

But the progress was not up to the mark. Actually, the Annual report of the Ministry claims progress in different fields of chemical industry as if it was attaining the much-professed self-sufficiency of the Government of India. But it could not in fact reach anywhere near self-sufficiency. Therefore, there is no room for self-complacency. But if one goes through the annual report of the Ministry, one's impression will be that the Ministry is more or less self-complacent about their progress in different fields.

In the chemical industry we find that phenol, industrial alcohol and soda ash are always in short supply. Sometimes the position becomes so acute that soda ash sells at a very high price in the market. Short supply in respect of some of these chemicals can be seen almost all the time during the year.

I will point out another item, namely, industrial alcohol, which is a scarce commodity in West Bengal. Industrial alcohol is an important item for chemical and other small scale industries. It is not produced in West Bengal in good quantities. It is produced in other States like Bihar, U.P. and Maharashtra. West Bengal has to get it from them. But it is not easy for West Bengal to procure this industrial alcohol as much as it required. The All India Molasses Board controls the distribution of industrial alcohol to the States. But West Bengal is suffering acutely for want of industrial alcohol. The hon. Minister must look into the matter and see that industrial alcohol is made available to West Bengal.

I would like to raise another matter, and that is about Haldia Petro-Chemical Complex. The Minister knows very well that the West Bengal Government had a proposal under which the Government of India could participate directly in implementing the project. The proposal said that the Government of India's share in equity participation should be 40 per cent as against the State's share of 40 per cent and the financial institutions' share of 20 per cent. That was to be a joint venture. But all of us know that this proposal of the West Bengal Government has been dropped by the Central Government on the ground that no

funds have been allocated for Haldia Petro-Chemical Complex in the Sixth Five Year Plan. On the other hand, a petro-chemical complex costing Rs. 1200 crores is being set up in Maharashtra. We have no objection to that. We only want to emphasize the point that, according to the Government of India themselves, Haldia Petro-Chemical Complex is a worth-pursuing project. Therefore, I would again make out a case before this House that a petro-chemical should be given to West Bengal and it should be included in the Seventh Five Year Plan. The Government of India can bear the entire cost if they do not want to have it as a joint venture. In any case, it should be included in the Seventh Five Year Plan.

15.29 hrs.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair]

The setting up of Haldia Petro-Chemical Complex would rejuvenate the existing sagging chemical industries of West Bengal, including the nationalised ones and it will also open up opportunities for creation of a large number of chemical industries—large, medium and small. As a matter of fact, the basic petro-chemicals will lead to a chain of conversion industries thereby ensuring all-round economic development of the State...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The hon. Member will continue on the next occasion. We have to take up the Private Members' business.

We will now take up private Members' business. Now, Bills for introduction.

Shri B. V. Desai

15.30 hrs.

#### BAN ON RELIGIOUS CONVERSIONS BILL\*

[English]

SHRI B.V. DESAI (Raichur) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to ban religious conversions in India.

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum) : On a point of order, Sir. I feel that the Bill now before the House is violative of Art 25 of the Constitution which gives the citizen the right freely to profess practise and

propagate religion. I am of the view that even the very discussion of the Bill will create illwill and hatred among the different sections of the people. At a time when unity of the nation is what is wanted, I feel this Bill may not be allowed to be discussed in the House. I plead that this may not be allowed to be introduced at all because it is violative of the Constitution of India and it violates the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : When the discussion comes, it is left to the House to take the decision.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): He has a right to take objection to even the introduction of the Bill. Let the mover reply.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : First of all, when the agenda is circulated, you should have given the notice if you want to oppose it. Simply now you are raising this when he is moving.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA : His merely standing up is notice to you.

SHRI A. CHARLES : In fact I gave a note this morning to the Speaker in his Chamber.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We have not received.

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI A.K. SEN) : Constitutional objections have always been taken at the time of considerations—they are never taken at the time of introduction.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA : Why should the Minister intervene now? It is for the mover to reply. This is not the practice.

SHRI A. K. SEN : Further the objection that it is unconstitutional does not seem to be right because nobody's right to be converted is taken away. All that the Bill seeks to achieve is that there should be no forcible or induced conversion. There should be no objection to that.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA : Are we to understand that the Government is in favour of such a Bill now because of his intervention?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Only the legal point he wanted to clarify. He is only helping the members.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA : We must protest against this—without the Bill being discussed the Minister has come forward to open and place before the House the mind of the Government. I am sure this is a wrong practice....

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Not the mind. Only the constitutional point he has clarified.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA : This is quite objectionable. To-day we have been taken for a ride in this particular manner....

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Only he has helped the members. That is all.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA : I do not deny the right of the hon. Minister. He has a right, but such a practice has never been there—for the Minister to intervene at this juncture. It is for the Member to oppose and for the mover of the Bill to say something in favour of this Bill....

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Member is going to reply.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA : If you want to open a full-fledged discussion, we are prepared for it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I request all the Members to please sit down.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA : Only one member is allowed to oppose and the mover of the Bill is allowed to reply.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Member is on his legs. All of you please sit down.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska) : Has the Minister no right to speak about the procedure? He has only clarified the procedure—he has not said anything about the mind of the Government.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He has only helped us.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA : This is hon. Minister intervening. You allowed the Member who wanted to oppose and he spoke. Now it is for the mover of the Bill

to defend his Bill and it rests there at this particular juncture....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Order, please. The Member is on his legs. He just wanted to help us. That is all.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA : It is highly inappropriate. I must protest against that.

SHRI A. K. SEN : On a point of order touching on a constitutional point—I have been a little longer in the House than the hon. Member—as a Law Minister, in the olden days I have always been called upon by the Speaker to enlighten the House whether there is *prima facie* any constitutional objection....

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA : A very unfortunate procedure.

SHRI. A. K. SEN : The hon. Member seems to think that he knows the procedure inside out which I do not think I can see.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA : I don't deny your right but it is very unfortunate.

SHRI B. V. DESAI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, instead of a routine introduction of the Bill I am sorry this Bill has attracted so much attention of the hon. Members. Now, having heard so much I would like to say a few words. There is nothing in the Bill which I have brought which injures the feelings of either my friend at the back or hon. Member Shri Banatwalla. The Law Minister has replied. It is not that I could not reply the same thing but because he is a senior member and he has also got a right to direct the proceedings in this regard. I would like to request the hon. Member to read the Bill. What does it say? There is no infringement on the Constitution and no ban on the religious conversions. So, I may be allowed to introduce the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to ban religious conversions in India.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI B. V. DESAI : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.37 hrs.

#### REGULATION OF ADMISSION TO MEDICAL AND ENGINEERING COLLEGES AND OPENING OF NEW INSTITUTIONS BILL

[English]

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO (Mormugao) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for regulating admission to medical and engineering colleges and for matters connected therewith.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for regulating admission to medical and engineering colleges and for matters connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

#### COMPULSORY VOCATIONAL EDUCATION BILL\*

[English]

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO (Mormugao) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for compulsory vocational education in educational institutions.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for compulsory vocational educational in educational institutions.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.38 hrs.

#### CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL\* (Amendment of article 316, etc.)

[English]

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY (Kirshnagiri) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

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