

and, if so, whether the Committee has been asked to go into the matter with the State Governments also.

SHRI NITI RAJ SINGH CHAUDHURY : The Committee had asked for extension of time till the 1st of May. But it appears that they had a discussion with the Chief Justice of Gujarat, Mr. Bhagwati, where legal aid is being implemented. And with the experience that Gujarat has, they are restructuring their report and, therefore, they are likely to take some more time and I hope they will submit their report by 15th of this month, that is, 15th of May. The terms of reference were (1) to consider the question of making available to the weaker sections of the community and persons of limited means in general and citizens belonging to the socially and educationally backward classes in particular, facilities for legal advice so as to bring among them awareness of their constitutional and legal rights and just obligations and for the avoidance of vexatious and unnecessary litigation and for legal aid in proceedings before civil, criminal, revenue, courts so as to make justice more easily available to all sections of the community; (2) formulate, having regard to the resources available, a scheme for legal advice for the purposes aforesaid; (3) recommend the time and manner in which the scheme may be implemented.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : May I know whether the Government has asked the Commission or the Committee to submit the report within a specific time, and, whether, in this connection, the Government has considered it necessary to ask for an interim scheme with a view to providing legal assistance to the weaker sections of the community and other people who are at a great disadvantage in the courts of law when they are up against the bigger people, vested interests and so on?

SHRI NITI RAJ SINGH CHAUDHURY : The Committee was in time and as I said, they are going to submit their report within fifteen days, that is, 15th of May, and, therefore, there will be no use

to ask them to submit an interim report. The final report is coming.

डा० भाई महावीर : श्रीमन्, क्या यह सच है कि कानून की आज जो भी प्रक्रिया है उसमें देर लगने का बड़ा कारण यह है कि सब कोर्टों के पास हजारों मुकदमों, हजारों मामलों पेडिंग पड़े रहते हैं और जजों की तादाद और कोर्टों की तादाद इतनी नहीं है कि उनको ठीक तरह से देख सकें, हैंडल कर सकें ? क्या इस बात को, जिसके लिए किसी कमीशन या कमेटी की सिफारिशों की जरूरत नहीं, हल करने के लिए सरकार कुछ कर रही है ?

श्री निति राज सिंह चौधरी : इस कमेटी की प्रक्रिया के बारे में काम करने के लिए नहीं कहा गया था, कमेटी प्रक्रिया के बारे में कुछ नहीं कर रही है। इसके बारे में ला कमीशन ने अपनी रिपोर्ट दी है। इस मद में निमिनल प्रोसीजर कोड बिल पास कर दिया है। सिविल कोड के बारे में 54वीं रिपोर्ट आई है जो छपने गई है और उस पर विचार हो रहा है।

INCREASE IN PRICE OF CRUDE OIL

7. SHRI M.K. MOHTA :

SHRI DEBANANDA AMAT:

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO:

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA:†

SHRI SUNDER MANI PATEL:

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL:

SHRI K. C. PANDA:

SHRI SANDA NARAYANAPPA:

DR. Z. A. AHMAD:

SHRIMATI SITA DEVI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Burmah-Shell and Caltex Oil Companies have sought an increase of 17 cents in the price of crude oil from the 1st April, 1973; and

The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Lokanath Misra.

(b) if so, what is the reactions of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI D. K. BOROOAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The request is under consideration and Government are looking into all aspects of the matter.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : May I know what is the actual rate which the Government of India has to pay to Burma-Shell and Caltex Oil Companies, what is the price they pay to the sources of oil production, what is the annual total requirement of India, what is the quantum of indigenous manufacture and what is the quantity imported?

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: The hon. Member has raised two questions. First is about the price that is fixed for the production in this country. It has been fixed at 1.48 per barrel. But the price which everybody has to pay today in the international market is much higher than that. Whether we buy directly or whether anybody else buys the price now is of the order of 225 cents per barrel but that is also changing from time to time because according to the Tehran Agreement between the OPEC, that is, the oil producing exporting countries, and the companies, it has been agreed that there will be an escalation clause till 1975 which will increase the price by about 7 cents for every increase in addition to the 45 cents which was decided upon in 1971. The question of compensating for the dollar devaluation is also another consideration of the OPEC. So all told the price will be of the order of 225 cents but as I said earlier this also is transitional because only day before yesterday we got a quotation from Qatar. For on-shore for 1973 it is 285 cents per barrel, for 1974 295 cents and for 1975 305 cents and for off-shore it is 277 cents for 1973, 287 cents for 1974 and 297 cents for 1975. You can no longer buy through the tender system. It has reached a stage of buying

in bids and the price is certainly increasing. Therefore all this has to be considered.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: What is the total requirement and what is the indigenous production?

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: The present requirement is about 22 million tonnes of which we produce around 7.5 million tonnes in our own country.

SHRI K. C. PANDA: Now we are importing oil at a high price and we are also . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: You put your question straightway; it is nearing 12.00.

SHRI K. C. PANDA: We are importing oil at a high cost and we also manufacture oil in India. I want to know whether our local production is also sold at a higher cost in order to fit in with the price of imported oil.

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: The pricing of the entire quantum of crude oil in the country is being considered together.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

DEPOSITS OF CRUDE OIL

1. SHRI VENIGALLA SATYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate deposits of crude oil which India possesses at present; and

(b) the time by when the country is likely to become self-sufficient in this regard?