

SHRI R. T. PARTHASARATHY: The disease of leprosy, it is well known, spreads normally through contacts. May I know from the government whether they are contemplating any legislative measures for segregating leper patients from the rest of the countrymen? If so, does the government think that a new national policy on this score is necessary?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: As regards the first question, it may be said that the modern method of treatment does not rely much on segregation. For it creates unnecessary social problems. We believe that it has to be fought in a way so that the leprosy patients are not looked down upon by the rest of the society. As regards the second question, the government is thinking of developing a national polity; but that will depend upon the results of the research that has been undertaken in the Leprosy Teaching Central Research Institute in Chingleput. It will take some time.

SHRI HAMID ALI SCHAMNAD: Have you got any data to show in which States in India there are more leprosy patients? Will the government take steps to see that leprosy patients, especially the beggar population, do not travel from place to place so that the spread of disease is prevented? With their movement, they also take the disease from State to State.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: The incidence of leprosy is very high in Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and particularly in Tamil Nadu. The question of preventing the patients from moving from one place to another is a very big question, particularly because of the fact that the leprosy patients are distributed all over the country, more or less. Prevention of movement will not help to ease the problem. We have to fight the problem in other ways and see that it does not spread. Prevention of movement of patients is not the solution.

SHRI D. THENGARI: Sir, Dr. Wadekar of the Gandhi Foundation has suggested that instead of segregation, the lepers should be rehabilitated in their families and for their treatment some subsidy should be given to their families. Will the Government consider this suggestion? This is No. 1, Sir.

Secondly, Sir, has the Government selected particular jobs that are suitable for the leprosy patients and will the Government make any arrangement with the industrialists so that the lepers can also be given suitable jobs?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: Sir, about Gandhi's view regarding segregation of the leprosy patients, the hon. Member's view is true. But, one thing is there, Sir. The hon. Member has referred to the word 'leper'. Gandhiji was also opposed to using the word

'leper' because it has some sort of a looking-down-upon attitude and so he was fond of calling 'leprosy patients' rather than 'leper'.

As regards the second question of providing some sort of jobs for the living of the leprosy patients, the suggestion will be looked into.

SHRI N. G. GORAY: Sir, the hon. Minister has stated . . .

SHRI D. THENGARI: Sir, regarding the jobs, I asked about some arrangements with the industrialists.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: Sir, I said, this question will be looked into.

SHRI N. G. GORAY: Sir, the hon. Minister has said that it is an enormous problem and I would like to know from him, taking into consideration the vastness of the problem, how many government-run institutions are there and how many private owned ones are there. That is No. 1, Sir.

Secondly, Sir, I would like to know what percentage of help the Government is offering to the privately run Centres.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: Sir, it is a difficult question because most of the Centres which are not, strictly speaking, Go-v eminent -controlled or Government-owned, are also receiving Government assistance. So, to the first question of the hon. Member I cannot give a very exact answer because it is an inter-mixed area. As regards the second question . . .

SHRI N. G. GORAY: Will you please give the total number of the Centres?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: That is what I am precisely giving now:

Leprosy Control Units that we have are— ' 201.
Survey, Education and Treatment Centres—
1286.

*354. [The questioner (Shri K. L. N. Prasad) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 25-26 infra.]

REVISION OF REFINERY AGREEMENTS

*355. DR. Z. A. AHMAD:

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA :f

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS/पेट्रोलियम और रसायन मंत्री be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has been made in the negotiations between Government and the foreign oil companies regarding revision of the existing refinery agreements and crude prices; and

+The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Bhupesh Gupta.

(I) when the negotiations are expected to be completed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS **पेट्रोलियम और रसायन मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री** (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) In-formal discussions with the foreign oil companies have taken place in regard to the revision of refinery agreement. These discussions are still at an exploratory stage.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, according to the papers supplied by the Ministry of Finance, it appears that the investments by the foreign oil companies have come to nearly Rs. 200 crores and as a result of such investment huge amounts are being drained out of the country by way of profits and other things in addition, to the fact that they charge high prices to the consumer. In view of this, may I know, Sir, whether, while entering into discussions, the Government has in view the perspective of nationalising the foreign oil companies in vital national interest and also in forcing the foreign oil concerns to reduce (licit price and also to accept our terms in regard to crude oil?

SHRI PRAKASH CHAND B. SETHI: Sir, as far as these private foreign oil companies are concerned, they came into being in India according to an agreement and according to this agreement, the nationalisation question is postponed for 25 years. But, all the same, the most important thing is the Refinery Agreement and right from 1959-00, the Government has been tackling the question as to in what way the refinery question can be modified. The last thing that was done, after negotiations, was that with regard to the tax concessions which these companies were enjoying, the companies agreed to give away these tax concessions and as a result, the Government revenue benefited to the tune of Rs. 50 crores. Later on, with regard to the product mix also, Government has acquired legal rights.

Now, the third question of nationalization has to be viewed from various points of view: Whether the availability of crude in the international market would be competitive, whether nationalization would entail a lot of foreign exchange, and so on. All these questions are being examined closely in the Ministry and as far as Refinery Agreements themselves are concerned, we are having negotiations and dialogue with them with regard to some of the points.

I would also particularly like to point out that the most irksome point is the right of the companies to bring the crude from their own sources. This is the most; irksome point. Besides this, there are some other points in the Refinery Agreements and we are having a pen (lose look on all these points,

I SHRI. BHUPESH GUPTA: I would like to know from the Government whether it is not a fact that despite the Agreement, the foreign oil concerns carried out their expansions without prior authority from the Government, and even in contravention of the agreement terms with regard to the expansion of their business I would like to know whether it is not a fact.

I would also like to know whether there is any deliberate attempt to blackmail India into surrendering that if we nationalize this industry, we would be facing difficulty in the matter of crude which is required for refining oil. In that case, I should also like to know whether it is not possible for the Government to find out, and to get the crude from, other sources from various countries.

Finally, the Government should tell us exactly how much is being remitted every year as profits, dividends and otherwise from this country as a result of the earnings of these foreign oil concerns.

SHRI PRAKASH CHAND B. SETHI: Sir, as far as the capacity of the oil companies is concerned, it is true that in the year 1953-52 Burmah Shell was allowed a capacity of 2 million tonnes. Similarly, the Standard Vacuum which is now ESSO, was allowed 1.90 million tonnes. And the Caltex was allowed a capacity of 0.675 million tonnes. Gradually, all these refineries expanded their operating capacity. They said that it was only on account of technological improvements, and therefore they expanded their capacity. And, Sir, in the year 1963, and particularly after the Chinese invasion, it was allowed by the Government that the Burmah Shell could operate up to the tune of 3.75 million tonnes, ESSO up to 2.50 million tonnes and Caltex up to 1.05 million tonnes. Again, in the year 1968 the capacity of Caltex was allowed to be worked out at 1.55 million tonnes for one year only. While the Government has not recognized and has not given them the licences for the higher operating capacities as far as the expansion is concerned, it is true that particularly after the Chinese . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: That is not important. The fact is that . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him complete the answer.

SHRI PRAKASH CHAND B. SETHI: After the Chinese invasion, in 1963, it was decided by the Government that they may be allowed to have in put of this capacity and since then they are working on these capacities.

As far as the alternative sources of crude are concerned, we are making all possible efforts to find out the alternative sources of crude. A delegation was sent to Egypt, and we are also in touch with the various our Embassies to find out whether alternative sources

of crude can be developed. But the most important aspect in this is not only the alternative sources of crude but also to find out crude at a greater speed in our own country. And, therefore, it is not only a search for crude outside, but a search for crude inside the country, both inland and off-shore; and all possible efforts in that direction are being made.

As far as the total remittances of these companies are concerned, I do not have the figures now. But I would collect the figures for the last couple of years and place them on the Table of the House.

•SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Nearly Rs. 100 crores are taken away from our country. I am surprised that Government says that they will collect these figures. I say that these figures have been supplied to us. But the Minister does not seem to know them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Everyone has heard it.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Everyone has heard it but has everyone been enlightened? This is a case for nationalisation. Ask this cowardly Government to nationalise these companies.

श्री सवाई सिंह सिसोदिया : श्रीमन्, लोक सभा के मध्यावधि चुनाव के ठीक पहले जो विदेशी कम्पनियों ने देश में तेल की कमी का बनावटी वातावरण निर्मित किया, और भावों में वृद्धि का प्रतिकूल वातावरण शासन के खिलाफ देश में बनाया गया, इन सब चीजों को ध्यान में रखते हुए और जनता की आवश्यकता और परेशानी का लिहाज रखते हुए तेल के सम्बन्ध में देश को स्वावलम्बी बनाने के लिए या इस प्रकार की परेशानी का मुकाबला फिर से देश के निवासियों को नहीं करना पड़े इसके बारे में क्या कोई सिफारिश आपने की, या कोई योजना सरकार के विचाराधीन है ?

श्री प्रकाश चन्द बी० सेठी: माननीय सदस्य का मतलब मैं जहाँ तक समझा हूँ, शायद केरासीन आइल की कमी से है, न कि पेट्रोलियम और दूसरे डीजल आइल की कमी से। यह बात सही है कि जहाँ तक घासलेट की कमी का ताल्लुक है, चुनाव के पूर्व से हुई और उन दिनों घासलेट की कमी की शिकायतें कई जगहों से आई है,

और यह घासलेट की कमी कुछ इस वजह से है कि कलकत्ता में ट्रान्जिट की डिफिकल्टीज थीं। उड़ीसा और बिहार में घासलेट की कमी की शिकायतें आई हैं। वैसे चुनाव के दिनों में यह कमी अन्य प्रान्तों में भी देखी गई और अभी भी है लेकिन इसका सम्बन्ध कोई घासलेट की कमी या घासलेट के इम्पोर्ट में कमी नहीं है बल्कि इसमें कुछ हद तक घासलेट और हाईस्पीड डीजल की मिलावट के कारण यह शिकायतें पैदा हुई हैं और इसी लिए हमने स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स से निवेदन किया है कि घासलेट के कन्ट्रोल आर्डर को काफी सख्ती से लागू करें और घासलेट के ट्रान्जिट की डिफिकल्टी को ओवरकम करें। वैसे हमने इसकी कमी को दूर करने के लिए हल्दिया से बरौनी तक पाइप लाइन खोली है और वह घासलेट का तेल बरौनी आ गया है और हमारी कोशिश यह है कि इसी घासलेट को हम कानपुर तक पहुँचा देंगे।

SHRI CHITTA BASU: May I know from the lion. Minister whether the Government proposes to set up a national agency for the import of crude from foreign countries? Because, Sir, this kind of recommendation was also made by the Shantilal Shah Committee some time ago and also because of the fact that some oil-producing countries also want to have direct links with our country without relying on some middle agency like some international (artels). Does the Government propose to set up any national agency to import crude from other countries?

SHRI PRAKASH CHAND B. SETHI: Actually this is the crux of the problem and this is what I have said. I have said that according to the Refinery Agreements which these companies have with us, they have the right to import crude from their own sources. Now this is the crux of the problem on which we are engaged. When that right of the companies to bring crude from their own sources is curtailed and Government has a free hand in getting the oil, certainly a national company or the Indian Oil Corporation itself could be the proper agency for the import of crude. But another point very important in this connection is that we have to locate the sources of crude. I would not like to go into the details at this juncture but we are making a serious effort to locate the crude from other sources.

डा० भाई महावीर : श्रीमन्, इस मामले में मंत्री महोदय के जवाब से ऐसा लगता है कि सरकार बड़ी लाचारी की स्थिति में है, बड़ा असहाय अपने को पाती है, इन कंपनीज के साथ जो समझौते हैं, उनके कारण, उन करारों के कारण। तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ : क्या सरकार इस मजबूरी का कारण यह मानती है कि उन रिफाइनरीज को सरकार लेकर के चलाने की क्षमता अपने अंदर या इस देश के उद्यम के अंदर नहीं पाती ? क्या यदि इन कंपनियों के मैजिस्ट्री शेयर्स सरकार भारतीय कर दे यानी इस अर्थ में उन कंपनीज का भारतीयकरण कर दे तो क्या सरकार यह समझती है कि हमारे पास इस प्रकार की तकनीकी योग्यता है कि नहीं कि हम उन कंपनियों को चला सकें ? यदि है तो फिर नेशनलाईज करने का अधिकार जब सरकार को है तो उसको देशीय कंट्रोल में लाने का अधिकार सरकार को क्यों नहीं है ? मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि ऐसी मजबूरी उन एग्रीमेंट्स के अंदर कौन सी है जिसकी वजह से सरकार एक एक शर्त के कारण परेशान हो और उसका कोई इलाज नहीं कर सके ?

दूसरी बात महोदय, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि कुल कितनी पूंजी प्रति वर्ष यह कंपनियाँ इस देश से ले जाती हैं उन एग्रीमेंट्स के अंतर्गत जो उनको ले जाने का अधिकार है।

श्री प्रकाश चन्द बी० सेठी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह सवाल लाचारी का नहीं है बल्कि वास्तविकता का है। जब इन कंपनीज के साथ यह समझौता हुआ था तो उस समझौते में एक शर्त यह थी कि 25 साल तक इन कंपनीज का राष्ट्रीयकरण नहीं किया जायेगा। इसलिए यह एक कानूनी सवाल है और इस एग्रीमेंट के होते हुए हम उनका जल्दी राष्ट्रीयकरण कर सकते हैं या नहीं ?

डा० भाई महावीर : क्या आप समझौते में संशोधन नहीं कर सकते हैं ?

श्री अर्जुन अरोड़ा : जो मिनिस्टर आयल कंपनीज से लड़ते हैं उन्हें हटा दिया जाता है। श्री के० डी० मालवीय और श्री त्रिगुण सेन को हटा दिया गया।

श्री प्रकाश चन्द बी० सेठी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं तो अभी आया हूँ और हटने में भी कुछ समय लगेगा।

श्री अर्जुन अरोड़ा : जो लड़ते हैं वे हटा दिये जाते हैं।

डा० भाई महावीर : महोदय, ये माननीय मंत्री जी को डरा रहे हैं और आप इन्हें डराने मत दीजिये।

SHRI SYED AHMAD: The Government can abolish privy purses but cannot nationalise companies.

श्री प्रकाश चन्द बी० सेठी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, जहाँ तक इन कंपनीज में इक्विटीज पार्टिसिपेशन का ताल्लुक है . . . (Interruption) यह बात सही है कि ये कंपनियाँ 100 परसेंट फारेन इक्विटी पर हैं। और यह भी सवाल नेशनलाइजेशन के साथ गौर तलब है, विचाराधीन है कि इस कंपनीज का गोया राष्ट्रीयकरण किया जाये या फिर इन कंपनी के इक्विटी शेयर्स अधिक ले लिये जायें। यह भी जो सवाल है कोई साधारण सवाल नहीं है। आज ऐसी स्थिति में और कंपनीज के इस एग्रीमेंट के मुताबिक कुछ समय के बाद ये कंपनीज यहाँ से जाने की स्थिति में आ जायेंगी, लेकिन इक्विटी पार्टिसिपेशन के बाद उनकी जिन्दगी लम्बी हो जायेगी या नहीं, यह सारा प्रश्न इसमें उलझा हुआ है। इसलिए यह बहुत आसान फैसला नहीं है।

इसलिए मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि इस सारे मामले को तालकर, परख कर जो देश के हित में होगा वही किया जायेगा।

जैसा मैंने कहा, मुख्य सवाल यह है कि जहाँ तक क्रूड आयल का ताल्लुक है वह बाहर

से किस सोर्सिज से लिया जा सकता है या नहीं ? दूसरा कूड आयल का प्रोडक्शन हम कितनी तेजी के साथ बढ़ा सकते हैं या नहीं ?

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: Sir, I wanted to know whether there is something short of nationalisation—whether there is some Indian participation in that or not.

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमन्, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि इस समय जो पेट्रोल बिक रहा है वह लागत खर्च से 470 प्रतिशत ज्यादा है। यानी जितने में बनता है उसके बाद 470 प्रतिशत ज्यादा में बिकता है। इस सरकार ने बराबर इस सदन में कहा है, हमारे सवाल के जवाब में कहा है। मैं बार-बार कहता हूँ कि जो भी आवश्यक चीज है वह लागत खर्च से डेढ़ गुना दाम से ज्यादा में न बेची जाय। सरकार इस सम्बन्ध में एक प्राइस फिक्स कर दे : सरकार कहती है कि हम प्राइस फिक्स कर देंगे, लेकिन सरकार ने 82.4 परसेन्ट प्राइस फिक्स की है।

श्री सभापति : आप इस सवाल पर सप्ली-मेन्टरी पूछिये।

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमन्, मैं आपसे अनुनय विनय करूंगा कि आप इस सवाल को पढ़ लीजिए।

श्री सभापति : मैंने सवाल पढ़ लिया है।

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमन्, सवाल जो पूछा गया था वह इस प्रकार है, तेल शोधन सम्बन्धी वर्तमान करारों और कच्चे तेल के मूल्यों के पुनरीक्षण के सम्बन्ध में सरकार तथा विदेशी तेल कम्पनियों के बीच हुई बातचीत में क्या प्रगति हुई है ?

माननीय मंत्री जी उत्तर देने लगे मिट्टी के तेल के बारे में, डीजल तेल के बारे में और पेट्रोल के बारे में, इस तरह की सारी बातें उन्होंने बतला दी हैं। उन्हीं के उत्तर से हमारा एक पूरक प्रश्न निकलता है।

श्री सभापति : इसमें टैक्स कहां निकलता है?

श्री राजनारायण : मैं केवल एक वाक्य में यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस सरकार की कोई नीति है कि लागत खर्च पर कितनी ज्यादा बढ़ोतरी हो।

(Interruption).

श्री प्रकाशचन्द बी० सेठी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, जो लागत खर्च का माननीय सदस्य ने जिक्र किया पता नहीं उनके फिगर्स कहां से आए हैं।

श्री राजनारायण : तुम्हारी किताब से लिए हैं।

श्री प्रकाश चन्द बी० सेठी : जहां तक पेट्रोलियम प्रोडक्ट्स की प्राइसेज का ताल्लुक है, उसके लिए शांतिलाल शाह कमेटी एपोइन्ट की थी। उसने उनके बारे में जो रिकमेन्डेशन दी हैं उससे यह बात जाहिर नहीं होती जो माननीय सदस्य कह रहे हैं।

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE: The Minister "aid that certain clauses in the agreement with the foreign oil companies are irksome. For example, the agreement allows them to purchase crude oil from their own sources. He said he will have a fresh look on these clauses. Why did he not have a fresh look for a good look on these irksome clauses before the agreement was executed and why is he thinking of having a fresh look after its execution? Then the previous Minister, his predecessor. Dr. Triguna Sen, said on the floor of this House that the price of crude oil would never be increased on any count. Since his going out of the Ministry suddenly an agreement has been executed with the foreign companies and the prices of crude oil have been allowed to be increased.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: He has gone out.

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE: Only for that.

SHRI PRAKASH CHAND B. SETHI: I would like to point out that the agreement was entered into in 1951-52 when I was nowhere here near the Parliament. Therefore I could not have had the opportunity of having a look at the agreement.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: The Government was there.

SHRI S. G. SARDESAI: The Government of which you were a member. . .

SHRI PRAKASH CHAND B. SETHI: Perhaps the situation at that time was that we were not aware of this technology and we were keen to have the technology and oil refining capacity in our country and therefore, in order to have that, these companies were allowed to come in and perhaps this agreement was entered into and as soon as the Government realised that there are certain clauses which are working in an irksome manner, right from that time, the Government has taken action with the companies to do away with the irksome clauses and to some extent we have succeeded in some of them. We are still working on the others. As far as the question of the crude prices are concerned, we have not entered into any agreement with them but the fact remains that after the OPEC agreement with regard to crude prices, when the crude prices particularly in the producing countries all the world over have increased, therefore, whatever increases have come into being are on account of the oil-producing countries having entered into a sort of cartel along with the companies. Still, as far as the prices are concerned, we have not yet entered into agreements. Provisionally we are importing on a monthly basis but negotiations with regard to the prices are still continuing.

EXPANSION OF THE KOVAI REFINERY

•356. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR:

SHRI SUNDAR MANI PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS/ पेट्रोलियम और रसायन मंत्री be pleased to state:

(a) whether an expert committee appointed by Government has recommended expansion of the Koyali Refinery in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have accepted the recommendation made by the Committee?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS/ पेट्रोलियम और रसायन मंत्रालय में

उपमंत्री (SHRI UALBIR SINGH): (a)

The expert committee has not yet submitted its report. (b) and (c) Do not arise.

•f-The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Jagdish Prasad Mathur.

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : अभी माननीय मंत्री महोदय ने पिछले प्रश्न का उत्तर देते हुए कहा था कि हमको देश के अन्दर अपने साधन बढ़ाने की दृष्टि से ज्यादा प्रयत्न करना चाहिए, लेकिन जहाँ इस प्रकार के काम करने का प्रश्न है, कोयली रिफाइनरी को बढ़ाने की दृष्टि से आपने जवाब दिया कि अभी इस समिति ने अपनी रिपोर्ट भी नहीं दी है। तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस समिति का निर्माण कब किया गया था और कितने समय में आपने इसको प्रतिवेदन देने के लिए कहा था ?

SHRI PRAKASH CHAND B. SETHI: As a matter of fact, in 1969 the ONGC had made an assessment that as far as production in the Western region is concerned, it would be augmented to a great extent and therefore it was considered at that time that the Koyali Refinery should be expanded to 5.5 millions but later on, it was discovered that although we had not accepted this later recommendation, the oil deposits are such in the Western region that the oil would go on diminishing from 1974-75, at present we are drawing about 4 million tonnes and in 1973-74 it would go down to 2 millions tonnes. Now the Government has not accepted this part of the recommendation. Therefore we have appointed an expert authority to go into this question of oil availability and this committee has also been asked to look into the question whether we could expand the Koyali refinery based on further increase in production of Western region or on the basis of imported crude.

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : यह जो आपने नई समिति के निर्माण करने के बारे में सदन को सूचना दी है, क्या इस समिति को आपने यह भी कहा है कि पश्चिमी क्षेत्र के अन्दर कोयली रिफाइनरी के अलावा कहीं हरियाणा, राजस्थान या उत्तर प्रदेश में किसी स्थान पर और भी कोई रिफाइनरी की स्थापना की जा सकती है जिस से उत्तर भारत के लोगों को भी तेल प्राप्त करने में सुविधा हो और अगर कहा है तो क्या इस समिति ने अपना प्रतिवेदन इस सम्बन्ध में आप को दिया है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is about the expansion of Koyali.