

Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India Union Government (No. 5 of 1996)-(Commercial)-(Participation of Private Parties with Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited in production of Crude Oil and Natural Gas, under article 151(1) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1398/97]

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Kaikala Satyanarayana.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will allow you all.

SHRI SATYANARAYANA KAIKALA (Machilipatnam) : Sir, In Cinema, Field Artistes...(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : The hon. Minister is here. He can immediately respond. He can immediately withdraw these Bills from the list...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : The hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is here. He can immediately delete...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He has already started. He is a new Member. He is speaking for the first time in the House.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please allow him to speak. I will give you the opportunity.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYANARAYANA KAIKALA : In Cinema, Field Artistes, Producers etc. pay lakhs of rupees as Income-tax, Property tax etc. when they are in the peak of their career and when they are in much demand(Interruptions) But after losing stardom and when they are not in demand, or at the fag end of their careers, they are not in a position to earn even their livelihood(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please take your seat, he is reading something.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let him finish his speech.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : A new Member is speaking. He is speaking for the first time.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Can't you allow the hon. Member to make his maiden speech?

SHRI SATYANARAYANA KAIKALA : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise the important issue of helping veteran cinema artistes who are in distress.

In the peak of their career, artistes, producers and other technicians in the film industry pay lakhs of rupees

to the exchequer in the form of various taxes like Income Tax, Property Tax etc. At the fag-end of their careers when they are no more in demand they are usually not in a position to earn even their livelihood. There are several cases where artistes are not left with enough money for their last rites after their death. Most of us know of the case of reputed artistes like Meena Kumari, Savitri, and Chittoor Nagaiah. There are many other veteran artistes in different parts of the country living in abject poverty.

I appeal to the Government of India to find a way of helping veteran artistes who are in distress keeping in view the fact that they paid lakhs of rupees to the Government in the form of taxes during their heyday. I suggest that a fund be created out of the tax paid by the cine-artistes — say 10 per cent of the amount of tax paid — and that fund be kept aside for helping artistes, producers and others in their old age. Any other assistance, if given by the Government, will boost the morale of the artistes who give their life to continue the traditions and culture of the country...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I would request Shri Srikanta Jena to delete items 16 to 17 in today's Agenda. We cannot allow items 16 and 17 to be discussed today. It is against the interest of the entire country; it is against the interests of the workers; and it is against the promise made by the Prime Minister...(Interruptions) You cannot include these two items in the Agenda. Today, you are bringing this Bill to replace the Ordinance. What Shri Chidambaram is planning to bring today as agenda items 16 and 17 should be deleted forthwith. That is my submission. It should be referred to the Standing Committee. Let the Standing Committee go through it. Please do not be in a hurry. Shri Jena, please get up and assure the House that you will not bring it before the House...(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Earlier there was an Ordinance which was placed before the Standing Committee. We gave our recommendations.

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : Sir, some hon. Members from Kerala are sitting in *dharna* outside the Parliament. We also share their sentiments.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please take your seat. I got your point.

(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Railway Minister that in the last year's Budget, an amount of Rs. 127 crore was granted and this year it went down from Rs. 127 crore to Rs. 34 crore. That is the main issue. The investments for Kerala have come down. No project has been taken up. No request has been considered. Nothing has happened to Kerala. Where can we go?

12.09 hrs.

At this stage, Shri E. Ahamed and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.