

Stanvac gave up their preferences some three years ago in regard to motor spirit and Caltex is to follow suit from the 1st of October, 1959. Under the agreement, they could have protection till the 31st December, 1965, but either because of the cost of production having come down or the profits having gone up, or whatever the causes, they have willingly surrendered the preference they enjoyed. We expect the other companies to follow suit. After all, it is a matter which they will have to consider. The Ministry will have to negotiate this matter with them in a very delicate manner because under the agreement they are entitled to this protection till the 31st December, 1965. The companies cannot vary the prices to the disadvantage of the consumers without the permission of the Government.

**SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND:** I wanted to know as to how Government would utilise this sum of Rs. 3.5 crores.

**DR. B. GOPALA REDDI:** It will go into the Consolidated Fund of India. We want many more sums like this for our Second Plan, for our Third Plan and so on, from the Central Excise Duties, oils and many other things. It is not to be earmarked for any special purpose. It will go into the Consolidated Fund of India.

**SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND:** For instance, the road cess, on recovery, goes into the Consolidated Fund of India but then it is spent for a specific purpose. Are you going to spend this amount for expanding the Oil and Natural Gas Commission to enable it to produce more petroleum or will this amount just merge with the Central Revenues and the people who use oil will not get any benefit?

**DR. B. GOPALA REDDI:** There is no particular earmarking for this sum. Whatever is required for the national highways will come from the Consolidated Fund of India; whatever is required for the Oil Commission will also come from the Consolidated Fund of India. There is no question of

earmarking this sum for any particular purpose.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The question is:

**"That the Bill further to amend the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."**

The motion was adopted.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** We shall now take up clause by clause consideration. There are no amendments.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

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

**DR. B. GOPALA REDDI:** Sir, I move:

**"That the Bill be returned".**

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The question is:

**"That the Bill be returned."**

The motion was adopted.

#### ENQUIRY RE: THE REPORTED RESIGNATION OF THE ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF

**SHRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:** Sir, before you call or Mr. Sen, may I have this information. We understand that a statement is being made in the other House about the reports of resignation of Service Chiefs. May we know when we can have a statement in this House?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** I cannot say. As soon as the Prime Minister completes his work there, he will come here and make a statement.

**THE MINISTER OF LAW (SHRI A. K. SEN):** It is still going on.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Still going on?

**SHRI A. K. SEN:** He has made the statement but the discussion is still going on.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The statement is being discussed?

**SHRI A. K. SEN:** Certain clarifications and other things.