

ment made by the Home Minister of Kerala on the 4th May, 1962 that 177 Pakistani nationals have been overstaying in Kerala beyond the permitted period and that quit notices have been served on them but their whereabouts are not known; and

■(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI B. N. DATAR): (a) and (b) Government have seen a Press report on the statement. It only shows that the State Government have not yet received confirmation from the check-posts of the departure of the Pakistani nationals and that they are making further enquiries in the matter.

**WITHDRAWAL or EXEMPTION FROM EXCISE DUTY OF NEPA NEWSPRINT**

SHRI NIRANJAN SINGH: SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations against the withdrawal of exemption from excise duty in respect of Nepa Newsprint;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It was mainly contended that (i) the Nepa product continues to be inferior in quality, although it costs nearly 50 per cent, more, (ii) the indigenous newsprint has to bear a much higher duty than the imported newsprint, and (iii) the newspaper industry can neither bear itself the burden of excise duty nor can it be passed on to the readers.

(c) Government have since decided to exempt indigenous newsprint with effect from the 24th April, 1962, from

so much of the duty leviable thereon as is in excess of 5 nP per Kilogram.

**PROPOSALS OF BURMAH-SHELL OIL COMPANY CONCERNING RELATIONS BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND OIL COMPANIES**

\*114. SHRI NIRANJAN SINGH: Will the Minister of MINES AND FUEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Burmah-Shell Oil Company has sent proposals to Government to improve the relations between Government and the oil companies;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to give effect to these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF MINES AND FUEL (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): (a) to (c) A tentative proposal received from the company is under discussion with them.

**BURMAH-SHELL OIL COMPANY**

\*115. SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of MINES AND FUEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether after consultation with the Government of India, the Burmah-Shell Oil Company in India has decided to become a rupee company and Government have accorded their sanction to this proposal;

(b) whether this conversion will involve any repatriation and payment of foreign exchange to the parent Company;

(c) whether the Government of India are going to participate in the capital, and if so, to what extent; and

(d) what percentage of capital is being offered to public in India and on what basis?

THE MINISTER OF MINES AND FUEL (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): (a) to (d) A tentative proposals re-

received from the company is under discussion with them.

#### OIL POTENTIAL OF CAMBAY OIL FIELDS

\*U6. SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of MINES AND FUEL be pleased to state whether Government have revised its views regarding the quantity of oil potential of the Cambay oil fields?

TOT MINISTER OF MINES AND FUEL (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): No, Sir. Due to stratigraphic and structural complications in the Cam-bay area it had not been possible earlier to make a final assessment of the potentialities of this structure. The question of revision, therefore, does not arise.

#### ROYALTY ON ASSAM OIL

•Iff, SHRI ARJUN ARORA: Will the Minister of MINES AND FUEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been arrived at with regard to oil royalty to be paid to Assam Government by Oil India Limited;

(b) if so, what is the rate of royalty agreed upon; and

(c) what is the rate of sales tax on crude oil in (i) Assam and (ii) Gujarat?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The rate of sales tax in Assam on crude oil is 1 nP. per litre from April 1960. The rate of sales tax in Gujarat is 7 per cent, of the sale price of crude oil within the State and 1 per cent, of the sale price in the case of inter-State trade.

#### CUT IN U.S.A. AID TO INDIA

\*118. SHRI ARJUN ARORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States Senate has voted a 25 per cent cut in American aid to India;

(b) if so, the manner in which the cut will affect the Third Plan; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to meet the situation created by the decision of the United States Senate?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA): (a) A recommendation to this effect had been made by the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations at one of its earlier meetings. Since then, this Committee had at a subsequent meeting recommended that there should be no cut but that the aid to India for U. S. fiscal year 1963 should not exceed that for U.S. fiscal year 1962.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### WAGES OF WORKERS IN STEEL PLANTS

\*119. SHRI NIREN . GHOSH: Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the average level of wages of workers in the three public sector steel plants is about 50 per cent, less than what obtains in the steel plants in private sector; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to give any interim relief to the workers pending the recommendations of the Steel Wage Board.

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND HEAVY INDUSTRIES (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): (a) and (b) (i) Minima of Hindustan Steel Limited Scales of pay are in some cases less than those given in Tata Iron and Steel Company. In some cases, they are higher.

(ii) The Steel Wage Board is going into the question of emoluments in the Steel Industry. There is at present no proposal to give any interim relief.