

18.04 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

THIRTIETH REPORT

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH): Sir, I beg to present the Thirtieth Report of the Business Advisory Committee

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Suppose Mr. Ramavtar Shastri, anything is in your name, would you agree to such a situation? He has got a chance and it is not proper to postpone it. It is there in the Agenda. Therefore, I am calling Shri Digvijay Sinh.

18.05 hrs.

DISCUSSION RE. NEED TO DEVELOP INDIAN OCEAN

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH (Surendranagar): Sir, it is the first time that we are raising a discussion on such an important matter comprising so many subjects concerning the Ocean and specially the Indian ocean in which we live. From the various subjects that I have mentioned in my 193 discussion, you will bear with me when I say that it comprises almost all the topics of interest specially those for which perhaps uptill now not much attention has been given. Neither we have paid much attention; nor have we gone into deeper studies in understanding and realising the manifestations of our Ocean. Traditionally an ocean is a vast expanse of either an empty area or an area of vast amount of marine fish resources to be tapped as and when and as much as we like or some of us who may be concerned about the international politics may look at the Ocean from the Defence point of view. But ocean is a living entity. The ocean is a part of this globe. We the living beings of this globe being as much dependent upon the ocean as we are on the land is a concept that perhaps most of us have not really appreciated. It is an endeavour made by this House to read this debate, so that not only we who represent the people of India in this House understand

the importance of the ocean in which we live, but also the media and through the media the whole of the nation appreciates what the ocean stands for. Mind you, Sir, traditionally and mythologically we have all heard of the story of Samundra Manthan, where you had the Devas and the Asuras. The Asuras perhaps mythologically speaking were those who destroyed, polluted and exploited and ransacked the ocean and the Devas were those who tried to conserve it for posterity. So, we do have that tradition, we do have that belief, but in the modern context, unless we rise and appreciate the importance of the oceans, the concept that the oceans are infinite, and will continue, therefore it needs a debate here.

Sir, the Indian Ocean in which we live is one of the most important and one of the largest in the world. We have all around the Indian ocean countries from Africa, South East Asia, West Asia, Australia and Indonesia and of course, India itself. Indonesia, I remember, some years back used to claim the Indian Ocean as the Indonesian Ocean. That is the importance of the Indian Ocean. To the south of the Equator, rather to the south of Africa, you have the whole of the Southern Ocean, which forms an extension of the Indian Ocean. So, the area is vast and when you talk of the Southern Ocean it is a vast untapped mass of unexplored, unexploited resources. I was reading in some Times magazine that today the total exploitation of fish resources in the southern ocean is somewhere around 14 to 15 thousand tonnes. But they say that the whole of Southern Ocean is so rich that in the years to come, we expect to catch something like 60 million tonnes of Krill only. And the Krill itself in the years to come will probably be one of the most important protein source for the whole world. This is the scope of what we are talking about, viz. Indian Ocean.

As we all know, around the continents, we have the continental shelves. And these continental shelves, as far as the marine bio-mass is concerned, are very rich. Maybe in the years to come—it is an exciting thought—there may be qua-