

वह कौनसा रूल है। क्या संविधान में जो इंस्ट्रक्शन्स हैं कि पार्लियामेंट के द्वारा वॉनन पास करके इस तरह की रकम खर्च की जानी चाहिये। क्या उस नियम में द्वारा खर्च किया जाता है या गवर्नमेंट ने अने रूल्स इस संबंध में बनाये हुए हैं जिसके द्वारा वह खर्च करती है। अगर पार्लियामेंट के द्वारा इस तरह के रूल्स नहीं बनाये गये हैं, तो इन 20, 22 वर्षों तक क्यों नहीं बनाये गये हैं।

SHRI P. C. SETHI : Sir, Parliament is supreme and we have been coming before Parliament for all the approvals and grants. I have nothing much to add. I would only like to say that it is not our intention that now that the Fund has been raised from Rs. 15 crores to Rs. 30 crores, therefore, we should go on increasing the withdrawals from it. We would certainly scrutinise it and keep the necessity of drawing from it to the minimum possible and we will try to improve where improvements are necessary or possible.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN) : The question is :

"That the Bill be returned."

The motion was adopted.

THE PETROLEUM (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1970

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill further to amend the Petroleum Act, 1934, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Sir, the purpose of the Bill is very simple; it is absolutely an innocuous Bill. It only proposes to change certain references which are in the Foot-Pound-Second system to the metric system. The purpose has been mentioned in the Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill which I would like to repeat here or the information of the hon. Members.

"The Petroleum Act, 1934, which relates to the import, transport, storage, production, refining and blend-

ing of petroleum is based on Foot-Pound Second system. As a result of the introduction of the metric system of weights and measures, it is essential to revise the references to the Foot Pound Second system.

The nomenclature used in the Act for different grades of petroleum is not very satisfactory . . ."

In the original Act, "dangerous petroleum", "non-dangerous petroleum" and "heavy petroleum" are mentioned. Therefore, it is proposed to rationalise the nomenclature by revising it to "Petroleum Class A", "Petroleum Class B" and "Petroleum Class C", with regard to the flash-point which is mentioned in the amending Bill.

"Opportunity is also being taken to enhance the penalty for the violation of the provisions of the Act and remove other minor lacunae observed in the administration of the Act.

The Bill seeks to achieve the aforesaid objects."

Sir, to facilitate the discussion in the House, I would like to invite the attention of hon. Members to the significant amendments which are proposed to be made in the amending Bill.

The first one concerns the Preamble. In the Preamble of the existing Act, it is stated that this Act also relates to "other inflammable substances". As the Petroleum Act cannot be applied to "other inflammable substances" unless the same is declared as "dangerously inflammable" under the Inflammable Substances Act, it is proposed that the words "and other inflammable substances" in the Preamble of the existing Act may be deleted. This is the first amendment that has been suggested.

Then in section 2(b) of the existing Act, petroleum having a flash point below 76 degrees F has been defined as "dangerous petroleum". Petroleum other than "dangerous petroleum" has been termed as "non-dangerous petroleum" in the Act, e.g., in sections 7 and 19, although the Act does not contain any specific definition of "non-dangerous petroleum." A further classification of petroleum as "heavy petroleum" has been introduced in the Petroleum Rules 1937 and its definition is given in rule 3(f) of the Rules. The present nomenclature, i.e., "Dangerous Petroleum".

[Shri D. R. Chavan]

"Non-dangerous Petroleum" and "Heavy Petroleum" for the different grades of petroleum is not considered satisfactory. The term "Non-dangerous Petroleum" gives an incorrect impression that the petroleum belonging to this category is not dangerous for handling, storage, etc. In the amended Act, the above three grades of petroleum are being proposed to be termed as "Petroleum Class A", "Petroleum Class B" and "Petroleum Class C", depending upon the flash points of the petroleum.

Corresponding flash points for the three grades of petroleum are proposed to be expressed in the amended Act in the metric system. The metric equivalents in round figures have been arrived at taking into consideration the convenience of working and safety aspects.

Then in section 2(c) the words "flashing point" are proposed to be substituted by the words "flash point" as the latter term is universally used.

Then in Chapter I, section 7 of the existing Act permits transport or storage of non-dangerous petroleum (petroleum class B) in quantity not exceeding 500 gallons contained in a receptacle not exceeding 200 gallons. The exact metric equivalents of 500 gallons and 200 gallons are 2,273 liters and 909 liters respectively. These figures are proposed to be rounded off and made 2,500 litres and 1,000 litres respectively. The small proposed increase in the exemption limit should not affect safety significantly.

Sections 7 and 8 of the existing Act prescribe exemption for small quantities of Non-Dangerous Petroleum (Petroleum Class B) and Dangerous Petroleum (Petroleum Class A) respectively. The exemption in regard to Heavy Petroleum (Petroleum Class C) is not incorporated in the Act but given in the Rules. Under Rules 109, 110, 111, and 112 given in Chapter V of the Petroleum Rules, 1937, storage of 10,000 gallons of Heavy Petroleum (Petroleum Class C) has been exempted subject to certain conditions. It is desirable that the exemption should be incorporated in the Act itself. Consequently a new Section, Section 7 (ii) is proposed to be inserted in the amended Act exempting transport and storage of Heavy Petroleum (Petroleum Class C) not exceeding

45,000 litres (9,900 gallons) provided that such petroleum is transported or stored in accordance with rules framed under section 4 of the Act.

Section 8 of the existing Act stipulates that no licence is needed for dangerous Petroleum (Petroleum Class A) not exceeding 6 gallons. The exact metric equivalent of 6 gallons is 27.3 litres which it is proposed to round off to 30 litres.

In Section 8(2) of the existing Act, receptacles of capacities 1 quart and 5 gallons have been prescribed. Corresponding capacities in metric system are 1.13 litres and 22.73 litres respectively. These are proposed to be rounded off to 1 litre and 25 litres respectively.

Section 9 exempts storage, etc. of 20 gallons and 6 gallons of Dangerous Petroleum (Petroleum Class A) under certain conditions. The metric equivalents of 20 gallons and 6 gallons are 91 litres and 27.3 litres respectively. The above figures are proposed to be rounded off to 100 litres and 30 litres respectively.

200 °F given in section 11 is proposed to be substituted by 93 °C. The exact metric equivalent of 200 °F is 93.3 °C.

Section 23 of the existing Act provides a maximum fine of Rs. 500 for the first offence and fine upto Rs. 2,000 for every subsequent offence. In 1960, the Delhi Administration detected 5 cases of unauthorised storage of Petroleum and the persons concerned were convicted and sentenced to fines ranging from Rs. 150 to Rs. 300. Questions were asked in the Lok Sabha in regard to the above offences and the steps taken to check such illegal storages. It was then considered that the penalty provided in the Act was rather mild.

The numbers of other major accidents from Petroleum which occurred during the period from 1959 to 1963 were as stated below :

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The majority of the accidents took place in authorised premises and in most cases, they could be attributed to non-observance of the safety rules and conditions, laid down in the Petroleum Rules. Fire and explosion risks in the case of some of the Petroleum products are acute and their use is progressively increasing in the country. If the penalty for violation of the safety rules and conditions is too mild; the parties concerned are prone to give less care and attention to their observance and thereby public safety is adversely affected. Taking all the aspects into consideration now it is proposed to enhance the sentence to simple imprisonment of one month or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees or with both. For subsequent offence, the imprisonment for three months and fine of Rs. 5,000 or both.

Section 27 of the existing Act is proposed to be amended with a view to make it more comprehensive. The amended Section is based on provisions contained in section 8 of the Indian Explosives Act, 1884.

In sub-section 3) of section 28 of the existing Act, a Commissioner of Police "in a Presidency Town" has been empowered to hold inquiries into serious accidents with Petroleum. As now the Commissioner of Police are not only in the Presidency Towns of Calcutta, Bombay and Madras but they have been appointed for the cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad and for the city of Ahmedabad also and may be appointed for other important cities in future, it is proposed that the words "in a Presidency Town" in this Section should be deleted so as to cover Commissioners of Police appointed in any city in India.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, I have brought out the significance of these amendments which are proposed to be made in the Petroleum Act. There are only certain references which are proposed to be changed because we have adopted the metric system of weights and measures. Therefore there is nothing except that we have converted Fahrenheit into Centigrade and we have also proposed to enhance the penalty. It is therefore a very simple measure and I do not think that there would be any opposition from the hon. Members to this amending Bill and it will receive the unanimous approval of the House.

With these words, Sir, I move.

The question was proposed.

[THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) in the Chair]

श्री मन्त्र किशोर भट्ट (मध्य प्रदेश) : उप-सभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं माननीय पेट्रोलियम मिनिस्टर द्वारा प्रस्तावित बिल का अनुमोदन करता हूँ। वैसे इस बिल में जो बातें रखी गई हैं, वे इस उद्देश्य से रखी गई हैं कि इस बिल को रेशनलाइज किया जाय, जो टर्म्स हैं उनको ठीक किया जाय और आज की हमारी आवश्यकताओं को देखते हुए जिस हिसाब से इस बिल की शकल होनी चाहिए वैसे शकल इसे दी जाय।

पेट्रोलियम उद्योग हमारे देश में दूसरे देशों की अपेक्षा नया है, फिर भी भारतवर्ष में पेट्रोलियम उद्योग की जो उन्नति हो रही है, उसका बहुत अधिक महत्व है। यह महत्व इसलिए भी है कि जो हमारी नीति है देश की सुरक्षा के लिए, देश के विकास के लिए उसमें इस उद्योग का योगदान बढ़ रहा है। इसलिए इस उद्योग को बढ़ाने के लिए, आगे ले जाने के लिए जो भी कदम उठाना आवश्यक हो, वे उठाए जाने चाहिए।

श्रीमन्, यद्यपि एक ओर हम कहते हैं कि हमारे देश में पेट्रोलियम उद्योग बहुत आगे बढ़ गया है, फिर भी दूसरी ओर बहुत से कैमिकल्स हैं और दूसरे इन्ग्रेडिएण्ट्स हैं, कूड़ आयात हैं, जिसका अभी तक आयात होता है। श्रीमन्, मैं आपके द्वारा मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि कितना समय और लगेगा अब हमारा देश इस उद्योग में आत्म निर्भर हो जायगा और उसको दूसरे देशों का मुह नहीं देखना पड़ेगा।

इस समय जब मैं इस उद्योग के बारे में कह रहा हूँ, तो मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान उन विदेशी तेल कम्पनियों की कार्यवाही की ओर दिलाना चाहूंगा जो अभी तक पुराने जमाने में रह रही हैं, जब उन्हें विदेशी साम्राज्यवाद का अंग्रेजों का संरक्षण, पेट्रोलिजेशन प्राप्त था। मझे खेद के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि अभी भी उनके

[श्री नन्द किशोर भट्ट]

व्यवहार में किसी प्रकार का परिवर्तन नहीं आया है। मैं इस सम्बन्ध में माननीय मंत्री महोदय को बधाई देता हूँ जिस सख्ती से, जिस मजबूती से उन्होंने इन कम्पनियों के ऊपर कूड़ आयल की कीमत को कम करने के लिए जोर डाला और मजबूर किया कि कूड़ आयल की कीमत कम करे, वह वास्तव में सरकार का प्रशंसनीय कदम है और मैं चाहता हूँ कि आने वाले समय में इस प्रकार की प्रतिक्रियावादी कम्पनियों के साथ, जो अभी तक साम्राज्यवाद और उपनिवेशवाद का सपना देख रही हैं, ठीक से व्यवहार किया जाय। इसी प्रकार जोर देकर उनको बतलाना होगा कि अगर ये कम्पनियाँ इस देश में व्यापार करना चाहती हैं, तो उन्हें हमारी नीति के अनुसार, हमारी आवश्यकता के अनुसार हमारे अनुशासन में रह कर काम करना होगा और अगर नहीं करेंगे, तो मुझे पूर्ण विश्वास है, सरकार इन तेल कम्पनियों का राष्ट्रीयकरण करने से पीछे नहीं हटेगी।

श्रीमन्, ये कम्पनियाँ एक और तो तेल उद्योग से मनमाना पैसा कमा रही हैं और जिस तरीके से करोड़ों रुपये अभी तक कमाया है उसमें किसी प्रकार की कमी नहीं करना चाहती हैं...

दूसरी ओर उनका व्यवहार अपने कर्मचारियों के प्रति भी अच्छा नहीं है। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ नभ्र शब्दों में कि बर्मा शैल और एस्सो और कालटेक्स कपनियों का व्यवहार अपने कर्मचारियों के साथ इतना स्वेच्छाचारी, खराब और समय से पिछड़ा हुआ है कि जहाँ एक ओर इंडियन आयल अपने कर्मचारियों के साथ अच्छा व्यवहार करती है। उनके साथ अच्छे एग्रैमेंट होते हैं, समझौते होते हैं, वहीं ये कपनियाँ अपनी शर्तें कर्मचारियों पर लादती हैं। उदाहरण के लिए मैं आपका ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि इन कर्मचारियों की नौकरी सुरक्षित रहे इस दृष्टि से सरकार से मांग की गई थी और उसके लिए कमीशन भी बैठा था। उस कमीशन ने कुछ सिफारिशें दी थीं। मुझे अफसोस के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि उस कमीशन पर सरकार के हजारों रुपये खर्च हुए और उस में कर्मचारियों

के नुमाइन्दे भी गए और कपनियों ने भी अपने बड़े बड़ वकीलों को भेजा, लेकिन जो उस की प्रमुख सिफारिशें हैं, उन पर अभी तक अमल नहीं किया जा रहा है। बल्कि उसका एक खराब परिणाम यह भी हुआ है कि उनकी बददिमागी बहुत ज्यादा बढ़ गयी है। उनके दिमाग में यह कल्पना घर करती जा रही है कि सरकार हमारा क्या कर लेगी। अधिक से अधिक अगर कर्मचारियों ने और जनता ने कोई जनमत उनके खिलाफ बनाया तो सरकार कोई एक कमीशन बैठा देगी और अगर कोई कमीशन बनेगा तो वह भी बड़े से बड़े वकीलों को ज्यादा से ज्यादा पैसा दे कर अपने लिए रख सकते हैं और उस कमीशन को अपना काम पूरा करने में साल दो साल लगवा सकते हैं और उसके बाद भी अगर वे उसकी बात न मानें तो सरकार कुछ नहीं करेगी यह उनकी धारणा है। तो जब मंत्री महोदय इस बिल को आधुनिक ढंग पर लाना चाहते हैं, सभी ओनर्स पर बंदिश डाल रहे हैं, एक्सीडेंट्स के लिए भी क्रिमिनल लॉ के हिसाब से मैजिस्ट्रेट को इस बात का अधिकार है कि जहाँ भी इस तरह के इम्प्लेमेबिल आर्टिकल्स हो और उन की सुरक्षा का प्रबंध पूरा न हो तो वह कार्यवाही कर सकता है, इस सम्बन्ध में अभी जो एक नया प्राविधान इस बिल में किया गया है, मैं उसका स्वागत करता हूँ। यह इस बात को बतलाता है कि सरकार की नीयत साफ है और सरकार सख्ती के साथ आगे बढ़ना चाहती है और यह उद्योग जो सुरक्षा की दृष्टि से, देश के विकास की दृष्टि से और आगे आने वाले समय को देखते हुए बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण उद्योग है, उसकी महत्ता को सरकार समझती है और उस दृष्टि से ही उसने इस बिल को पुरःस्थापित किया है। तो श्रीमन्, मैं जहाँ बिल का अनुमोदन करता हूँ वहाँ माननीय मंत्री जी से कहूँगा कि मैंने जिन बातों की ओर उनका ध्यान दिलाया है उन पर सरकार ध्यान रखेगी और विशेष कर विदेशी तेल कंपनियों के बारे में। अभी-अभी बैंकों का राष्ट्रीयकरण कर चुके हैं और आर्थिक ढाँचे को अधिक सुदृढ़ करने के लिए दूसरे प्रगतिशील कदम उठा

जा रहे हैं, उस समय भी उनका खयाल है उन की स्थिति इस देश में वैसी ही सुरक्षित बनी रहेगी जैसी कि अंग्रेजों के जमाने में थी। या उन को आई०सी०एस० अफसरों द्वारा जैसा संरक्षण मिलता था वैसा संरक्षण भविष्य में भी मिलता रहेगा। मैं चाहता हूँ कि मंत्री जी इस बात का ध्यान रखें और उनकी गलतफहमियों को दूर करें और वे कर्मचारी जिन्होंने अपने जीवन भर उनका काम किया है, उनको अपनी नौकरी का संरक्षण मिलना चाहिए और जो देश के प्रगतिशील कानून हैं, उनके अंतर्गत रह कर विदेशी कंपनियों का चाहिए कि समय की रफ्तार के साथ वे चले और अगर वे ऐसा नहीं करते तो उन्हें हमारी चुनौती के लिए तैयार रहना चाहिए। क्रूज आयल की कीमते कम की जाना उनके लिए आई०ओपेनर का काम होना चाहिए। अगर वे ऐसा नहीं करते हैं, तो मैं समझता हूँ कि सरकार सख्त के साथ कदम उठायेगी और उनको सही रास्ते पर लायेगी।

SHRI BALACHANDRA MENON (Kerala) : While I feel that this industry should have been nationalised including its transportation, storage, etc. I do not want to speak about that now. That should have been done long ago and it is high time that we take such a step.

Regarding section 8, it says that no licence is needed now for transport or storage of a limited quantity of petroleum Classes A, B and C. That means up to 1,000 litres you are now allowing private parties to store. It is a dangerous thing. That individual who stores it need not have a licence. When there is no licence, even if there is an accident, there is quite a possibility of that man trying to escape and not inform you. Even if he informs, he will just be fined under section 14.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA (Orissa) : A match is inflammable and so nobody should be allowed to possess it. Is it your contention?

SHRI BALACHANDRA MENON : It is not like that. It is about 1000 litres. How much will it come to?

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN : About 200 gallons.

SHRI BALACHANDRA MENON : In that case why should we not have a licence? So much kept by an individual can very well be licensed. Why should this generosity be shown? Why should you lose a few rupees which can come to the Government?

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : The Naxalites are dangerous even without this.

SHRI BALACHANDRA MENON : I feel that the licence should be insisted upon.

Regarding section 14, apart from the punishment which is enhanced, if it is a case of repeated offence, the licence should be cancelled. It is not merely a question of giving him a higher punishment. He should be refused permission to keep on remaining in that trade.

The last point is about the accidents. The provision is quite good but I would also suggest that we insist on the big dealers and also the companies to have some insurance from which you can immediately pay the employees or the person who might suffer because of any possible accident in transport or storage of petroleum. That is all that I have to say.

श्री जी० बरबोरा (आसाम) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, इस बिल में कोई सराहनीय चीज नहीं है। क्लासिफिकेशन किया गया है पेट्रोलियम का ए, बी, सी कैटेगरी में और ट्रान्सपोर्टेशन के बारे में भी कुछ व्यवस्था की गयी है, लेकिन मैं तो समझता हूँ कि बड़ी-बड़ी कंपनियों के एजेंट और आपके अफसर मिल कर इस क्लासिफिकेशन में जो लूप होल्स हैं, उनके कारण इस देश में पेट्रोलियम के व्यापार में कुछ धांधली और बढ़ायेगी इससे ज्यादा और कुछ होने वाला नहीं है।

आजादी के बाद 1948 में सरकार ने एक इंडस्ट्रियल पालिसी रिजोल्यूशन पास किया था और फिर 1956 में उसे दोहराया गया।

[श्री जी० वरबोरा]
 और इन दोनों इंडस्ट्रियल पालिसी रिजोल्यूशंस में मिनरल आयल को शेड्यूल "ए" में रखा गया था। इसका मतलब यह था कि मिनरल आयल राष्ट्रीय महत्व की वस्तु है, लेकिन आज तक इस दिशा में कोई कदम नहीं उठाया गया है। अभी भी देश में विदेशी तेल कंपनियों का शोषण उसी ढंग से चल रहा है जैसा कि ब्रिटिशर्स के जमाने में था, बल्कि वह कुछ बढ़ गया है। मैं आसाम का रहने वाला हूँ। आसाम के हिस्से में भी कुछ तेल निकलता है और वह तेल निकालने का काम वहाँ एक बहुत पुरानी कंपनी है आसाम आयल कंपनी, उसके हाथ में है। साथ ही सरकार ने आयल एन्ड नेचुरल गैस कमीशन की ओर से भी कुछ काम वहाँ शुरू किया लेकिन मुझे ऐसा लगता है कि सरकार का कुछ ऐसा निश्चय है कि आयल एन्ड नेचुरल गैस कमीशन का जो काम गुजरात में है वह तो बढ़ाया जाय, लेकिन आसाम में उस के पास जितना काम है वह उतना ही रहे, उससे ज्यादा न बढ़ाया जाय और इसी लिए उस कमीशन का काम वहाँ ठप सा हो रहा है। आसाम आयल कंपनी जो पूरी तरह ब्रिटिश कंपनी है, उसको बी० ओ० सी० चलाती है। उसका ताल्लुक एक आयल इंडिया कंपनी से है और उसका काम भी ठीक तरह से नहीं चलता है। उस के बारे में पार्लियामेंट की एक कमेटी को राय है कि :

"The Oil India is in no hurry really to probe the oil reserves of Assam."

आज हमारे देश में सोशलिज्म का बहुत हल्ला है। मुझे बहुत दुःख के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि बहुत बड़े सोशलिस्ट जैसे श्री के० डी० मालवीय या श्री अशोक मेहता यहाँ देश में हुए हैं। लेकिन जब उन्होंने मिनिस्टर बन कर इस तेल के दफ्तर को चलाया तो वे बड़े-बड़े एग्रीमेंट इन ब्रिटिश कंपनियों के साथ वे ऐसे कर गये कि जो देश के लिए बहुत बड़ी शर्म की बात है।

आज जो आयल आसाम में आयल इंडिया के जरिये निकलता है, वह कूड पब्लिक सेक्टर रिफाइनरी, गौहाटी और बरौनी को 120 रुपये पर मेट्रिक टन आयल इंडिया बेचता है। उसी एग्रीमेंट के मुताबिक 20 साल तक यानी सन् 1978 तक आसाम आयल कम्पनी, जो ब्रिटिशर्स की है, को कूड सिर्फ 17.65 रुपये में दिया जाए, यह दिया हुआ है। जहाँ पर कोस्ट एट वेल करीब 48 रुपये है, 48 रुपये तेल के निकालने का खर्च हो, उसको पब्लिक रिफाइनरीज को 120 रुपये पर मेट्रिक टन दिया जाए और ब्रिटिश कम्पनी को सिर्फ 17.65 रुपये में दिया जाए, यह क्या तरीका है। और वह एग्रीमेंट बनाया गया है श्री के० डी० मालवीय द्वारा जिनके बारे में यह ढंढोरा पीटा जाता है कि वे बहुत बड़े सोशलिस्ट हैं। (Interruption)
 जैसा मैंने कहा जो एग्रीमेंट बनाया गया, उसके मुताबिक कूड ब्रिटिश आसाम कम्पनी को 17.65 रुपये में दिया जाए और वही कूड पब्लिक सेक्टर की जो रिफाइनरीज गौहाटी और बरौनी में हैं, उनको 120 रुपये के हिसाब से दिया जाए। यह सब चीजें हो रही हैं और उसी कारण आज देश में जो आयल इंडिया है उसको नुकसान हो रहा है और उस नुकसान को 18 करोड़ रुपये की सबसीडी के रूप में देकर उसको चालू रखने की कोशिश की जा रही है। इससे ओ० एन० जी० सी० का कारोबार भी ठप हो रहा है। इसके बारे में मुझे शर्म से बोलना पड़ रहा है कि बी० ओ० सी० ने ओ० एन० जी० सी० का कारोबार ठप करने की साजिश रची है। यह सब चीजें हो रही हैं। विदेशी तेल कम्पनियों का राष्ट्रीयकरण न होने से हम लोग विदेशी कम्पनियों के शोषण से मुक्त नहीं हो पाएंगे, समाजवाद तो बहुत दूर रहा। इसलिए मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि यह जो विधेयक है, यह बहुत सीमित है और इस विधेयक में कुछ भी नहीं है। आजादी के 23 साल में हम कुछ नहीं कर सके हैं। मैं कहूँगा कि जल्दी से एक पास लायें

लिया जाए विधेयक में जिससे विदेशी कम्पनियों का शोषण खत्म हो और हमारे देश के हित में काम हो। यह बहुत शर्म की बात है कि आज हिन्दुस्तान में ब्रिटिश तेल कम्पनी या अमेरिकन तेल कम्पनी से जो कुछ भी मिलता है, उसको अगर आप दूसरे देशों के जो एग्जी-मेंट हैं, अरब देशों के विदेशों के साथ, तो आप यह पाएंगे कि वहाँ के लोगों को, अरब के लोगों को बहुत काफी सुविधाएं उन एग्जी-मेंट्स में दी हुई है और विदेशों से उनको जितनी सुविधाएं मिलती हैं, उतनी हमारे हिन्दुस्तान में नहीं मिलती। इस तरह से विदेशी कम्पनियों का शोषण करने का मौका हम दे रहे हैं और उनकी यह साजिश है कि हमारे यहां जो डिप्लोमैट आपरेयन्स हैं उन को रोक दिया जाए, उनको ठप कर दिया जाए; क्योंकि हिन्दुस्तान तेल के मामले में सैल्फ सफिशिएन्ट हो, यह विदेशी कम्पनियां नहीं चाहती हैं। उन लोगों का इन्ट्रेस्ट इसी में है कि कोस्टल लाइन में वे लोग बने रहे और तेल का व्यापार करने रहें और उसके ज्यादा दाम लेते रहें। उनके इस इन्ट्रेस्ट को हमें खत्म करना चाहिए ताकि यहां के लोगों का शोषण न हो।

कूड़ के दाम का करने में अभी डा० सेन साहब कामयाब हुए। यह तो बड़ा अच्छा हुआ है। लेकिन बाजार में अब भी ज्यादा दाम पर वह मिल रहा है, क्योंकि एक्सट्रा इयूटो बढ़ी हुई है, और पेट्रोलियम के लिए लोगों को ज्यादा दाम देना पड़ता है। उस को भी घटाने की कोशिश की जाए। इन सब चीजों को ध्यान में रखते हुए आप एक काम्प्रो-हेंसिव बिल लाइए, जिससे विदेशी शोषण भी खत्म हो और देश में तेल के व्यापार में हम लोग स्वावलम्बी बनें और देश में लोगों को किफायत से तेल मिले, ऐसी कोई व्यवस्था हो।

SHRI CHITTA BASU (West Bengal) : I quite agree with the hon. Minister that this particular piece of amending legislation is very simple innocuous, and nothing is to be discussed on this.

He has very innocently put forward that this Bill proposes to transform certain criteria of measurement, that is he wants to transform the measurements from gallon into litre. There are also some other questions regarding classification of petroleum etc. I wish that the hon. Minister had brought a legislation which could really measure the strength of our petroleum industry in the country, to what extent we have been able to attain self-sufficiency in the matter of oil, to measure the particular anti-national role these foreign oil companies in our country have been playing since long; then only this Bill would have been a proper measure for the task we are confronted with.

He has referred to the question of classification and inflammability of petroleum. I think as a Petroleum Minister he should be well aware of the fact that oil politics is very inflammable throughout the world; it is the oil politics which have made certain areas very much inflammable and we think that the Indian politics should not be made inflammable by the oil politics of western countries. Therefore I would have been very much glad had there been a proposal from the side of the Government to bring forward a comprehensive legislative measure to end all these things and also provide us with a real measure to measure the strength and weaknesses of our oil policy, to measure in real terms the dependence of our country, to measure in real terms the extent to which we have been self-reliant in the matter of oil and I want to bring, through you, to the kind notice of the hon. Minister, Dr. Sen and Mr. Dr. D. R. Chavan he should not be D. R. but he should be dear that they will have to do something more comprehensive, not bring forward a certain piecemeal legislation as he has done in this case. I think the Government is quite well aware of the fact that the foreign oil companies in the country still maintain their strong stranglehold over our oil industry and oil trade in our country. Sir, you may say that after the advent of freedom we have been able to launch the Indian Oil Corporation and that is a challenge to these foreign oil companies. I have no doubt that it is really a step which could meet the challenge of the foreign oil companies but the figures at my disposal show that it has

[Shri Chitta Basu]

not made sufficient progress on the path of attaining the commanding heights. You know, Sir, it is the well known vocabulary among us to say that the public sector should reach the commanding heights so that we can meet the challenge of the monopolists, capitalists and particularly in this case the oil cartels in our country. The Indian Oil Corporation has expanded its business; it has also to be noted that after the launching of the Indian Oil Corporation the foreign oil companies, the private oil companies, have also expanded their trade. I have got facts to suggest that there has been increase in trade and in the refinery capacity of about 34 per cent from 1961 to 1966. In 1961 while it was 5.65 million tonnes in 1966 it rose to 7.55 million tonnes. Therefore we see that the trade and refinery capacity of the foreign oil companies have increased even after the launching of the Indian Oil Corporation which should not have been if the Government was really very serious to meet the challenges of the oil cartels in our country. Not only that, it is also found that these foreign oil companies have increased their production capacity far in excess of their licensed capacity. Dr. Sen, I think, will agree with me; he was very much pleased to say sometime back in this House that these foreign oil companies did expand their production capacities which were kept concealed and hidden and that was also in breach of the agreement. Now, I ask Dr. Sen and Mr. D. R. Chavan, what made you submissive, what made you not to pounce upon the foreign oil companies when they broke their agreement by expanding their capacity which I call a hidden capacity, concealed capacity? You do not even lift your finger at them and even now you increase their production capacity. Therefore, they have increased their profit ratio. I am surprised to find that the Government of India, instead of strengthening the IOC, have taken certain steps and granted certain concessions to these foreign oil companies, which really put the IOC into difficulties. For example, I cite two instances. There have been certain distributive channels and I am reported that these have been placed at the disposal of the foreign oil companies and the private oil companies by way of allowing them to take advantage of the tapping-off point. The distributive lines were built by the public industry and

the private oil companies were allowed to have their disbursing stations within the refinery and they have also been allowed to take advantage of despatching from the tapping-off point, which has a very long distance from the refinery. The distributive channels were made at the cost of the public sector industry and for the distribution they are not charged any distribution charges. They are given certain special facilities in order to reap more profit by distribution.

Again, there is the question that among the foreign and private companies there is some agreement or understanding for mutual exchange of products, but they do not care to come to a settlement with the IOC for that kind of mutual exchange of products, thereby forcing or compelling the IOC to sell things direct. Sometimes an element of freight is charged from the consumer and from the public sector industry. Therefore, even at the cost of the IOC the private oil companies are reaping big profits to their advantage and to the disadvantage of the public sector oil industry in our country. These have all contributed to the fabulous profits of the foreign oil companies. I have got one fact to suggest that the total investment of these foreign oil companies on these refineries is Rs. 57 crores, but from 1955-61, the companies remitted to their principals a sum of Rs. 83.19 crores by way of profits, depreciation, accruals, and other operational requirements with almost half of their present capacity. Naturally you will agree with me that on a total investment of Rs. 57 crores, they have already been able to remit an amount of Rs. 83.19 crores to their principals by way of profit and other accruals to them and yet our Government say that they are also fighting against imperialism, that they are also fighting for attaining self-reliance, that they are not conceding or yielding to the foreign oil companies. I have got other facts to show how the overseas remittances towards their share of overseas expenditure are there. I quote from the Report of the Shantilal Shah Committee which says that in 1968 Esso's remittances towards the share of overseas expenses and other services were Rs. 4.18 crores, Burmah-Shell Rs. 3.92 crores and Caltex, Rs. 0.90 crores, etc. Therefore, they are allowed higher remittances towards their share of the overseas office expenditure and thereby they have

depleted their profits here. I think you will agree with me if I refer to only two committees. The Dandle Committee and the Talukdar Committee have commented on the hidden profits of the foreign oil companies. In spite of these things, our Petroleum Ministry is satisfied with bringing forward legislation converting the gallon into the litre. It looks as if it is the only task left with the Petroleum Ministry to meet the challenge of the day. Therefore, I think it is completely cowardly it is completely submissive, it is completely out of tune for the Petroleum Ministry to come with this kind of proposal before this august House. They should, I think, be serious about fighting the imperialist domination, they must be serious about establishing self-reliance in our country and particularly we should get away from the oil politics which is very inflammable in other parts of the world.

There is a growing requirement in our country. To day, as far as my report goes, our requirement is about 13 million tonnes and it will rise to 23 million tonnes in the year 1972. In this connection, I want to give some figures regarding the per capita consumption of petrol in this country and other countries, which will indicate sufficiently to what extent our country's requirement is there in the matter of petroleum. The per capita consumption in India is only 5 gallons. It is 600 gallons in the USA, 150 gallons in the UK and 105 gallons in the USSR. You will agree that with the advancement in technology and industry much more petrol will be needed for our country. When our per capita consumption is only 5 gallons, there is enough scope for the expansion of IOC. I think we are not taking sufficient measures in the matter of quickening or accelerating the pace. Somebody has referred to the question of nationalisation. I think this Government has not got the temerity to work for that, but a simple thing has been suggested by the Shantilal Shah Committee. I have got that Report with me, but you have already indicated that I have not much time. In this Report certain minor measures have been suggested. One is, there should be a National Commission on Petroleum, one of the duties of which will be to re-negotiate the agreement. I am tempted to quote from the Report, as to how these agreements have been entered into

and what is the opinion of this Committee. We spend about Rs. 100 crores of foreign exchange on the import of crude every year. It is unfortunate that in regard to this item in regard to foreign exchange our agreements with the refineries are couched in terms which provide no assurance that the price paid for imports will be competitive. Thus we have already entered into an agreement which is not on the basis of it competitive. For this our foreign exchange bill ever increases and we have not got the temerity to do away with this agreement. The Shantilal Shah Committee have suggested that a commission should be set up which can re-negotiate in the interests of the nation the agreement with the foreign oil companies and your Government has not shown the courage to do that.

5 P.M. I am also reported that there is Rustom crude which we have got, but we cannot ask the foreign oil companies to use that. We have to find our market outside. There are so many things. If the hon. Minister goes through the report. I think he will be shocked. He will be further shocked to know his inefficiency, his weak-kneed policy, his submissiveness, his cowardice. I think this discussion would at least boost the morale of the Petroleum Ministry to really work in the nation's interest, and not to work in a way subservient to the interests of the foreign oil cartel.

Before I conclude, I would only like to refer to the conditions of the workers of the foreign oil companies. I think our Petroleum Minister knows that there was a very serious retrenchment in the ESSO, Caltex and Burmah-Shell only because they wanted reinstatement of certain trade union leaders working in those offices or installations and they opposed rationalisation and automation. I find that while the trade of the foreign oil companies has increased in five years from 1961 to 1966, while their sales went up by 18.2 per cent, their manpower has been reduced by 28.3 per cent, thereby subjecting or exposing the workers of the foreign oil companies to insecurity of jobs. They have not got security of job. In order to provide security of jobs, in order to find out ways of providing security of jobs, several Committees were appointed. One was the Mehta Committee, a tripartite Committee, which made certain recommendations, which were not accepted by the Government. I think at the

[Shri Chitta Basu]

pressure of the foreign oil companies they were watered down. The foreign oil companies did not accept the proposals or the modified proposals given by the Government in order to safeguard the job security of the oil workers. The Gokhale Commission was set up by the Labour Ministry. Only a few days ago I put a question in this House that the Gokhale Commission has already submitted its report and what is the Government of India doing on the recommendations of the Gokhale Commission's report. The Labour Minister says that they have got nothing to do with the report of the Gokhale Commission. I think you will be tempted to learn what this reply says. It says: "Greater job security than presently available to the employees as indeed in other similarly placed undertakings may not be possible without fresh legislation". We have got Committees. They recommended, they submitted reports. You did not act upon them. Now they say they cannot do without fresh legislation. Again it says: "The proposal to amend the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, suitably is accordingly under consideration in consultation with employers, workers and other interest concerned." Now the oil workers have been thrown to the winds. What about this Gokhale Commission? This Gokhale Commission was set up only for the purpose of finding out ways and means to provide safeguards to the oil workers now being subjected to intimidation and oppression, naked oppression by the foreign oil cartels. Now you come out with a reply that you have got nothing to do with it, that nothing can be done without fresh legislation. Therefore, I think the Government would take into consideration all these things in this wider aspect instead of being satisfied with bringing forward such a piecemeal legislation, however innocuous and however harmless it may be. It may be innocuous to him, it may be harmless to him, but it is definitely detrimental, definitely harmful to the people of the country, to the national interests of the country. I think the Government of India would take appropriate note of that so that the situation may not become as inflammable as he has himself referred to.

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर (राजस्थान) :

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं बोलना चाहता हूँ।
सेलेक्ट कमेटी में इसको भेजने का मेरा

संशोधन भी था। मेरा प्लेन लैट हो गया था, इसलिये नहीं आ सका। मुझे ज्यादा लम्बी बात नहीं करनी है।

महोदय, यह विधेयक जिस पर हम विचार कर रहे हैं, इसको सेलेक्ट कमेटी में भेजने की दृष्टि से मैंने प्रस्ताव दिया था, लेकिन देरी से आने के कारण मैं दे नहीं सका। आज जिस विषय पर मंत्री महोदय विधेयक लेकर आए हैं और पेट्रोलियम के लिये जिस ढंग से उन्होंने कैटेगरीज की हैं, मैं यह सोचता हूँ इस संबंध में मंत्री जी को कुछ और विचार करने की भी आवश्यकता होगी, विशेष तौर से उस दिशा में कि पिछले दिनों यही मंत्री महोदय जो पेट्रोलियम और माइन्स विभाग के हैं, उन्होंने दवाओं के दाम तय करने के संबंध में एक आदेश निकाला था, सरकार की ओर से। मुझे लगता है उसका कुछ लाभ भी हुआ होगा तो होगा भी, धीरे धीरे प्रोसेज में आकर। लेकिन जहाँ तक यह पेट्रोलियम का सवाल है और यह जो सारा का सारा इसका व्यापार हम करते हैं, यह सारा का सारा विदेशी कंपनियों के हाथ से होता है, जो इसका शोघन करते हैं और शोघन करने की दिशा में अभी भी हमारा देश आत्मनिर्भर नहीं है। इस कारण से इस संबंध में मंत्री महोदय कुछ शर्मावरता पूर्वक विचार करें। यह जो एक विधेयक लेकर आए हैं इस पर सम्पूर्ण रूप से, समग्र रूप से विचार करने की आवश्यकता है। आज जो हम विदेशी कंपनियों के ऊपर एक बैसिक इश्यू पर निर्भर हैं, क्या इसके बारे में वह विचार रख सकते हैं।

दूसरे, उन्होंने जो कैटेगरी की है पेट्रोलियम के "ए", "बी", "सी" की, मैं चाहता हूँ की मंत्री जी इसका स्पष्टीकरण करेंगे कि उनकी विशेष रूप से क्या मन्त्रा है। यहाँ पेट्रोलियम पर "ए" श्रेणी के लोगों को लाइसेंस देने की व्यवस्था की है, "बी" श्रेणी के लोगों को लाइसेंस देने की व्यवस्था नहीं की, लेकिन जहाँ तक यह बाकी के पेट्रोलियम

के लाइसेंस की व्यवस्था है और दूसरे जो सजा देने का उन्होंने प्राविजन किया है, यह सजा भी बहुत ज्यादा दी है। मैं एक बात इस संबंध में विशेष रूप से कहना चाहता था राजस्थान से आने के कारण। कल ही पेट्रो-लियम मंत्री जो यहाँ बैठे हैं, उनसे विशेष आग्रह करना चाहता। अभी पिछले दिनों राजस्थान की सरकार ने एव प्रपोजल उनके पास भेजा है और वह प्रपोजल यह है कि सारे देश में आज जो इन्डस्ट्रियलाइजेशन की ओर सरकार का प्रयास चल रहा है, उसमें राजस्थान की दृष्टि से भी एक रिफाइनरी की मांग, जो कि काडला के बदरगाह से हुई, माननीय मंत्री महोदय देश के अंतर स्थापित करना चाहते हैं और काडला के बदरगाह से एक पाइप लाइन डाल कर उत्तर भारत के क्षेत्र में एक रिफाइनरी डालने की व्यवस्था सरकार की ओर से की जा रही है। अब वह कहा होगा, इसके बारे में मा मैग्निट्स के आधार पर सरकार विचार करे। लेकिन अब तक भी सरकार, जहाँ तक कांग्रेस का सवाल है, राजस्थान के लोग उसका साथ हैं, तो वह अपने कांग्रेस संगठन के नते से उस पर विचार करे। लेकिन जहाँ तक विरोधी दलों का सवाल है, राजस्थान अभी तक केन्द्रीय सरकार की ओर से उद्योग देने की दृष्टि से, बिल्कुल अछूता रहा है। अब यह माडल रिफाइनरी चूँकि राजस्थान में बाड़मेर लाइन भी है, हमारे सारे साधन भी हैं, राजस्थान की सरकार और राजस्थान की जनता इस सारे प्रश्न पर एक हैं और पिछले दिनों असम के अंदर, एक प्रसंग चला था रिफाइनरी के लिये, और ऐसा लगा असम को बात सरकार तुरन्त मानेगी लेकिन राजस्थान के अंदर भी काडला के बदरगाह से आप पाइप लाइन डाल कर उत्तर भारत में ला सकते हैं। आज हरियाणा और फरीदाबाद के इलाके में बहुत अच्छी इन्डस्ट्रीज हैं, उत्तर भारत में बहुत ज्यादा इन्डस्ट्रीज हैं, लेकिन एक राजस्थान ही ऐसा है, जहाँ पर अकाल की दृष्टि से तो और दूसरी दृष्टि से भी पिछड़ा हुआ क्षेत्र है, तो यहाँ अगर

रोजगार देने की दृष्टि से पेट्रो-लियम में महोदय यह विधेयक लेकर सदन के सामने आए हैं, तो मैं चाहूँगा कि इस बारे में स्पष्ट रूप आश्वासन दे दें। मैं जानता हूँ कि वे सदन के अंदर इस तरह का स्पष्ट रूप से आश्वासन नहीं देंगे। लेकिन इस विषय में कम से कम जो राजस्थान की एक मांग है, उसके बारे में वे अवश्य ध्यान देंगे।

SHRI D R CHAVAN. Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I listened to the speeches of the hon. Members with rapt attention. A number of hon. Members have said something about the foreign oil companies and urged the necessity of taking over or nationalising them. In that context, some hon. Members have said about marketing by the Indian Oil Company. And a point was made by one of the hon. Members concerning self-sufficiency with regard to petroleum products.

Sir, self-sufficiency has got two aspects, one is self-sufficiency in regard to production of crude oil and the other is self-sufficiency in respect of petroleum products. Hon. Members are aware that we have ten refineries in the country. Some of them are in the public sector and some in the private sector. The capacity that has been created for processing the crude which is indigenously produced and also the crude that is imported from outside is nearly twenty million tonnes—that is the capacity that we have built up in the country—as on the 1st January, 1970. That is sufficient to meet our requirements as far as petroleum products are concerned. So far as petroleum products are concerned, in respect of major petroleum products, we reached self-sufficiency in the year 1967.

SHRI CHITTA BASU. Have we reached self-sufficiency?

SHRI D R CHAVAN. You must understand that petroleum products and crude oil, these are two different things. While making my speech, at the beginning, I said that there are two aspects—one aspect is self-sufficiency in regard to production of indigenous crude and the second aspect is self-sufficiency in regard to petroleum products. In that context I mentioned that about ten refineries have been built in our country.

[Shri D. R. Chavan]

during the last eight or ten years and that we have built up a capacity of twenty million tonnes. The demand for petroleum products is twenty million tonnes. It is true that it is likely to increase because the demand for petroleum products is increasing at the rate of 9.8 per cent and therefore it has been estimated, on certain studies made by the Indian Institute of Petroleum and other studies made by the Ministry, that this demand is likely to go up to 34 million tonnes by 1975. The Government of India appointed one Expert Committee to go into the various aspects of increasing the refining capacity. The Committee has submitted its Report. That Report will be gone into by a Study Team which has been appointed.

Reference was made by my friend from Rajasthan as to why a refinery in Rajasthan should not be set up in order to meet the future petroleum demand. In that context he said that the Minister, though he might not be able to make a commitment on the floor of the House, should take his demand into consideration while taking a decision concerning the establishment of the eleventh refinery. It is likely to be somewhere in north-west India. I assure the hon. Member that it will be taken into consideration by the Study Team that has been appointed. But it will have to be based upon the decision of that Study Team. So far as we are concerned, the demand may be legitimate, I do not deny it. But we have to depend upon the techno-economic feasibility aspect which will be gone into by the Study Team of experts and any decision that will come from that Team will be the decision of the Government.

I was saying about self-sufficiency. When I was interrupted by my friend, I said that in respect of major petroleum products we reached self-sufficiency sometime in 1967 except in kerosene, lubricating oil and in small quantity of special grades of aviation fuels. It is expected that by 1972 when our Haldia Refinery is likely to go on stream, there would be self-sufficiency in respect of kerosene.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : What about the agreement you have entered into?

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN : I am coming to the agreement. Please listen. Then,

with regard to lubricating oils, till 1969, production of this item was confined to the Assam Oil Company's Digboi Refinery and Barauni Oil Refinery. The total production from this was 75 thousand tonnes as against the total demand in the country of 4,95,000 tonnes of lubricating oil and greases. Recently, the lube-plant at Bombay and the lube-plant at Madras have gone on stream and by 1972-73 when the Haldia Refinery will also start producing lubricating oil, it is expected that during the years 1970, 1971, and 1973, the requirement of lubricating oil will be met from indigenous production to the extent of 64, 77 and 94 per cent respectively. Therefore, in respect of kerosene, there would be self-sufficiency in 1972 when Haldia goes on stream. So far as lubricating oil is concerned, as against a total demand of 4,95,000 tonnes, we were producing 75,000 tonnes in 1969. But the two plants have already gone into production, the lube-plant at Bombay and the lube-plant at Madras. And the third lube-plant is likely to go on stream in 1972 at Haldia. That will enable us to reach self-sufficiency of 94 per cent in 1973. This is with regard to self-sufficiency in respect of petroleum products.

Another point was made about the indigenous production of crude. Sir, there are three organisations which are producing crude oil. One is the ONGC, which is a Government of India concern. The other is Oil India Limited which is 50:50 per cent by the Government of India and Burmah Shell. And the third is the Assam Oil Company which is running the Refinery and producing crude oil at the Digboi Oil Fields. The Digboi Oil Fields are depleting. They are producing only 120 thousand tonnes per annum. Oil India Limited is producing 3.0 million tonnes and the ONGC, both in the western and eastern sectors producing nearly 3.6 million tonnes. Therefore the total indigenous production is about 6.7 million tonnes as against the total demand of 20 million tonnes. Therefore to meet the gap between the demand and the supply, we are called upon to import nearly 10 to 12 million tonnes of crude oil at a total cost of Rs. 100 crores. Therefore the ONGC concentrated on exploration—geological, geophysical and seismic. Wherever they are finding structures, they are testing it by drilling for the purpose of ascertaining whether a parti-

cular structure contains hydro-casm. We have started drilling in Aliabet Island, off-shore, and in Sarin-Mastagr in Jammu and Kashmir. The exploration efforts are being made. And as a result of the efforts made by the ONGC they have succeeded in discovering and delineating nearly 7 structures all over the country. Out of these 87, 67 have already been drilled. They have got some success somewhere. Particularly the successes are notable in the eastern and western sectors, that is in Gujarat and Assam areas. They have got a project in Jaisalmer. You must be knowing, Sir. In Jaisalmer they have put in a number of wells. But unfortunately the ONGC have not come across any hydro-carbon. They have got a project in Tamil Nadu. They are drilling in the structure called the Karaikal Structure, they have put in about 10 wells, at a total cost of some crores of rupees. But unfortunately, the ONGC has not proved to be fortunate.

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : मैं मंत्री जी से एक बात निवेदन करना चाहता हूं और वह यह है कि पाकिस्तान के अन्दर सूई गैस का पता लगा लिया गया है, अगर राजस्थान में अभी तक इसका पता नहीं लगा पाया है। दोनों ही जगह पाकिस्तान और राजस्थान में एक ही कम्पनी काम कर रही है, लेकिन वहां पर तो इस कम्पनी ने गैस का पता लगा लिया है और हमारे यहां अभी तक पता नहीं चला है, तो इसके बारे में सरकार क्या कर रही है।

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN: They were doing it for a long time. Actually it was contract drilling. It was drilling under contract by a company. But the work has been taken over by the ONGC. They have put in a number of wells. But their efforts are not met with success. The ONGC is charged with the responsibility of carrying on exploratory work, seismic survey work, all over the country and to discover new structures so that they can drill and find whether it contains oil or gas. Therefore, the efforts are going on in Rajasthan also. In Karaikal structure in Tamil Nadu they have put in about 10 wells, but unfortunately it has not proved to be a success. In U.P. they have put in three wells. In Punjab, they have put in four to five wells. The

sedimentary area in the country is 10,63,305 square kilometers. That is the area where you have to find whether there are structures by geological and geophysical methods. When the structures are found, then we have to find out the possibility of getting some hydro-carbon there, but not necessarily we get hydro-carbon there.

So far as self-sufficiency of petroleum products is concerned, in 1972, we will be self-sufficient in respect of items where we are not self-sufficient, i.e., kerosene, lubricating oils and other special grades of aviation gasoline.

Now about the crude oil production. Sir, we are actually producing 6.7 million tonnes of crude oil in the country. As a matter of fact in 1960 when O.N.G.C. started the exploratory work, the production of indigenous crude oil, was very little, may be about 5 lakh tonnes. As against that, we are producing 67 lakhs tonnes of crude oil in the country. Therefore, one cannot say, the O.N.G.C. has not done anything. It has done a very good job; Indian Oil has done a good job. You have to look in the context of what was our production ten years before when actually they started the work and what it is today. Then we should compare and contrast. It may not be as it should have been, because we want to meet the gap between the demand and supply, which is likely to increase. Our demand is likely to be 34 million tonnes in 1975 and the production according to the estimates made by the O.N.G.C. experts is likely to be about 10 million tonnes some time in 1974-75. Today, the gap is 10 million tonnes. In 1974-75 the gap is likely to be 20 million tonnes. Today we are required to spend 100 crores of rupees; in 1974-75, we will be required to spend 200 crores of rupees. Therefore, concentrated efforts are required to be made in the field of exploration to bridge the gap between demand and supply of indigenous crude.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: What about foreign oil companies?

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN: Now I come to foreign oil companies. Sir, nobody is interested in seeing that the foreign oil companies are here in the country. Sir, there are three foreign oil companies, i.e., Burma Shell, Esso and Caltex, and Digboi also. Digboi has got .5 million tonnes capacity and these

[Shri D. R. Chavan]

three oil companies put together have got 7.5 million tonnes. There are other public sector refineries also. They are Barauni, Gauhati, Koyali, Cochin and Madras. Put together, they have got more than 11 million tonnes capacity. The public sector is getting a dominant position. Why am I mentioning that the public sector is getting a dominant position? You have to see in the context of the position that the public sector is getting in country's refining capacity and then the necessity as to whether we should acquire the private oil companies and all that.

Sir, these contracts were concluded some time in 1951-53, when in India there was no refinery, when there was very little indigenous production of crude in the country, at a time when there was no tanker fleet to carry imported crude in the country. Therefore, under these circumstances these agreements were concluded, may be disadvantageous to the country.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: You scrap it, that is the whole thing.

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN : They were given certain concessions and all that to import crude oil from the sources of their choice. Sir, the question is whether these companies could be taken over now. It has got to be remembered that these companies started refineries between 1951 and 1953. They have depreciated very much in value. Secondly, the question is this, whether it is necessary in the national interest to take such steps.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: It is in the national interest.

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN: The public sector is getting a dominant position. The Haldia refinery will go on stream in 1972 and then the 11th refinery will be in North-West India. That will also be in the public sector. No private company will be allowed to establish any refinery capacity in the country. Therefore, will it be in the national interest to acquire these companies and pay compensation—hundreds of crores of rupees—rupees which would be in foreign exchange?

Sir, we have tried our best to persuade these companies to bring down the prices. My honourable friends here have complimented the Government for achieving a notable success. The price that was being paid was 1.38 dollar. The reduction of one cent in the crude oil price meant 54 lakhs of rupees. Government tried its best to persuade these companies to bring down the prices because the prices are crashing in the international market. We applied a 7½ per cent cut from June, 1969. That cut was continued up to the middle of January, 1970. The companies did not agree. Subsequently a 20 per cent cut was applied and we told them, "Within one month if you do not listen to us, go back to your original capacity, which was only 4 million tonnes. Even then if you do not listen, the Government of India will take unilateral action without any negotiations: What that action will be, will not be disclosed." Then immediately, the companies came down. As a result the prices of crude oil came down from 1.38 dollar to 1.28 dollar. That means a reduction of ten cents resulting in the saving of 5.40 crores of rupees to the country. This amount had been going out of the country. Therefore, it is wrong to say that the Government is not paying any attention to the hanky-panky business of the foreign oil companies. At the earliest whenever an opportunity presents, and the Government feels that it is in the national interest and it has got to be done, we will ask them to negotiate and modify these agreements. Government is almighty and powerful; nobody can stop the Government from taking any action. I hope, Sir, this will satisfy some of the honourable Members.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : What about foreign oil companies workers?

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN : I have noted this and I will take it up with the Labour Minister.

The other point, hon. Member from Rajasthan raised was concerning the classification. While mentioning about the classification, he mentioned about the licence which is to be given etc. I have not understood it. Therefore, concerning the classification, I must mention that there are a number of petroleum products; motor gasoline is there, naphtha is there, liquid petroleum gas is there. These are called light distillates,

which have got a quick flashing point of 23 degrees centigrade. These are classified "petroleum class A." Motor gasoline, aviation gasoline, naphtha, liquid petroleum gas—special boiling point spirit—these come under "petroleum class A." Then "petroleum Class B" means petroleum having a flash-point of 23 degrees centigrade and above but below 65 degrees centigrade. These are kerosene, mineral turpentine oil, H.S.D. These are the middle distillates having a higher flash point. Then Petroleum Class C refers to that which has a flash point of 65 degrees C and above but below 93 degrees C, i.e. LDO, furnace oil, etc. Therefore, when a person has to transport, store, etc., then the quantity to be stored or transported is decided with reference to the flash point of petroleum. If it is petroleum like motor gasoline, etc., he will not be allowed to store a huge quantity. If it is LDO or H.S.D., having a flash point as mentioned, he will be allowed to store a larger quantity. Therefore, for this purpose this has been done. It is not that it has been done only now. As I said, this Bill has been brought to amend the Petroleum Act 1934 which has been designed and framed on a very scientific basis. There was some rationale behind it.

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : बी श्रेणी के कैरोसिन का वर्णन किया गया है। आपको पता होगा पिछले दिनों देश में तमाम ऐसी दुर्घटनाएँ हुई हैं। बसों में कैरोसिन ले जाने की आदत है लोगों को और कई बसों में 50 और 60 आमी तक मरे हैं, क्योंकि कैरोसिन के लिए कोई व्यवस्था न रहने के कारण उनमें आग लग गयी है।

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN: That is because of violation of safety law. Therefore, in the amending Bill we have enhanced the sentence. You have very well argued my point. The question was why the sentence has been enhanced. You have given the reply that some people violate the safety rules and, therefore, there are a number of accidents. So, the people should pay much more attention to the safety rules. That is why the sentence has been enhanced.

Sir, I think there is nothing special in the Bill. It only seeks to convert gallons into litres and Fahrenheit into Centigrade. One gallon is equal to 4.546

litres. That is the equation. If it is 20, it is multiplied by this and rounded up; that is the figure which has been given. If it is 100, it is multiplied by this and rounded up. Therefore, there is nothing extraordinary in the Bill. It is a very innocuous Bill. But some of the hon. Members raised some points and I believe I have replied to them within the short time that was at my disposal. I hope the hon. Members would support this amending Bill.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Sir, he has not answered a very important question raised by me.

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): The hon. Minister has tried to cover quite a lot of ground which was not very relevant to the Bill also.

The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Petroleum Act, 1934, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): Now we shall take up clause by clause consideration.

Clauses 2 to 16 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN: Sir, I move; "That the Bill be passed".

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Sir, will the hon. Minister assure us that he will look into the matter raised by me?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): All that the hon. Members have said will get due consideration.

THE NORTH-EASTERN COUNCIL
BILL, 1970

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN): Sir, I move;

"That the Bill to provide for the setting up of a Council for the north-eastern areas of India be called the