

I. ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS (1960-70) OF THE COCHIN REFINERIES LIMITED AND RELATED PAPERS.

II. ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS (1970-71) OF THE INDIAN OIL CORPORATION LIMITED AND RELATED PAPERS.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

1. (i) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Eighth Annual Report and Accounts of the Cochin Refineries Limited, for the year 1969-70, together with the Auditors' Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditors General of India thereon.

(ii) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the review by the Government on the working of the Company. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1945/72 for (i) and (ii)].

II. A copy (in Hindi) of the Annual Report and Accounts of the Indian Oil Corporation Limited, for the year 1970-71, together with the Auditors' Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1944/72].

STATEMENT BY MINISTER RE DERAILMENT OF 223 UP MYSORE-HUBLI PASSENGER TRAIN ON THE 26TH APRIL, 1972

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Yes, statements by Ministers.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : Sir,....

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal) : Now, what would be the business of Mr. Hanumanthaiya there? If this is so that he could not be available, you could have asked Mr. Qureshi to make a statement. His name could have appeared there. The junior Ministers are not

having much work to do. Therefore, Sir, at least in this matter the junior should be given his due. I fail to understand why it should not be done. Let him get your permission at least. Has he got your permission?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Yes.

SHRI MOHD SHAFI QURESHI : Sir, I on behalf of Shri K. Hanumanthaiya beg to lay on the Table a statement (in English and Hindi) regarding the derailment of 223 UP Mysore-Hubli Passenger train between Chakarlappalli and Ponunkonda stations of the Southern Railway on the 26th April, 1972. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1959/72.]

STATEMENT MINISTER RE LIMA MEETING OF THE GROUP '77'

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : Sir, on behalf of Shri L. N. Mishra, I beg to lay on the Table a statement (in Hindi) on the Lima Meeting of the Group '77' along with a copy of the Declaration, Principles of the Lima Programme of Action. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1962/72.]

STATEMENT BY MINISTER RE SUICIDE BY DR. V. H. SHAH, SENIOR AGRONOMIST, INDIAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE, NEW DELHI

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Shinde.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT (Haryana) : Sir, on a point of order. Before Mr. Shinde makes a statement on behalf of Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, I would like to know whether you will allow us to put questions today or tomorrow because it is a very important statement which has robbed the scientific community in and outside the country. Sir, I would like to know the ruling on this before he makes a statement.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal) : My point of order is different. We have given a Calling Attention Notice.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL (Gujarat): I think the procedure is entirely wrong and the Minister cannot adopt this procedure. It prevents us from the Calling Attention Notice also. It is all the more objectionable because not only the Minister but some other officials of the Ministry also issue statements in this matter. This is a matter of privilege of this House and I would like to raise a matter of privilege. I have written a letter to the Chairman of the House and I would like the Deputy Chairman to prevent him from making a statement today.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : He has raised a matter of privilege. Mr. Patel had approached the Chairman with a motion for privilege and the Chairman has ruled it out. Therefore, I think the question of privilege does not arise.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : It is a matter to be reconsidered. First of all, I also gave a Calling Attention Notice. The rules of the Calling Attention Notice would show 'matter of urgent public importance'. Obviously, it is an admitted fact.....

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL : I gave notice immediately on Thursday.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Obviously, it is admitted that it is of an important nature. Otherwise the hon. Minister would not have come *suo motu* to make a statement. It is by implication that he has agreed to make a statement. I am surprised to find that the Calling Attention notice had been rejected. Here, Sir, a serious development takes place, a tragic incident takes place and the Calling Attention Notice is summarily rejected. You say that the Chairman has rejected it. I say it should be reconsidered by the Chairman. The Calling Attention Notice should be admitted by the Chairman. Then we find officers making statements accusing the dead man of cowardice. This is the kind of thing that is happening. Now Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed wants to make a statement here. That is not the way to deal with the matter. I demand in the first instance that the Calling Attention Notice should be admitted. If it cannot be admitted in the form of 'Calling Attention Notice', then let it be a Short

Duration Discussion or some other thing like that. This question has got to be discussed. These bureaucrats are now guilty of murder, murder of our scientific talent and that gentleman, that Mr. Shah who has committed suicide, is said to have acted in a cowardice manner, he is said to be a coward. The officer who has issued this statement should be summarily suspended and removed from that place. The ICS officers sitting in different places are driving out people. Good people are made to leave.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You have made your point. Let the Minister make the statement and we will allow questions tomorrow after the Question Hour.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Uttar Pradesh) : You should consider the question in a broader perspective. What has happened about this case? The scientist has committed suicide. Next day we saw a statement by the Director, Mr. Swaminathan, a detailed statement. We saw a statement of the Minister also. Again the Minister is making a statement. What is new that he is going to say? Whatever was the side of the Institute has been elaborately said by the Director of the Institute. We sent the Calling Attention Notice. That was rejected by the Chairman in his own judgment, I have nothing to say about it but if that was not such an important question, how is the Minister allowed to make a statement because he is making a statement which the Government side has already made in public. It is a serious matter. It is not only that we shall ask questions. This matter should be discussed. This is not only a question of suicide but a question about the whole functioning of that Institute. At least I have been writing about this Institute for the last 4 years. I wrote to the Ministers about all the charges and about the people who are bungling in the Institute and in spite of repeated questions nothing happens. We get a routine reply that the matter is being examined. Nothing is serious and I am surprised that even after the sad, tragic death of a promising scientist, the same version is being repeated. So many things have been said which should not have been said. If the Minister wanted to make a statement, it would have been proper for him to come

before us and make a statement. The other point is, first the Secretary began to make a statement, then the Joint Secretary and now the Director. I hope the Section Officer or the Clerk will not make one. It is something very serious and on such serious matters unless these upstarts are being pampered by some people in the Ministry, how can they dare to make public statements on such issues? It is also a question of decorum and decency and there is no purpose in discussing this matter or asking questions if the Minister allows such behaviour on the part of these officials.

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI (Uttar Pradesh): You have rightly pointed out and my friend has said that once the Calling Attention Notices were given, it immediately indicated that the House was anxious to discuss that matter and that the desire of the House should not be curbed in this manner. I shall therefore suggest that tomorrow we may treat this statement as a reply to the Calling Attention Notice and clarifications may be sought tomorrow.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I suggest that the statement may not be made. Let Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed come...

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI : It is better that by tomorrow we study the statement.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I would request the Minister to make the statement and tomorrow we will have questions on the statement which will mean as good as the Calling Attention Notice.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL : The matter has been so complicated that it will have to be a Short Duration Discussion.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : We have a precedent. We were allowed a full-dress discussion when Joseph committed suicide.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Tomorrow we are discussing the Ministry of Agriculture and this question may be taken up then.

I. P. M.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : This is the best way of killing the whole thing. We are not wanting to discuss agriculture. We are

to discuss how you treat your scientists, how you behave with them, how the bureaucrats behave. We are not discussing food production or other things. When Mr. Joseph committed suicide nobody suggested that it should be discussed in connection with the discussion on the Ministry of Scientific Research and so on. It was a separate thing. This item should be taken up separately. The whole country is agitated, editorials are being written and people are asking as to what is happening to such eminent scientists that they put an end to their own lives. This is a matter which should be taken up separately. It should not be clubbed with the general discussion on the Ministry of Agriculture.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, you give a motion and let the Chairman take the decision.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : There are certain questions on which you should accommodate the views of the Members. If you do not accommodate the view of the Members, we know how to deal with the situation and how you will not be able to proceed with the debate on the Agriculture Ministry. If you want to make it a calling attention motion then it will go for the whole day tomorrow because I have many things to say on the working of this institution. I have to say how this has always been side tracked by the Ministry because someone important happens to be the head of the Institute. It seems even the life of a scientist is less precious than the position, honour and dignity of that high officer who is heading that institution for a long time. Mr. Deputy Chairman, I shall request you, I shall entreat your please allow a discussion on this question, a separate discussion on the whole working of this institution.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Yes, yes; this is the consensus..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You give a motion and that will be considered.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : Sir, Mr. Chandra Shekhar has said that there are precedents when the calling attention motion has been turned into a discussion.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : That will be tomorrow. When you start asking questions you can ask permission of the Chairman.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I make it very clear. You go by the precedent in the House; when a comparable case took place you know how the two Houses of Parliament treated that matter. In such matters you must take the sentiments of the people. People would like that we discuss this subject independently instead of asking for clarifications and putting questions. Mr. Chandra Shekhar has a lot of things to say; I too have a lot of things to say. I would like the Government to ask me questions rather than my asking them questions. I say this Ministry is bungling with ceiling, this Ministry is submitting to all kinds of lobby; this Ministry is tampering with the statement made on the floor of the House and then comes out with an interpretation on whether it is irrigated privately, publicly or by Government. All kinds of bungling are happening in this Ministry.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA (Orissa) : That is not the issue now. The Minister has agreed; he has no objection. In view of the fact that the Minister has agreed and he has no objection I would submit that tomorrow we take up this discussion. The general discussion on the Ministry of Agriculture is a general type of discussion which can conveniently wait till next Monday.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I have already said that you can send a motion.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : We would like to have discussion on the Ministry of Agriculture also. That is also important because the Chief Ministers and others are coming here and they should know how Parliament feels about the ceiling issue, how Parliament feels about this gentleman here who is yielding to the pressure of the landlords and bringing forth his own interpretation.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The Minister has agreed to have a discussion. I do not see any difficulty. You give a motion. Meanwhile I would ask the Minister to make the statement. Decision in regard to the debate can be taken later. Mr. Shinde.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : Sir, do I read the statement or shall I lay it on the Table ?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You can lay it on the Table.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a statement regarding the suicide by Dr. V. H. Shah, Senior Agronomist, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1966/72]

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : This will be circulated to Members. Now, Chairman has allowed mention to be made of some matters by Members. Mr. Krishan Kant.

REFERENCE TO PRESIDENT NIXON'S BROADCAST TO HIS NATION

SHRI KRISHAN KANT (Haryana) : Sir, I would like to refer to a very important development which has taken place. Some of the Members at least might have heard over the radio today that Mr. Nixon has broadcast to his nation in America—here I am quoting Reuter, here I am saying what I have got from Reuter—that all North Vietnamese ports will be mined to prevent the supply of materials, that this and other measures are being implemented, that air attacks on North Vietnam will continue and that U. S. forces have been ordered to take appropriate measures to interdict supplies to North Vietnam. These actions were not directed against any other country. Sir, this is virtually a naval blockade of North Vietnam. All their ports are being mined by the Americans and Mr. Nixon has the audacity to say that these actions are not directed against any other country. The Soviet Union and many other countries are sending their materials to help North Vietnam and the people there, not arms, but food materials for their survival. Now, this action of Mr. Nixon is escalating the whole situation into a world war, and the situation is one which is endangering the peace of Asia and the peace of the world. In addition to what our friends Mr. Bhupesh Gupta and others have said, I can connect