

SHRI YADVENDRA DATT: My question No 198 has not been answered. The proviso to rule 46 says:

".....Provided that a question not reached for oral answer may be answered after the end of the Question Hour with the permission of the Speaker if the Minister represents to the Speaker that the question is one of special public interest to which he desires to give a reply."

So, my question has to be answered.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is a matter of discretion.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have given the ruling.

SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJ (Tumkur): For the last three days, I have been waiting. I have given a notice. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You cannot bring it now. I will help you later on.

12.50 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Eighth Report

[English]

SHRI SIVAJI PATNAIK (Bhubaneswar)
Sir, I beg to present the Eighth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

12.50 1/2 hrs.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Ninth Report

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia):

Sir, I beg to present the Ninth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Estimates Committee on Action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Sixty-Sixth Report of the Committee (8th Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Education) University Grants Commission.

12.51 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Restriction on use of Government Vehicles and Certain other Measures to Conserve Petroleum Products in the Country

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): As the Hon. Members are aware, the situation in the Middle East is likely to affect availability of petroleum products. International prices are also likely to be adversely affected. This will put pressure on our Balance of Payments. Fortunately, when before the Middle East crisis, the Government had already initiated action to reduce the rate of growth of oil consumption and create awareness in the country regarding the need to conserve petroleum. Thus, certain measures were announced in the Budget, and also later by the Ministry of Petroleum. After unbridled growth in oil consumption and imports in the past three to four years, it was expected that actual success in reducing the consumption would take some time.

The situation in the Middle East, however, makes it imperative that we now reinforce our determination to reduce consumption of oil products, and do so immediately.

We can cope with the present situation if all of us together agree to make a small sacrifice. As part of a programme for curbing the demand for oil, it has been decided that