

[D. Laxmi Narayan Pandeya]

liable to be cancelled any time on the ground of below average production. Due to application of different unscientific methods of average test in different states and inaccurate measurement, thousands of the farmers have to face great difficulties. This matter is of public interest and of urgent nature as future of thousands of the farmers depends on it. Some difficulty and crisis may occur in deciding the policy and in the renewal of the licences of the farmers. So, I request the Minister of Finance to make a statement about it.

- (v) Need for oil exploration in North and South 24 Parganas and Nadia districts in West Bengal and Kathana—Kalam-sar in Gujarat

[English]

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat). It has been widely reported in the Press that two large areas in West Bengal and Gujarat are floating on oil. But these reservoirs are not being properly exploited. The areas are North and South 24 Parganas and Nadia Districts of West Bengal extending upto the Indo-Bangladesh border, and Kathana-Kalam-sar in Gujarat.

It is claimed by a retired superintending geologist that the giant petroleum reserve in West Bengal and the adjoining off-shore Bay of Bengal was discovered in 1984, by stratigraphic interpretation of sophisticated seismic data. The off-shore data was acquired by Notomos group of oil companies of USA and on-shore data of the Southern part of West Bengal by a Soviet team.

The ONGC have the necessary technology knowhow and equipment for exploiting this reservoir of oil in West Bengal. It is estimated that an additional 22 million tonnes of crude oil per year would have been produced to make India self-sufficient in oil within a short period of time.

This has been deliberately scuttled by the interested oil lobbies within the country and outside who are interested in perpetuating India's oil dependence on other.

I demand a statement from the Petroleum Minister on the subject.

12.00 hrs.

RAILWAY BUDGET, 1991-92-- GENERAL DISCUSSION AND

*DEMANDS FOR GRANTS— (RAILWAYS), 1991-92

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up the combined discussion on (i) General Discussion on the Budget (Railways) for 1991-92 and (ii) Discussion and Voting on the Demands for Grants (Railways) for 1991-92 for which 8 hours have been allotted.

Hon. Members present in the House whose cut motions to the Demands for Grants (Railways) for 1991-92 have been circulated, may, if they desire to move their cut motions, send slips to the Table within 15 minutes indicating the serial numbers of the cut motions they would like to move. Those cut motions only will be treated as moved.

A list showing the serial numbers of cut motions treated as moved will be put up on the Notice Board shortly. In case any Member finds any discrepancy in the list he may kindly bring it to the notice of the Officer at the Table without delay

Motion moved:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India out of the consolidated fund of India, to complete

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.