

Whereas all avoidable detentions by defaulting staff are being taken up severely, miscreants activity is being tackled in concert with Civil Authorities through co-ordination at suitable levels.

### **Dowry Prohibition Act**

2188. SARDAR SWARAN SINGH SOKHI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 has failed to achieve its purpose in the country;

(b) whether the incidents of dowry in the country is on the increase despite the Act, which came into force fifteen years ago;

(c) whether there is any lacunae in the provisions of the Act such as an infringement of the provisions of the Act is not made a cognisable offence; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to amend the Act suitably?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (DR. SARAJINI MAHISHI): (a) There is a feeling that the Dowry Prohibition Act has failed to achieve its purpose.

(b) Government has no authentic information about the increase in the incidence of dowry.

(c) and (d). As dowry is social problem, legislation by itself may not be effective in eradicating the evil without proper social awareness.

However, certain recommendations made on the subject by the Committee on the Status of Women are under examination.

### **Memorandum from Petroleum Workers Union of Calcutta Regarding Sale of Assets by Burmah Shell**

2189. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether on November 5, 1974, petroleum workers union, 3 and 4 Hari Street, Calcutta-1, submitted a memorandum to him, regarding "sale of assets by Burmah Shell, Jeopardising the interest of the Government, as well as job security of the employees in the Eastern Zone";

(b) if so, the content of the said memorandum;

(c) what action if any, has been taken on the same;

(d) details of the assets sold by the company to date; and

(e) why the Government has allowed the company to sell its assets when the negotiations for its take-over are still going on?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI C. P. MAJHI): (a) to (e). Petroleum Workers' Union, Calcutta, in their letter dated 5th November, 1974, addressed to Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals represented that Burmah Shell are disposing of essential movable and immovable assets in the Eastern Region without caring for national as well as employees' interest especially on the eve of emerging of Haldia Refinery and anticipated negotiations with the Government for taking over their operations in India and have made huge profits by the sale of these assets. Petroleum workers' Union urged for Government intervention in this matter by putting an embargo on such sale which will remove employees' fear of unemployment threat. The issue relating to the surplus staff as a result of the commissioning of Haldia Refinery was under the examination of the Gov-

ernment since 1968. It was decided in September, 1973 that the existing arrangements should be continued for the whole of 1974 and the position of surplus staff should be reviewed in early 1975. All the oil companies including Burmah Shell have been advised on this basis. The same position will continue upto the middle of the current year.

In regard to the sale of assets at Budget Budge and consequent surplus staff Burmah Shell have confirmed that the employees who may become surplus will be suitably deployed in terms of the settlement entered into with the Union.

Burmah Shell have also advised that in view of the human problems involved they have so far desisted from retrenching or laying off employees, even though they still carry surplus staff in relation to the workload. The general question of the sale of assets by Burmah Shell has also been taken up. Burmah Shell advised that they are disposing of movable assets or immovable assets which are found redundant or surplus to their requirements in the ordinary course of business. The sales of assets include storage tanks, trucks, pipes, barges, and immovable property. Burmah Shell have intimated that its net realisation on such sales was Rs. 17.34 lakhs in 1972 and Rs. 47.09 lakhs in 1973. In the case of sale of immovable assets prior permission of the Reserve Bank of India is required under FERA (Foreign Exchange Regulation Act). The Reserve Bank of India has been advised to issue suitable in-

structions to the oil companies including Burmah Shell on the scope of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act. Further Government have advised Burmah Shell not to sell their assets during the course of negotiations.

#### **Quantity and Value of Imported Crude**

2190. **SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:**  
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) total quantity and value of (i) crude and (ii) petroleum products imported, year-wise, during 1972 to 1974;

(b) total quantity and value of crude imported (i) directly from each oil producing country, (ii) by each foreign oil company operating in India, year-wise, during the same period;

(c) average price per barrel of crude imported (i) directly from each oil producing country and (ii) by each foreign oil company operating in India, year-wise, during 1972 to 1974;

(d) whether the import programme for 1975 has been finalised;

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

(f) total quantity and value of crude produced indigenously, year-wise, during 1972 to 1975?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI C. P. MAJHI):**

(a) Information is as under:—

Qty.: Mn. Tonnes  
Value: Rs./Crores

	1972		1973		1974*	
	Q	V	Q	V	Q	V
(i) Crude oil . . . . .	12.3	144.25	13.4	244.56	14.0	904.56
(ii) Petroleum Products . . . . .	3.3	56.69	4.0	100.39	2.9	220.31