

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You will get an opportunity if you follow the procedure and approach properly.

SOME HON. MEMBERS *rose*—

SHRI NATH PAI (Rajapur) : If you see rule 199, you will not waste the time of the House. The rule is clear.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I know. He has already written to me.

Now, the hon. Prime Minister.

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF FINANCE, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, it is with sincere regret that I rise to make this statement. If I may also add, I thought some sounds and remarks which came from some Opposition Members were in bad taste on this occasion.

It has been my privilege to know Shri Morarji Desai for many years. Throughout this long period, our personal relations have been of cordiality and understanding. During our association with Government for the last two years and a half, I have always valued his advice and wise counsel and have particularly appreciated the candour with which he has expressed himself on every issue. We may not always have shared the same views, assessment or approach, but I have always sought his advice and frank opinion, as I have done with my other colleagues in Government. I therefore deeply regret that he should even think of anyone being "penalised" for his views.

In my replies to Shri Desai's letters, copies of which he has laid on the Table of the House, and also in the course of my discussions with him, I have explained at some length the circumstances in which I took the decision to take personal charge of the finance portfolio. There has never been any question about his "loyalty" or sincerity of action; nor of his willingness to implement a decision once it was taken." Shri Desai is well known for his strong sense of discipline.

The question was not simply of faithfully implementing agreed decisions. As is well known, and as Shri Desai was good enough to indicate himself, he had his own definite views in regard to the economic policies which are in question. In the course of frank debate on such vital issues, each one of them comes to be identified in the public mind with certain basic approaches and attitudes. The new orientation of policy which we discussed at our party meeting in Bangalore was based on a note which I had ventured to place before it and which the party was pleased to endorse not only marked a significant phase in the implementation of our declared socialist objectives, but called for vital new measures which have since been initiated. It was in this background that I felt, in utmost sincerity, that I should take upon myself the responsibility of the Finance Ministry which is intimately and directly involved with the process of implementation.

Thus, the only question was of a change of the finance portfolio. I know that Shri Desai has always upheld the well-accepted conventions of the parliamentary system. When I decided upon the change of portfolio I first wrote to Shri Desai explaining the decision. Thereafter, I wrote to the President. The question of Shri Desai's dissociation from Government was not in my mind. In fact, I indicated in the very first letter to him that I looked forward to his continued association as Deputy Prime Minister, and suggested to him that we discuss the detailed arrangements. However, before we could meet for this purpose, Shri Desai wrote to me expressing his desire to resign.

Mr Deputy-Speaker, it is not at all my intention to join issue with Shri Desai over this unhappy episode. I should like to assure Shri Desai and this hon. House that his resignation has been a matter of deep regret to me. Shri Desai has been a stalwart of the generation which brought freedom to this country. He has rendered long and distinguished public service since Independence. I have naturally the greatest respect and regard for him. I should like to take this opportunity to thank him once again for his valuable advice and help in Government, and also for his gracious assurance that I may look forward to his continued

[Shrimati Indira Gandhi]

co-operation in the important tasks before us.

14.40 hrs.

ENLARGEMENT OF THE APPELLATE (CRIMINAL) JURISDICTION OF THE SUPREME-COURT BILL

**Extension of Time for Presentation of
[Report of Select Committee**

SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL (Chandigarh); Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do extend the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to enlarge the appellate jurisdiction of the Supreme Court in regard to criminal matters upto the first day of next session."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do extend the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to enlarge the appellate jurisdiction of the Supreme Court in regard to criminal matters upto the first day of the next session,"

The motion was adopted

14.41 hrs.

OIL-FIELDS (REGULATION AND DEVELOPMENT) AMENDMENT BILL.*

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & CHEMICALS AND MINES & METALS (DR. TRIGUNA SEN): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Oil-fields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948,

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Shiv Chandra Jha has written to me that he wants to oppose the introduction of this Bill.

श्री शिवचन्द्र झा (मधुबनी) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं इस आयलफील्ड्स (रेगुलेशन एंड

डेवेलपमेंट) एमेंडमेंट बिल, 1969 के इंट्रोडक्शन का विरोध करता हूँ। आप चाहेंगे कि मैं संविधान के प्राविज्ञान के मुताबिक इसका विरोध करूँ। मैं आपका ध्यान संविधान की यूनियन लिस्ट की एन्ट्री 53 और 54 की ओर दिलाना चाहता हूँ। एन्ट्री 53 में कहा गया है :

"Regulation and development of oil fields and mineral oil resources; petroleum and petroleum products; other liquids and substances declared by Parliament by law to be dangerously inflammable."

एन्ट्री 54 में कहा गया है :

"Regulation of mines and mineral development to the extent to which such regulation and development under the control of the Union is declared by Parliament by law to be expedient in the public interest."

इन दोनों एन्ट्रीज़ के मुताबिक सब आयल फ़ील्ड्स और माइन्स पर केन्द्रीय सरकार का कब्जा है और उनके नियमन और विकास की जिम्मेदारी भी उसी के ऊपर है। लेकिन जैसाकि आप जानते हैं, ये आयल फ़ील्ड्स और माइन्स अब भी प्राइवेट सेक्टर के मातहत हैं। यह स्थिति हमारे संविधान के प्रीएम्बल में दिये गये समाज कल्याण के लक्ष्य के खिलाफ़ है, जिसको आज प्रधान मंत्री ने दोहराया है। इसीलिए मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि यह विधेयक हमारे संविधान के एक मुख्य आदर्श के मुताबिक नहीं हैं, बल्कि यह उसकी लिप सर्विस के रूप में है और वास्तव में यह टिकरिंग विद दी प्राबलम है।

मैं चाहता हूँ कि सरकार इस विधेयक को वापस ले ले और आयल फ़ील्ड्स और माइन्स को नेशनलाइज़ करने के लिए एक विधेयक लाये। ऐसा करने पर ही माइन्स, मिनरल्स और उसके साथ-साथ तेल का सही रूप में रेगुलेशन और विकास होगा, देश की अर्थ-व्यवस्था में उनका योगदान होगा और समाज-कल्याण के उद्देश्य

* Published in Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, section 2, dated 21-7-69.