Defence Ministry was associated with this and the production which was there then was also associated and Shri K.C. Reddy, the then Production Minister, was associated with this and also the Oil & Natural Gas Commission was associated with it. All of them knew about it. In view of this fact, I say that it has been suppressed for too long. But he has said, "No."

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Please put your question.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : Sir, does he know that when I first put this question as to whether such a Report as this was there, our Minister, Shri Borooah said, "No"? Then, I persisted in asking for it for over a year. Then only, Sir, he said, "I am grateful to Shri Niren Ghosh for due to his effort and his queries and persistence, I have been forced to hunt it out and I now admit that such a Report was submitted." Does he know that he could not get a copy of this Report and after a frantic search only he could locate only one single copy lying somewhere in the Mines Ministry and could give a copy to me after that ? So, Sir, it was a precious document. Does he know what the document says? Sir, he says

that the Report is outdated. Now, Sir, I will read out. It says like this :

"In view of the huge potential requirements of domestic coal for our people, the Committee feels that linking of production of local fuels including motor spirit, diesel oil and coal oil with low-temperature carbonisation for production of domestic coal in the various regions will lead to a substantial solution of problems, namely, fuel for homes and fuel for transport."

Not only that, Sir. He says that the scheme will still be viable and the synthetic petrol will compete favourably with the international price and imported liquid fuel. This report says that the cost of liquid fuels would be less compared to the crude. In view of this, why did you suppress this report in collaboration with foreign monopolists or your Ministry's certain top bureaucrats, certain industrialists, etc., which led India to the path of ruination?

SHRI K.D. MALAVIYA: It is a fact that in the year 1954 a committee was appointed by the then Ministry of Natural Resources and Scientific Research, and the appointment of that committee was decided by K.D. Malaviya, who is now Minister here, and who was then Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Natural Resources. I was associated with this committee and the committee was to advise on the desirability of setting up a plant for the manufacture of synthetic petrol. The committee submitted its report in September 1954, in which the recommendation was to manufacture about 3,00,000 tonnes of liquid fuel. But although the Government agreed in principle in the year 1955, about the setting up of a plant of adequate capacity for the manufacture of synthetic oil, the entire situation was reviewed. At that time the question of finding oil in our own country and the cheap crude oil at that time and also getting our own refineries with the help of Socialist countries was considered more economic and more feasible, and therefore at that point of time it was dropped. But since then the question of conversion of coal into various liquid products has gone into and we now feel that the economics has turned. Even then the proposal for conversion of coal into gas and tar and thereafter hydrogenation of tar to produce various liquids like diesel and furnace oil is very much before the Government. The Government in our Ministry have recently constituted a small committee in which all sections of people are

associated with a view to quickly come to a decision whether we can go back to that process for production of coal to produce gas first and then tar from coal and then to convert tar into liquid fuels like diesel and furnace and a lot of other products. We can convert coal into gas and then into liquid fuels. We have already perfected the process of gasification of coal and production of tar and after tar liquifaction of tar into various other products. We now have to examine the economics of it. We have already taken a decision to have coal gasification in the Raniganj area. We hope to start the first coal gasification plant in the Raniganj area during this year and thereafter to examine the possibility of multiplying this plant, so that we can collect a large quantity of tar for conversion into other products.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : Sir, I would request your protection. He said that crude at that time was cheaper. This committee has specifically disputed it. I will give you figures for that. •

SHRI K.D. MALAVIYA: What is the use of going to that now ?

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : This report says the cost of production of synthetic petrol is less. The cost of it... (*Interruption*)... amounts to 16.5 annas per gallon whereas this is 12.70 annas. How could the Minister mislead the House ? This is a committee report with which his Ministry was associated. I can also quote, it was viable even if the coal-price fluctuated. Rupees 6000 crores worth of foreign exchange has been lost. By this time our country would have become self-sufficient in crude and all other Petro-Chemicals. Why was this document suppressed ? Why was it not laid on the Table of the House ? Why was it not made a property of the House ? How could it be that only one single document was fished out after frantic search by Shri Deo Kant Borooah ? So, these are questions that you have to answer. Also, I want to know whether it is not a fact that the Government of West Bengal gave various proposals. This document says that not only should you utilise coal from Raniganj, but Singareni lignite and for other things plants should be set up. An investment of Rs. 60j crores would make the country self-sufficient and enable the Government to control international price of crude because we are not able to control that also. Smokeless evolution of soft coal for country

side and urban areas would release the entire organic manure compost for fertilisers for fertiliser purposes. How could you commit this bigger single fraud and sabotage of Indian economy, to further the international foreign oil interests, so many Ministers, so many bureaucrats and so many industrialists who are involved in this ? You have not made that point clear.

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA : Unfortunately I refuse to believe that there is any element of sabotage in all this. I can very well understand the view held by the honourable Member that twenty years ago...

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : You explain.

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: Please listen to me first. I listened to you with patience. Why are you shouting? I will not be defeated by your shouting. I request you to listen to me. It is no use now talking about somebody trying to sabotage the whole scheme. Government was very well aware at that time with the help of the socialist countries we were trying to search our own oil, trying to build our own refineries, our own organisation of distribution. In that content the House considered whether there was an act of sabotage at that time or that there could be a legitimate ground for sticking to partial import of crude oil from outside...

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN : Have you made inquiries ?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA : Please listen to me. Why don't you listen to me ? Don't become impatient. Listen to me first. Then you are entitled to make your own views on it. Please listen to me. At that time there was the question of both searching for oil and producing our own complexes, our own infrastructure with a view to refining, processing and distributing oil • And anybody is thoroughly justified in evaluating the economics of that at that time, twenty years ago. At that time also there was shortage of funds. Therefore, we perhaps could not have done both. Even today I beg to say...(*Interruptions*)... coal liquifaction and coal synthetic process is not perfectly owned by any single group except SASOL in South Africa who are doing it and who are even now reported to have started. Therefore, we thought there is not much difference...

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : The Germans do it.

SHRI K.D. MALAVIYA: I do not know why there is so much sentiment aroused about

it. We now convert coal into gas and tar. Tar has to be converted into various products as has been mentioned or wanted by the honourable member. Now, this is being tried by us. This is wholly under our control. This know-how is completely under our control except for the difficulty of finding out foreign resources at this time. There is no difficulty of raising a structure to convert coal into gas and produce tar and also soft coke. I do not know why there should be so much of a controversy on this. We still doubt that the direct coal synthesis process may not be practicable and for that you may have to depend on foreign help—Therefore, now, we are actively considering as to how soon we are able to start that one. I hope that we shall follow it up by others by two or three. It is a question of the availability of resources. We hope that we shall get more funds and it will be my effort to get as much funds as possible for at least half a dozen so that we may get adequate quantity for conversion.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : Sir, I seek your protection .

SHRI I. D. SINGH : Sir, I am on a point of order. According to the parliamentary procedure, if any hon. Member or hon. Minister quotes from an official document, that document should be laid on the Table of the House. I would request you, Sir, to direct the Minister or hon. Mr. Niren Ghosh to lay the document on the Table of the House so that other Members may have the benefit to go through it.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : I am ready to put it on the Table of the House. Sir, you ask the Minister whether he will put it on the Table of the House.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN :
Mr.
Minister, did you quote anything here ?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA : I referred to a Report of 1954. And if the hon. Member so wishes, I will get the Report from the Government and lay it on the Table of the House.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : He is prepared to lay it on the Table of the House. Yes, Mr. Kali Mukherjee.

SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE : Sir, I do not like to go into a post-mortem of this particular project. As rightly stated by the hon. Minister, let us see the latest position as it stands today. On 8th August, 1974, it is supposed that the Minister of Petroleum has written a

letter to the West Bengal Government on the question of this project. Sir, in that letter, the Minister concerned has written, *inter-alia*, and I quote. "I understand that no satisfactory and proven technology is available anywhere for the conversion of coal to oil." He further says, "It is, therefore, too early to think in terms of building a commercial plant for the conversion of coal to oil. Incidentally, this subject is now being handled by my colleague, hon. Mr. Malaviya." . . .

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : Sir, this is the document...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Ghosh, let him continue. He has the floor now.

SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE : Sir, it is really surprising that the Minister of Petroleum is so much ignorant of the technological development that is taking place in the field of petroleum and in the field of energy in other parts of the world. That is why, I would like to draw your attention, Sir, to certain things. That no satisfactory and proven technology is available anywhere for the conversion of coal to oil is not the true picture in the world. Sir, processes both for liquefaction and gasification of coal have been developed in various parts of the world. Two gasification processes have already been considered feasible—one pioneered by the Germans during the World War II and now marketed by the Lurgi. This is being used in plants in Europe and South Africa. Four U.S. companies—the E.L. Paso Gas Company, the Texas Eastern Transmission Corporation, the American Natural Gas Company and the P.E.P. Corporation—are also on the way to complete several projects for commercial exploitation of this process in various parts of the world. Another process is the Koppers—Totzek technique licensed through the Koppers Company of Pittsburgh. The above processes, no doubt, relate to gasification of coal.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Kali Mukherjee, this is a Short Notice Question. Please complete.

SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE : Sir, I am just coming to the point. What a great ignorance on the part of the Ministry which is looking after this matter. Then, Sir, I come to South Africa.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : No, you please put your question.

SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE : Sir, I am putting the question. Several exercises, have been carried out in India with the collaboration of all the above foreign know-how since 1953 which are :—

(a) Lurgi project report on synthetic oil from Ranigunj coal in 1953-54; the report is lying with you. Will you go into this ?

(b) Kopper's report on synthetic oil from Ranigunj coal in 1953-54; the report is lying with your Ministry. Will you go into this ?

(c) Sir, J.C. Ghosh Committee Report on synthetic oil project and domestic coke in 1956.

Will you kindly go into these reports and immediately start the project in the interests of the country ?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA : Sir, the emphasis was on commercial utilisation of coal to produce liquid fuels about which I said and also wrote to the Chief Minister that so far as the commercial feasibility of conversion of coal to synthetic fuel is concerned, it has not yet been established here and therefore we required further consultations. The pilot central scheme is already contemplated by us and the Engineers India Ltd. are assisting to do this. But, mere narration of a theoretical aspect in a report does not help us much and I want to reiterate what I have said. Coal gasification is very much within our control both technologically and economically. Its commercial feasibility is already established. We are, therefore, going to start on this programme. With regard to the conversion of coal to liquid direct we will take upon ourselves the responsibility of starting a pilot scale experiment. We have also set up a Committee in order to investigate the economic and technological feasibility of it. It is no use Mr. Niren Ghosh throwing a document before us about which I know something and which has completely become outdated.

SHRI T.N. SINGH : In 1958, when I joined the Planning Commission, Shri J.C. Ghosh, who was a colleague of mine there, personally came to me and told me that he was suffering from Cancer. He told me that he had a few years to live and did not know how long he had to live. He said that he wanted this Lurgi process to be tried for production of petroleum in a serious way in this country. I myself wrote to the Ministry con-

cerned that this may be looked up and something done. I am talking of 1958, not of 1953-54. Then, Sir, I was informed by the Ministry concerned that except for one place in Africa, exploitation of coal for petroleum purposes is not in use. Germany seems to have done it during war period for production of aviation and other fuels. But, somehow there was a difference. We were not a technical Ministry. Then, finding that there was some discovery of oil, we completely laboured the pursuit of this idea. That is the genesis of this. Therefore, I would in all humility—it is all right we discovered oil, it is creditable of Mr. Malaviya—urge that that does not mean that we should ignore other processes. Therefore, I am saying that this is a feasible process and now that petroleum crude being so high in price it is well worth trying and it is a known process and it is a tried process. The Lurgi process is a particular process. It is not a question of not knowing about it or technical non-feasibility. It is there already and we have got to do it. We have got ideal coal for that purpose because it needs low grade coal which we have in abundance; what we do not have is coking coal. Therefore, despite what Mr. Keshav Deo Malaviya has said, I would in all humility urge him to revise his opinion and pursue this idea seriously, earnestly and urgently.

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA : Sir, in spite of what my hon. friend, Mr. T.N. Singh has submitted before this House, I refuse to take him as a technologist whose opinion should be binding on me nor do I claim to be a technologist myself whose will or decision I would like to be imposed upon him. The fact of the matter is that both of us are politician—Members in the two august Houses and both have every right to submit our views before the Houses for consideration. But the fact of the matter is that in the year 1955 again an expert committee was formed under the chairmanship of Dr. Ghosh. This committee in its report submitted in 1956 recommended. .. (*Interruption by Shri Niren Ghosh*) — Now Mr. Niren Ghosh should try to understand what I say. The committee recommended the taking up of a combined project with an estimated capital outlay of Rs. 20 crores for its first phase based on coal from the Jamba-Rajora area in the Raniganj coal field. It provides for the low temperature carbonisation of 1.2 million tonnes of non-coking low grade coal and hydrogenation of the lighter fraction of tar.' I have been repeating in all humility that he should understand that Dr. Ghosh also knew it but he was also every

keen on another experiment of direct synthesis of coal into various liquid products. This, according to his recommendation, would obtain about 6,60,000 tonnes of smokeless domestic fuel, 1,30,000 tonnes of small size coke or char which should be again converted into liquids, 1,25,000 tonnes of motor fuel, 2,000 tonnes of phenol and 40 to 45 thousand tonnes of tar. Now tar was the most fundamental thing—he also admitted. Therefore, the point at issue today for Mr. Niren Ghosh to consider is, why did we not start this LTC process ? That is the point. This LTC process is not a point for me now to adjudicate; it is not for me to say anything about that.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : Will you clarify.

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA : If we had resources at that time and if Government had thought that we had resources to do both the things—oil exploration and refining—and also the LTC process, coal hydrogenation, gasification and all that, then I have nothing to say. But that time is gone. The situation we face today is, we have got a technical process within our hands; the LTC process is within our hands. Why can't there be direct synthesis of coal and oil and Lurgi ? The experts themselves are not very emphatic in saying that unless a pilot plant is established there and feasibility-economic and otherwise—established, it would be difficult for us; but we have not accepted that also. We have set up our own committee in our own Ministry to go into it Dr. Chakravarti is there; Dr. Ghosh and many others are there who believe as fanatically as my friend, Mr. Niren Ghosh that if we can produce liquid fuel directly from coal within the present economic possibilities and feasibility, there is no reason why we should not do it. I fail to see, Mr. Deputy Chairman, why there should be so much controversy, so much passion about it. Whatever is possible for us to do, we will do; whatever is not possible for us technologically, it will not be possible for us to do.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : Point of order.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : What is the point of order ?

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : My point of order is this. Is it in order for the Minister to mislead the House by quoting partially from this Report because both the three foreign firms, Kellogg, Lurgi and Kopper and the three consultants submitted three Reports which combined

both the low temperature hydrogenation process in which tar is essential and also the Fischer Tropsch process which he speaks of and they recommended that a combined project should be taken up. That is most scientific and economically viable and it would cost 40 to 45 crores but because of the difficulty of shortage of funds he came down to this.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Niren Ghosh, this is no point of order; you want to say something and so you rise on a point of order.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : He spoke of laying down his Report, the 1954 Report but he has not promised to lay down this 1956 Report.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : He has said he will lay it.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : No he has not said that. It should be clarified.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : He wants the 1956 Report to be placed on the Table.

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA : Any Report that the hon. Member wants on technical feasibility or otherwise prepared in 1954 or 1956, I will try to find out and give it. Why should I hide any Report ?

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : It is no use hiding now.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : All right; he will lay the Report of 1956.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : May I know from the hon. Minister why while he is very much concerned about the excitement in the House he is himself feeling sensitive and not giving out the correct position ? Is it not a fact that an oil lobby was there and they did not want this project to come up ? Even now after so much of questioning he has not replied to the fundamental question put by my friend, Mr. Niren Ghosh as to the price of oil at that time and the figures quoted by him. He has not given any answer to that; he is trying to evade it. Let him give the figures. The country wants to know it. He was saying that he was the Deputy Minister when the report was prepared and later he had gone away from there. Does that mean that now that he has become the minister it will be taken up now ? This is no answer to the problem. The country and the Parliament is very much concerned about this issue and they want to know how Government of India deal

with such Reports at the particular point of time they are received. With he now tell us what was the price of oil at that time in the international market and the price of oil available at that time in the country. It was quoted by Mr. Niren Ghosh at Annas 12.70 per gallon by synthetic preparation. This is the most relevant point. Let us not forget what happened in the past; we have to learn from what happened earlier. What has happened to all those officials with whose help you tried to build up the Petroleum Ministry? Where are they? How can the Parliament and the country feel assured that whatever you do now will be taken care of? Unless we expose the methods of working of the bureaucracy and the oil lobby in the country the country will not know where we are. May I know when the new Committee which he has formed will finalise its Report?

Thirdly, he has put forward a fictitious argument about technology. He said we have to import technology. Sir, technology has no boundaries in the world. Technology you can get provided you have the capital. According to the Minister at that time there was the question of availability of funds. Mr. Dhar has been saying that no money is available. When there is so much of concern about this will he assure that all the money will be available now, because of the international situation regarding oil for the prosecution of this project which relies on indigenous material and not on crude oil which has to be imported.

These three points he should clarify.

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA : Not merely three points; he has said many things. He has talked about the oil lobby at that time. I hope I am not less aware of the oil lobby that existed at that time or that might be existing today either inside the country or outside the country. I can claim that I know as much as my hon. friend knows about it. The main point is you have to make up your mind; once that is done there can be no difficulty. Therefore the hon. Member need not get frustrated or worried or excited or disappointed.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : You should not get disappointed.

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA : I will not get frustrated. Then he has raised the point that I have not disclosed the pricing that was arrived at at that time.

It is not with me just now, before me. Even if it were with me, unless the whole process

is gone through of a feasibility report, etc...
(Interruptions)

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : The cat is out of the bag.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Let him complete his answer.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : Why do you want to put a curtain?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA : I am convinced that there was no conspiracy and there was no deliberate attempt to sabotage the report or the recommendations.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : Why was it not laid on the Table of the House?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA : I do not recognise the right of Members, who are not technical people, but the claim today that there was some veracity in the figures indicated at that time. (Interruptions)

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN : On a point of order...

SHRI RAJ NARAIN : On a point of order...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : There are some points of order.

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN : The Minister has misled the House because if you really see the record of his speech today, you will see that with reference to the report brought to light by Mr. Niren Ghosh, the Minister repeatedly said, "perhaps" there was no conspiracy. He was not sure whether there was a conspiracy or not. Now, at this late moment, when he is caught redhanded he is saying that there was no conspiracy.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Yes, Mr. Rajnarain. What is your point of order?

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN : What happened at that time? Who were the people putting pressure on the Government and who were in collusion with them? He has misled the House.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Do not put questions now.

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमान्, हमारा पाइंट आफ़ आर्डर है। हमारा पाइंट आफ़ आर्डर यह है कि जब श्री निरेन घोष के पास रपट है और माननीय मंत्री जी के पास भी 1956 की रपट है, इसी रपट में यह प्राइस दी हुई है तो मंत्री कैसे कह सकता है कि उसके पास प्राइस नहीं है।

तो जो ज़रूज़न श्री कुण्ठकान्त जी ने पूछा उसका उत्तर मंत्री को देना चाहिए और आपको मंत्री जी को कपेन करना चाहिए कि जब इनके पास फिगर्स हैं तो ये क्यों नहीं देते ?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Do you have the figures with you ?

श्री के० डी० मालवीय : मैंने पहले ही कहा कि मेरे पास दाम की फिगर्स नहीं हैं। मैंने जो उनसे कहा था, श्री राजनारायण जी समझ नहीं सके। श्री नीरेन घोष के पास कुछ ज्यादा फिगर्स हैं, मेरे पास दाम नहीं हैं। मैंने नहीं कहा कि उनके पास नहीं हैं। मेरे पास नहीं हैं। मैंने जो कहा वह समझ लेना चाहिए श्री राजनारायण को और श्री नीरेन घोष को। उस बात की पब्लिसिटी जो है उससे सत्य की बात को न मुझे याद कहना चाहिए, न मैं इकानामिस्ट हूँ न वह इकानामिस्ट हैं, न वह टैक्नीशियन हैं। उसको तो दोबारा दोहराना ही पड़ेगा, उस पर गौर करना पड़ेगा, देखना पड़ेगा . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : I am rising on a point of order. I want your direction to the Minister and protection for the House, not protection for the Minister. If the hon. Minister does not have the figures, will you kindly ask him to get the figures of the price of petroleum and motor fuel at that time, during the period 1955-56, and let it be laid on the Table of the House ? He should make a statement in the House so that the House can compare the figures. What I say is he has not done his homework and he has not got the figures with him for which he should be reprimanded. Later on he must come before the House and give the figures of the price of motor fuel at that time, in comparison with the figures given by Mr. Niren Ghosh, so that the House and the country should know it and come to their own conclusion and not be guided by the Minister or even by Mr. Niren Ghosh or any body else.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : When he lays the report on the Table, he should also give the figures.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Manufacture of drilling equipments for exploration

*446. SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND : SHRI B. D. BARMAN : SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA: SHRI BHOLA PRASAD : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

†Transferred from the 12th August, 1974.

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has decided to manufacture drilling equipment in the country for exploration and production of crude oil; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRY (SHRI T. A. PAD : (a) and (b) Government have decided that facilities for the manufacture of oil drilling rigs required by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission for the oil exploration should be set up in the country. While the different sub-assemblies of the rig like Draw-works, Power packs rotary pumps, compressors, etc. will be manufactured by the various organisations under the Ministry of Heavy Industry and some other units in the Private and Public Sectors, the responsibility for final assembly and for getting the sub-assemblies made by the different manufacturing units in a coordinated manner will rest with BHEL. For this purpose BHEL are in the process of negotiating a collaboration agreement with an American firm experienced in this line.

Soviet assistance for development of Coal Industry

*673. SHRI BHOLA PRASAD : SHRI J. S. ANAND : SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Soviet Union have promised to extend further help in the development of the coal industry during the Fifth Five Year Plan period; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Russian assistance has been sought for the development of Singrauli, Raniganj and Ramgarh coalfields during the Fifth Five Year Plan period. A Protocol was signed with Govt. of U.S.S.R. in December 1973 which provides for Soviet assistance for development of coal mines in Singrauli coalfields in U.P. and M.P. and Jhajra Block in Raniganj field in West Bengal. This Protocol also provides for training of Indian engineers in USSR and Soviet assistance in development of opencast mining techniques. It further provides for continuance of Soviet assistance in technology and manufacture of coal mining machinery in India. Soviet