

(xxi) Need to write off the loans of the farmers

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY (Hanamkonda : Sir, it is well known that Indian farmers most of the time remain under debt. Our farmers carry agriculture under many adverse natural conditions like drought, floods, pests. To add to his misery, he cannot fix the price of his produce has been taken away from the farmer as the agricultural price commission fixes support prices for the agricultural produce keeping in view the interests of the consumer.

The Government does not hesitate to write off loans of industrialists on the ground that the labour will be thrown out of the employment if the loan is not written off. But the agricultural sector is not viewed likewise. Had the farmer been allowed to fix the price of his produce as per his cost of production and margin of profits he would not have been put in such a situation. The traditional agricultural families are reluctant to continue agriculture any more. The farmers are day by day being disinterested in agriculture and are leaving the profession. If this trend is not arrested the future will not be so bright.

The farmers incur the debt because they do not get back proper return even after investing the borrowed money on agriculture. This most unequal, unfavourable economic race in which the farmer is forced to participate,

In order to see that the nation survives, it is the bounded duty of the Government to write off the loans of farmers, given by the commercial banks, Government and the private sector.

[Translation]

(xxii) Need to revamp Sindri Fertiliser Plant

SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY (Gopalganj) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the foundation of Sindri Fertiliser Plant in Bihar was laid by the first Prime Minister of the country, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru in 1952 with the aim of providing employment to 15,000 workers besides solving the

fertiliser problem. However, fertiliser plant is not functioning according to the installed capacity and many of its units are lying closed. As a result, the number of workers has plummeted to 4,000 and the production level of fertilisers has also come down. In the coming months, fertiliser plant will become sick if obsolete and old machines are not replaced.

Therefore, I would like to request the Central Government to give practical shape to the following suggestions so as to revive the fertiliser plant :—

First, old machines of Sindri Fertiliser Plant should be replaced and closed units revived with a view to increasing the production capacity so as to provide employment to the unemployed.

Secondly, the Central Government should take over the maintenance of the road between fertiliser plant and Dhanbad to facilitate smooth transportation.

13.23 hrs.

BHARAT PETROLEUM CORPORATION LIMITED (DETERMINATION OF CONDITIONS OF SERVICE OF EMPLOYEES) BILL—Contd.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We will now take up the next item, that is, further Consideration of the following motion moved by Shri Brahm Dutt on the 12th May, 1988, namely :—

“That the Bill to empower the Central Government to determine the conditions of service of the officers and employees of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited and for matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration.”

Shri Chintamani Jena to continue his speech.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Balasore) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to continue giving my views.

[Shri Chintamani Jena]

on the issue which I had expressed yesterday also. Sir, while condemning the views expressed by some of the hon. Members in the Opposition, I would like to put emphasis that this Government is going to build up socialistic pattern of society. The opposition are always also giving the slogan of equal pay for equal work. Now, when the Government has come forward to implement it, so many objection are raised with the allegations that we are curbing the judiciary, etc. Sir, in this connection, I would only like to submit here that this is not the only instance when our society needed our help, our country needed our attention for building up a socialistic pattern of society. In the past also, we have amended certain laws which must have been helpful to achieve our goal of socialism. By saying so, I would like to remind my hon. friends in the Opposition, that in the case of nationalisation of banks, certain amendments were made. Similarly, when the East India Company started the Railways first, at that time, they appointed certain number of employees. But when it was under the private sector, they had appointed certain number of employees who would get special benefits more benefits than the employees who were appointed after nationalisation. Is it correct? In one table one headclerk is sitting, he is getting more pay for doing the same work, but side by side in another table one employee of the same category is working, but he is getting less. Is it the slogan for equal pay for equal work? We are going to implement the plan of a classless society in our country. So, this Government is coming with certain laws which will achieve this goal, and this is a small amendment or small law which has been brought by the hon. Minister. So, I would request the hon. opposition Members that they should not oppose this Amendment.

Similarly, Sir, one of the hon. Members in the Opposition was telling that this Government is going to curb judiciary. It is not only incorrect but also misleading because this Government believes in the three pillars of democracy and judiciary is one of them. If any one of the pillars

is weakened, that means our democracy will be weakened. So, this Government never tried in the past to curb the power of judiciary nor has it got the intention to do so. We have great respect and high esteem for the judiciary. So the view expressed by the Opposition is not correct.

Similarly, one of my friends in the Opposition was telling that this Government is anti-labour. We are giving several facilities to the labour and how is it that we are anti-labour? We have taken up so many welfare measures for the labour. They should know that this Government is for the labour and they are implementing the welfare schemes which will benefit the labour. For want of time, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not elaborating on this, but I would only remind the hon. Members that this Government is not anti-labour, rather it is for the welfare of the labour and they have given several benefits to the labour.

One more point is regarding exploitation of workers in refineries. Of course, this does not relate to this particular Bill, but when it comes to the House for discussion, I would request the hon. Minister that his Ministry should look into this so that the workers engaged in the refineries are not exploited. We are getting such type of information from various sources that the workers working in the refineries are being exploited, they are not given minimum wages even.

One more point is that local people should be engaged in such refineries and also I would take the opportunity to request the hon. Minister to give clearance to Haldia petro-chemical refinery which will not only boost the economy of the country, but it will serve the poor people in that area.

One more point is that in the hill areas deforestation is going on due to lack of cooking gas in that area. In this connection I would request the hon. Minister to see to it so that cooking gas may be available to the people living in that area. Of course, on policy our Government decided to supply such

cooking gas to the hill and forest areas. So, this should be looked into.

Sir, in my constituency, one project from the Defence Ministry costing about Rs. 1000 crores is going to be executed soon named as National Test Range. There is demand for a petrol pump which may be given at the earliest near Basta, popularly known as Gandhi Chowk.

Sir, with these words, I wholeheartedly support this Bill.

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA (Tamluk) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited came into existence by Central Legislation in the year 1976 when two of the British Companies, viz, the Burmah Shell Oil Refining Company and the Burmah Shell Storage and Distribution Companies were nationalised.

After 12 years, this Government has brought one Bill for the determination of conditions of service of the employees. It took them 12 years to come with this Bill. I do not know, in the mean time, how the conditions of different employees existed and how the administrative authority of this company dealt with this matter. There are three categories of employees. One category of employees belong to the British companies and the second category belongs to the services continued to be in the Government and the third category comes from the recruitment which was done after 1976, i.e. after nationalisation. A section of the employees who were employed during the regime of the British company do not agree to abide by the public sector wage policy because they want to enjoy the facilities which are entitled under the erstwhile British company. The only object of bringing forward this Bill is to reduce their facilities, and to take away the existing facilities. For that reason, the hon. Minister has brought forward this Bill. This legislation is not to give something to the workers. The very objective of this Bill is to take away something from a section of the employees of the said company.

We are more concerned about the fact that this Government cannot provide pay

and other benefits to the workers which even the British companies used to do. That is a matter of shame. There are some court orders regarding this Bill. Section 8 (3) of the Industrial Disputes Act, clearly states that the wages of worker cannot be reduced. But through this legislation, the Government is trying to reduce the benefit which the employees have been enjoying prior to 1976. Therefore, by passing the Industrial Disputes Act, by passing the concept of natural justice in the Constitution, by passing the common industrial practice, the Government has come with this Bill.

What is stated in the Bill is very much amusing. It says, it is for "equal pay, equal work". It is very good and I do not object this theory. I will be rather happy, if this concept is implemented in letter and spirit in every sphere of national life and not to take away something from a section of the employees. The previous speaker, told about socialistic pattern and socialism. I do not know whether he knows the pronunciation, meaning and spelling of the word "socialism", the definition of "socialism". I will request this Government not to use the words "equal pay for equal work" for reducing the existing facilities of a section of the employees, which they are going to do with this Bill. If they are really interested to implement the theory of "equal pay for equal work", they can ask their Labour Ministry to survey the national wage structure and national wage policy. The Government should bring forth a comprehensive Bill so that the disparity and discrimination which exist among the different sections of the employees are removed. I would also request the hon. Minister not to use the idea of equal pay for equal work in order to reduce the facilities of a section of workers. What can be done ?

Sir, some workers have been enjoying some better facilities and benefits prior to 1976. They do not want to give up those benefits and facilities. Now, the Government wants to frame a Public Sector Wage Policy. One thing can be done in this context, i.e. the employees who have been recruited after 1976 can be paid more. That is a very simple thing. That

[Shri Satyagopal Misra]

can be done. The theory of equal pay for equal work can be implemented in a proper way, proper manner and proper sense. I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister to consider this matter very seriously because in the Trade Unions, it has become a well-established policy not to give up the facilities which the employees have been enjoying for a long time. Everybody is against it. Therefore, while supporting the idea of equal pay for equal work, I am opposing this Bill because this Bill is particularly designed to attack a section of workers, to attack our judicial system, to attack the jurisdiction of the Court and to take away something which a section of the employees who have been enjoying the benefits and facilities for a long time.

[Translation]

DR. G.S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support this Bill and congratulate Shri Brahma Dutt for taking a bold step. Only a few people know that Shri Brahma Dutt is a socialist in the true sense of the term. He has attached prime importance to the interests of the nation. The need of the hour is to save the country from dishonest industrialists and militant trade unionists. The Government must safeguard the interests of consumers. The people who hail from Bihar and Bengal know that it was a dream to be employed in Burmah Shell. I have personal experience of late fifties and early sixties. At the time when other companies paid Rs. 400 to their officers, Burmah Shell paid Rs. 3,000 and similar was the wage structure fixed for the workers of the company. Four-five months' salary was paid as bonus. Junior officers were also paid to and fro-passage for going to England. At the time of nationalisation of Burmah Shell, the Government committed a mistake by not compelling the company to adopt the same wage structure as that of other Public Sector Undertakings. There are many instances to quote in this context. When Coal India was nationalised, the employees were asked either to accept the salaries payable in other Public Sector Undertakings or quit. At the time of nationali-

sation of Jaipur Udyog, fresh agreement was signed by the Government providing same wages as were being paid to employees in other Public Sector Cement Companies. You see, this is a giant step forward. The Government says that it depends on the paying capacity, but my submission is that the paying capacity is for the country and not for paying handsome salaries to the employees. At present the wages and perks in Bharat Petroleum and I O C. are much higher as compared to other Public Sector Undertakings. I would suggest that this should also be reviewed. Will this be done? By adopting pressurising tactics, they want that they should continue to get the same salaries as were being paid to the employees of Burmah Shell. If same old wage structure is given to them, the employees of other Public Sector Undertaking will also demand the same wages. If the Government accepts the demand, it will only be appeasing a section of the people. Has the Government ever thought about the condition of the crores of people working in the unorganised sector? All right, if the Government brings uniformity in the salaries of all the employees by bringing them at par with Burmah Shell, who will bear the burden of increase in the prices of petroleum products that would become inevitable? The burden will fall on you, on us and ultimately on the consumers. This should not be done for appeasing a small section of the people.

The Government needs to be congratulated for taking such a bold step, because one after the other, all public sector units are becoming sick gradually. What is happening in public sector? The people of West Bengal should think seriously over it. Even reputed companies are becoming sick due to militant trade unionism, and we are unable to save them. Cannot the Government review the policy?

The Government should not raise the wage structure to such an extent that it becomes difficult for the industry to pay. Besides, if you allow a higher salary structure for one industry, there is every possibility for others to follow suit. The industry running at loss should be revived

and the health of others should be maintained. The Government should not accept a wage structure that is detrimental to the growth of the industry.

In the end, I would say that the hon. Minister has taken a very good step. I would like to request the Government to bring about uniformity in the wage structures of all industries to remove disparity, because we see a lot of black-mailing in the matter of overtime in the banking industry. Overtime is paid during working hours. Who shares the burden of all this? You and I. Many such things are there to discuss. This black-mailing in the matter of overtime and wages should be put to an end, because the interests of the Government, the public and the consumers are common. It is not only the interests of a section of the militant trade unionists, the Government is concerned about.

I want to congratulate Shri Pilot for his shrewd handling of the DTC strike. I hope the Government will take care of the interests of the public at large and not the interests of a section of the militants.

[English]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat) : Sir, my friend Dr. Rajhans seems to be suffering from an illusion. And that illusion is that the present employees of the Bharat Petroleum, I mean, those who have been recruited after nationalisation are enjoying the same higher benefits which were prevalent at the time of the pre-nationalisation of the company. Those are the people who were in service before nationalisation. They are a small number. Their number is being reduced every year. By natural process, they are going out. I think, by another five or six years, there will be none of them left. What we are concerned, what this Bill is concerned with is approximately 2,000 or so—I do not know the exact number of employees who were recruited after nationalisation, after 1976, what has been their condition? Have they been given the same pay and emoluments as people used to get before nationalisation? Not at all, You should know that from 1976, to 1986

for ten years, all the new employees of the Bharat Petroleum Corporation have been treated as temporary workers. They were arbitrarily treated as temporary workers and given a consolidated wage. No dearness allowance separate, no basic pay separate, one consolidated wage was fixed and given to them as though they were temporary workers from 1976 to 1986. This is not stated here in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. And for that only, they have been indulging in litigation and going to the industrial courts, carrying on prolonged struggle in the court. Once there was lock-out also—I think, for some three or four months. And the company also has been spending quite a few lakhs, perhaps, crores of rupees, employing leading counsel and all that in order to fight these cases in the courts against the employees. Is it a fact or not that the industrial court has held against the company that they have been indulging in unfair labour practice? It has been held against them that by keeping these people as temporary, although they are working for ten years, they are depriving them of their benefits. The court has held that they are entitled to getting the same benefits as the people before the nationalisation were getting.

But what happened? After the industrial court structure or orders in 1986, the Corporation has now started paying them the same rate of dearness allowance which is applicable in the public sector generally, i.e. Rs. 1.65 per point of rise or fall in the cost of living index which is a general thing now everywhere in the public sector. That is being applied to them only after 1986, in the last two years only. The rest of the emoluments, the rest of their pay and all that is not being brought on a par at all with what they used to get in the old days. Now they have gone to the industrial tribunal again saying that they are entitled to the same benefits as the pre-76 employees. Against the industrial tribunal the Corporation has gone to the court with the writ petition asking for a stay order to be imposed on the tribunal. But as far as I know the High Court has given no stay order upto now. The hearing of that writ petition is still pending in the High Court.

[Shri Indrajit Gupta]

It is just at this moment that the Government has come forward with this Bill. I would say that this Bill does not do any credit to the Government. They are bungling the whole thing—excuse me for my saying so. For ten years they have bungled the whole thing. Now it is only to cover up that bungling that this Bill has been brought.

From 1976 to 1986 they could very well have had negotiations and discussions with the workers and the Union and come to some settlement about this matter. But that also was not done.

It is also a fact that naturally at the time of nationalisation the corporation knew that they would have required a large number of employees. In future also they would have to recruit more people because these refineries have been expanding. But at that time they never bothered to think how they would fix the emoluments and conditions of service for the future employees. Nothing was done about it. Instead of doing something on a rationale scale, they just arbitrarily said that these people will all be treated as temporary workers and give one consolidated pay without any DA or anything else. Who bungled all this? Otherwise this situation need not have arisen at all.

Now there is a difficulty, I sympathise with the Minister. After all, Bharat Petroleum has got only one refinery in Bombay. Whereas the Indian Oil Corporation has got six or seven refineries. I don't know whether Hindustan Petroleum has got a refinery. The whole dispute is concerning the workers of one refinery in Bombay.

Therefore, obviously if here something is done which gives them a higher rate of pay and all that, then the workers of the IOA refineries will also be up in arms. Who created this anomalous situation?

You are bringing this Bill which is only an enabling Bill. Under it, the Government is taking the powers to bring in some new schemes irrespective of

any tribunal or court or any other law, agreement. Nothing will stand in the way of the powers of the Government to introduce a new scheme. Obviously this Bill is going to be passed; we cannot prevent it. So, I proceed from the assumption that the Government will have the powers from today or from tomorrow to bring in a scheme. When they are going to work out a new scheme and to pass orders, I would request the Government, after this Bill is passed, to at least sit down with these employees of Bharat Petroleum and have discussions. They are your own employees. Nowhere else in the public sector has this kind of an anomaly been created. There is a uniform public sector wage policy now. It is only an anomaly created by the management itself here for the last ten years. After you have taken this power, please sit down with your employees and discuss with them, hear their opinion and by agreement work out a scheme. It should not have retrospective effect in my opinion.

In our opinion if it has retrospective effect which means existing emoluments will be reduced sharply then you will land yourself in the same trouble which you want to avoid. As far as the old pre-nationalisation employees are concerned they are being protected. But they are very few in number. Bulk of the employees are new. They cannot continue to be treated as temporary employees. That is an unfair labour practice. There must be proper settlement regarding their wages. Nobody is suggesting they should get something more than other public sector employees.

I am sorry that the Government has brought things to such a pass. This is an unfortunate thing. Year after year you go in for litigation with your own employees spending huge amount on hiring of the services of the counsels. These workers are after all public sector workers. They are your workers and there are other petroleum workers in the public sector. There should be some uniformity and all that among them no doubt. I hope the Minister will take care to see in the new scheme being brought in these

workers are not put at a disadvantage that they have to suffer immediate reduction in their emoluments. If the workers lose Rs. 300 to Rs. 600 per month they will not agree to that and a big trouble will take place. So it has to be worked out in a way that there is no unnecessary confrontation with the workers. I think it can be done in a rational way. This piece of legislation should not be used to short-circuit the labour court, High Court and the Tribunal. The sole purpose of bringing this Bill seems to be to circumvent the labour court, High Court and the Tribunal. This, I think, does not give any credit to the Government.

I do not support the Bill but since a new scheme is being made it should be done in cooperation with the workers themselves and their representatives.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank all those hon. Members who have expressed their views on the Bill. Yesterday also I explained the intention behind introducing this Bill. The intention is to formulate the conditions of service for fixing the salaries of these employees. It is correct that the Bill should have been introduced much earlier, but the intention of the Government is to pay good salaries to the workers of oil and natural gas industry, make available enough resources for oil exploration at new sites and to earn revenue for the public exchequer from them. It is a matter of pleasure that 12 out of 13 oil companies are working on these lines. The Government has made it clear in this Bill that the old workers working in the refinery, to whom Shri Indrajit Gupta, an hon. Member of the House has also referred in his speech, will be given protection so that they might not face difficulties. We are also seized of the matter that their number will decline substantially over the next 5-6 years. This is clear from the fact that this year alone, about Rs. 33.3 lakhs will have to be paid and in 1993-94, Rs. 2.2 lakhs are to be paid. Thus, gradually, they will be automatically

phased out, but at the same time, full care has been taken for their protection. At this point, I want to clearly state one thing that Bharat Petroleum is the product of amalgamation of two wings of Burmah Shell—Refining and Marketing. Now in refinery, there are 276 old employees, who are being governed by old conditions of service. There are 1864 new employees whose conditions of service and salaries are yet to be determined. In marketing wing, there are 136 old employees, who are working on old pattern of salaries. Most of them are posted in the clerical cadre in Bombay region. In this wing, there are 521 old employees, who are working on new conditions of service. Not 2,000 but 4,935 employees were recruited later on. We have reached settlement with them and dispute is only about 1864 employees. Their demand is that they should be governed by old conditions of service. But if their demand is accepted, we shall be creating anomaly in the company which has been set up on amalgamation of two companies. In addition, this will also create problems elsewhere.

The hon. Members have raised a few points. I would like to thank hon. Shri Ramaiah for supporting the Bill and at the same time advocating the case of the old employees. I have already stated that their rights will be protected by paying them personal pay. 521 old employees have already given their consent to be governed by the new conditions of service. Shri Pattnaik also stated the same thing and hence his point stands clarified. Shri Thomas said that the Government wanted to bypass the courts by introducing this Bill, but I would say that this is not true. The jurisdiction of the courts is clearly demarcated. They are to interpret the law. It is for the Government to formulate laws for the employees, according to the time and in the interest of the companies and the nation.

[English]

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS (Mavelikara) : Are you aware of the Supreme Court's decision ?

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT : I am aware of every thing. We are following every-

[Shri Brahma Dutt]

thing. But it is the right of this Parliament. It is within the powers of this Parliament to formulate certain new laws according to the new circumstances. I appeal to you to appreciate the circumstances. If this Bill is not approved, this will lead to a chain effect and so many other things.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Why did you not change it all these years ?

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT : Better late than never.

[Translation]

Shri Indrajit Gupta has made a point, and my submission is, that the Government is not assuming the power of legislation but that to formulate a new scheme. We have also made this provision that when ever the new scheme is formulated, it will be brought before both the Houses of the Parliament. At that stage, if any hon. Member wants to bring any amendment, it will be duly considered.

This morning only, we met a delegation of the employees and we told them too, that whenever a scheme is formulated, they will be consulted and we have always had talks with them. It has been so ever since 1976 when we initiated the scheme. We had reached a settlement in 1987 effecting an increase of Rs. 100. In 1984, an increase of Rs. 150 to 450 was effected. Still the High Court has held that the old rate should be brought into effect w.e.f. 1.7.87 and we are complying with this. We do not intend to by-pass the orders of the court but we want that it should be in accordance to the present situations and no disparity is created in this regard. We want to bring in a proper legislation. I fully agree with the point raised by Prof. Ranga. I have already mentioned that the interests of the old workers have been duly considered and they will be protected by giving them the benefit of personal pay. Shri Datta Samant is associated with some employees' unions in the industry. He mentioned that a settlement was made and the workers have been working on breach of trust. I would

like to quote Clause 4 of the settlement, for your kind information—

[English]

“It is hereby mutually agreed that both the parties shall have the right to continue existing legal proceedings or seek further legal remedies up to the highest level, with regard to what wages, D.A. and other service conditions are or should be applicable to temporary workmen.”

So we are taking this to the higher forum of this country.

[Translation]

14.00 hrs.

At present, we are complying with the orders of the court. Shri Rawat has made a point that the INTUC Union workers have not been treated properly. The best policy in regard to the workers is :

[English]

“Let us do good to the greatest number.”

[Translation]

This is the best policy and we all have been demanding for equality and parity. I cannot assure complete parity at once but we are trying to bring in the maximum parity. I agree with whatever has been said by Shri Chintamani, Shri Jeevarathinam and Dr. Rajhans. I want to assure this House that whatever scheme is formulated, that will be a rationalised one and the interests of our old workers will be protected. We will also see that they are given the maximum possible benefits. But it would be inappropriate to say that since Bharat Petroleum or Hindustan Petroleum or I.D.C. are running in profit, therefore their wages should be increased accordingly. If this is done, the same situation will prevail there as is being faced by the Textile Industry in Bombay. We do not want to bring such a situation because we need money for research, exploration and development works and we also have to protect the interests of the workers. I have myself visited those places and met

the people there. They are being quite attractively paid according to the nature of their job. People working at Bombay High get a leave of 15 days to go home. In fact they work only for 15 days and get the full pay. We give them all the facilities because they undertake a very arduous and an extremely important job. I have myself seen all this. Had I been myself satisfied that this is not in the interest of the employees, I would not have brought this Bill. I myself have the same convictions as to which the hon. Members agree but it is my submission that whether it is socialism or any other progressive ideology, the basic thing is :

[English]

Let us go to the greatest number.

[Translation]

We have brought this Bill to protect it. Leave aside what was happening in Brahma shell or during the British period. If we are to follow the example of the British days in the other industries also, then you will see that it will create a dismal position. That we cannot do because the situation in those days was very horrible. Only a few people used to enjoy or avail all the facilities, while the rest of them i.e. 99 per cent people did not even get enough food to keep alive. Our effort is that everyone should get justice and there should be no unrest in the industry.

Dr. Datta Samant is associated with this and even Shri Indrajit Gupta's friends have a concern for the same. Hence all the concerned, all the hon. Members of the Parliament will get a chance at the time of the formulation of scheme and if we make a wrong scheme then you may bring amendments in it. It is no fault of mine that I have been trying to perform that task which should have been done much earlier.

With these words, I express my gratitude and request that you may appreciate the sentiments with which this bill has been brought. It has not been brought with an intention of doing any injustice to anybody or to hoodwink any body or else

to divest anybody with his powers. request that this Bill may be adopted.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill to empower the Central Government to determine the conditions of service of the officers and employees of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited and for matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take up Clause-by-Clause consideration of the Bill. The question is :

"That Clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 1, Enacting Formula, Preamble and Long Title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, Enacting Formula, Preamble and Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI BRAHM DUTT : I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY
AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SHEILA
DIKSHIT) : Sir, may I request that the
Resolution to be moved by Shri Rajesh