

State matter. The slum has become a big part of every city that a National slum Board or a National Slum policy would have to be enunciated and I would like the House to discuss this very urgent matter next week. I hope the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs will take note of it.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICA-TIONS (SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH): Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Members for their valuable suggestions. I will put these suggestions before the Business Advisory Committee.

AN HON. MEMBER: When?

SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH: The Hon'ble Speaker will constitute the Committee and it will be done tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: It will be constituted tomorrow morning. I had called a meeting yesterday of all the Group leaders and I have asked for the names to be included in the Business Advisory Committee. I think that the Committee will be duly constituted.

Now, Shri P. C. Sethi to make a Statement.

श्री आरिफ मुहम्मद खान (कानपुर): अध्यक्ष महोदय, इससे पहले कि मंत्री महोदय वक्तव्य दें, मैं बिजनेस के बारे में एक सुझाव रखना चाहता हूँ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय: आप इस तरह सुझाव नहीं दे सकते हैं। आप लिखकर दीजिए।

Give it to me in writing. You are welcome to do it any time.

12.05 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. GAS FIND IN OFFSHORE MID TAPTI

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): Sir, I am happy to announce that natural gas has been discovered by ONGC in an offshore structure called Mid Tapti. The structure is about 20 Km NW of South Tapti structure in the complex of Tapti structures on

the western margin of the mouth of the Gulf of Cambay.

ONGC has recently drilled an exploratory well on Mid Tapti structure to a depth of 2400 m. The well is currently under testing. During the testing of two horizons recently, a good flow of gas was observed. The full potential of gas in the well will be known after the complete testing of all the horizons in the well. The full potential of the structure will be known after some more assessment wells are drilled.

However, in view of the proximity of the **gas bearing south Tapti** structure, the new discovery brightens the prospect of a **commercial gas field** in the complex of Tapti structures.

12.07 hrs.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (RAILWAYS), 1979-80.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI KAMLAPATI TRIPATHI): I beg to present a statement showing Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget (Railways) for 1979-80.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) BILL*

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1950, and the Representation of the People Act, 1951 to provide for the readjustment of assembly constituencies in the State of Sikkim.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1950, and the Representation of the People Act, 1951, to provide for the readjustment of assembly constituencies in the State of Sikkim."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: I
introduce the Bill.

STATEMENT RE REPRESENTATION
OF THE PEOPLE (AMENDMENT)
ORDINANCE, 1979.

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE
AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P.
SHIV SHANKER): I beg to lay on the
table an explanatory statement (Hindi
and English versions) giving reasons
for immediate legislation by the Re-
presentation of the People (Amend-
ment) Ordinance, 1979.

12.09 hrs.

PREVENTION OF BLACKMARKET-
ING AND MAINTENANCE OF
SUPPLIES OF ESSENTIAL COM-
MODITIES BILL*

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE
AND STEEL AND MINES & CIVIL
SUPPLIES (SHRI PRANAB MUK-
HERJEE): I beg to move for leave
to introduce a Bill to provide for de-
tention in certain cases for purpose of
prevention of blackmarketing and
maintenance of supplies of commodi-
ties essential to the community and
for matters connected therewith.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIREN GHOSH (Dum Dum):
I oppose it. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have got with me
the names of Members who want to
oppose the Bill at the introduction
stage. I will now call them. They
may please be precise.

SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM (Sasaram):
Let the motion be moved first. The
motion is not before the House.

MR. SPEAKER: He has moved the
motion. Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond
Harbour): Sir this pernicious ordi-
nance was promulgated in October,
1979 and since the . . .

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY (Krishna-
giri): As rightly pointed out by

Babuji, the motion is not before the
House. How can he raise the objec-
tion at this stage the motion has not
been moved since it is not the pro-
perty of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is be-
fore the House. Motion moved:

"That leave be granted to intro-
duce a Bill to provide for detention
in certain cases for the purpose of
prevention of blackmarketing and
maintenance of supplies of commodi-
ties essential to the community and
for matters connected therewith."

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond
Harbour): In the Statement of Objects
and Reasons, it is stated:

"Although the Essential Commodi-
ties Act, 1955 made comprehensive
provisions for the regulation of pro-
duction, supply, distribution, prices
and trade and commerce in com-
modities declared essential under
the Act and although the penal pre-
visions in the Act were made more
stringent in accordance with the re-
commendations of the Law Com-
mission in their Forty-seventh Re-
port, it was found not adequate to
deal with situation."

Can you imagine a Government as
helpless as this? I will cite an exam-
ple. This Ordinance was promulgated
in October, 1979 and good three
months have passed and during these
three months, the price rise has been
phenomenon, one of the highest in re-
cent times. The Ordinance has not
worked. Therefore, this preventive
detention Act is not going to deliver
the goods. Unless there is a real po-
litical will to suppress blackmarketing
and profiteering by those who are
financing all this big bourgeois poli-
tical parties, the objectives, cannot be
achieved. . . . (Interruptions). What
happened? When COFEPOSA was
enacted, a circular came from the
then Prime Minister's Secretariat in
1976, if I remember correctly—if you
want, I can get a copy—in which it
was stated that no action should be