

15.53 hrs.

**BURMAH OIL COMPANY  
[ACQUISITION OF SHARES  
OF OIL INDIA LIMITED AND  
OF THE UNDERTAKINGS IN  
INDIA OF ASSAM OIL COM-  
PANY LIMITED AND THE  
BURMAH OIL COMPANY  
(INDIA TRADING) LIMITED]  
BILL**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now we come to the next item. Shri P. C. Sethi.

THE MINISTER OF PETRO-  
LEUM, CHEMICALS AND FER-  
TILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI) :

I beg to move\* :

"That the Bill to provide in the public interest for the acquisition of the shares of Oil India Limited held by "The Burma Oil Company Limited" and for the acquisition and transfer of the right, title and interest of the Assam Oil Company Limited and "The Burma Oil Company (India Trading) Limited" in relation to their undertakings in India and thereby to secure that the ownership and control of crude oil and gas produced by Oil India Limited, and of crude oil, gas and petroleum products produced by the undertakings in India of the Assam Oil Company Limited and of petroleum products marketed and distributed by the said undertakings and the undertakings in India of "The Burma Oil Company (India Trading) Limited" are so distributed as best to subserve the common good, be taken into consideration."

Sir, in this connection, I would like to remind the hon. Members that as early as in 1974 Government declared their intention of acquiring effective control over the oil industry—both in the refining and marketing sectors as well as in the exploration and production of crude oil.

The first step in this direction was taken in March, 1974 when we acquired the assets and operations of

ESSO in India. Thereafter, in January, 1976 we acquired the assets and operations of Burma Shell in India and in December 1976 the assets and operations of CALTEX in India. The only foreign oil company in the areas of oil exploration and oil refining now operating in India is the Burma Oil Company through its wholly owned subsidiaries—the Assam Oil Company and Burma Oil Company (India Trading) Limited and its ownership of 50 per cent shares in Oil India Limited.

As hon. Members are aware, the Assam Oil Company is engaged in the production of oil and in refining and marketing of petroleum products. Its refinery has a capacity of 0.53 million tonnes per annum; although it is the oldest refinery in India, it is the only refinery producing paraffin wax of which the country continues to be short. The Burma Oil Company (India Trading) Ltd., another wholly-owned subsidiary of BOC was engaged in the marketing of petroleum products till 1965. Thereafter the marketing activities were transferred by it to the Assam Oil Company on a rental basis. The Oil India Limited in which the Burma Oil Company and Government have each 50% shares, is engaged in the exploration of and production of crude oil and gas.

15.56 hrs.

[SHRI HARINATHA MISRA *in the Chair*]

Negotiations started with the Burma Oil Company several years ago in order that Government acquire 50% of the shares of Oil India Ltd. held by this Company and all their assets in their other undertakings in India, namely, the Assam Oil Company and the Burma Oil Company (India Trading) Limited. After protracted negotiations, it has been agreed, *inter alia*, that—(i) 50% shares of Oil India Ltd. and the assets and liabilities in India of the

\*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

Assam Oil Company and the marketing assets and liabilities of the Burmah Oil Company (India Trading) Ltd. will be acquired by the Government on payment of a total amount of Rs. 21.56 crores free of taxes. The entire amount has been agreed to be paid on or before 15th October, 1981, failing which simple interest at 8% per annum free of taxes would be payable from that date.

(ii) Although the physical transfer of the Oil India Ltd. shares and the undertakings will be effected from the date payment is actually made to Burmah Oil Company, the take-over will be deemed to be effective from 1st January, 1977.

As hon. members are aware, the purpose of the take-over is to bring this strategic industry under national control, not only because we think it should not be left in the hands of foreign companies but also because we consider that the optimisation of production and utilisation of crude oil and natural gas is of crucial importance to our economy. After the take-over, it will become possible to take suitable steps to optimise the production of crude oil and natural gas, the refining of crude oil and marketing of petroleum products.

The Bill provides for the transfer of the services of the existing employees of the Assam Oil Company and the Burmah Oil Company (India Trading) Ltd. to the Central Government or to the successor Government Company/Companies in which the rights and title and interest would vest after the take-over; the terms of the present service conditions will stay till they are duly altered.

We consider that the consideration we have negotiated and agreed upon are in the public interest. I therefore, commend this Bill for the consideration of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved :

"That the Bill to provide in the public interest for the acquisition of the shares of Oil India Limited

held by "The Burmah Oil Company Limited" and for the acquisition and transfer of the right, title and interest of the Assam Oil Company Limited and "The Burmah Oil Company (India Trading) Limited" in relation to their undertakings in India and there by to secure that the ownership and control of crude oil and gas produced by Oil India Limited; and of crude oil, gas and petroleum products produced by the undertakings in India of the Assam Oil Company Limited and of petroleum products marketed and distributed by the said undertakings and the undertakings in India of "The Burmah Oil Company (India Trading) Limited" are so distributed as best to subserve the common good, be taken into consideration."

SHRI T. R. SHAMANNA  
(Bangalore South) : I beg to move :

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 31st October, 1981."(1)

SHRI R. P. DAS (Krishnagar) :  
Sir, I rise to support the Bill generally. But I am sorry I cannot extend my unqualified support to it. Therefore, I have some observations to make.

As far as the ownership and control over a significant portion of oil, gas and petroleum products and the proposal for taking over the shares of Oil India Ltd. and for taking over the right, title and interest of the Assam Oil Company and the Burmah Oil Company (India Trading) Limited are concerned, it is more or less justified. These two companies are the subsidiaries of the Burmah Oil Company Limited, a foreign company incorporated in the U.K. in 1889.

16 hrs.

But nationalisation of these two companies together with other foreign companies, did not take place. Now these two companies are going to be taken over together with the

[Shri R.P. Dass]

Oil India Limited. With this take-over the entire oil industry will now come under the direct control of the Government of India. So far so good.

The Government after a long and protracted negotiation with the company, has come to a decision that it will pay Rs. 21.56 crores to the company as compensation. The amount will be free from taxes. The company may remit the entire amount to UK in pound sterling. It has further been decided that if the payment is not made on or before 15th of October, 1981, it should carry a simple interest, free from taxes, at the rate of 8 per cent per annum. Does it sound like a good proposal or agreement? Is it not an abject surrender of the Government of India to a foreign company so far as the payment of compensation is concerned? The company has so far appropriated or in other words, mis-appropriated hundreds of crores of rupees from this country to their own over the years. It is also learnt that long and protracted negotiations have at last come to an end and the Government at long last, has offered this amount. Initially during negotiations the Government offered only Rs. 9 crores to the company. But the company refused that amount. After that the Government decided to pay Rs. 21.56 crores which could be converted into pound sterling. Besides that, the Government has also agreed to pay all the borrowings and meet all the other liabilities including taxes which the company had to pay and which the company had incurred before acquisition. This is a part of the story. We do not know the other part, the amount that the company had borrowed from the banks and other sources. The exact amount of liabilities that the Government had to incur with acquisition is also not known to us. If it is calculated, I am sure it will run into crores of rupees. Who

will pay this amount? Naturally, the answer is that the tax-payers will pay the burden of nationalisation. Government have taken over the liability of the two companies prior to acquisition not only for the borrowings but also for the payment of tax. I would like to know the total amount to be paid as compensation in the name of nationalisation. Is it not like the policy of appeasement of their foreign bosses? If not, what else is it? Therefore, the Government should make it clear to the House as to what is the actual amount that we have to spend from our national exchequer, because it appears that the Government have been concealing from the House some facts in regard to the total payment to the company.

Let us see the assets and the total turnover of the *Burmah Oil Company (India Trading) Limited* and the *Assam Oil Company*. For the *Burmah Oil Company (India Trading) Limited* the value of assets in India is Rs. 19.28 lakhs and the turnover Rs. 95.66 lakhs as on 31-3-78. For the *Assam Oil Company* limited the value of assets in India is Rs. 18.36 crores and the turnover Rs. 90.21 crores as on 31-3-78. These figures show how the companies have earned and remitted hundreds of crores of rupees to UK for years over, leaving the country poorer and poorer. The *Burmah Oil Company*, one of the two companies, started its business in India with a humble investment of not more than a few lakhs of rupees in 1889 and has succeeded in earning fantastic sums of money by way of profits which it remitted to its home country. Is this not enough to forfeit the right for any compensation? So, I would request the House to think twice over before it agrees to the quantum of compensation fixed in the Bill for these two companies.

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : Mr. Chairman, at the very outset, I take this opportunity to convey my hearty thanks to the hon. Petroleum Minister for

bringing forward this Bill to remove the last vestiges of the rights and control of the British people in the field of oil in India. While thanking him, I would like to raise certain points, not by way of criticism but just by way of eliciting clarifications, in order to protect the interests of our country, as well as those of the employees of the Assam Oil Company, who have served the Company for such a long time.

I fully agree with the hon. Minister and totally disagree with the hon. Members of the opposition who, for the sake of opposition and criticism, want to say that the amount of compensation fixed is not correct. I know it for a fact that the negotiations took a long time and Government have taken all possible care to protect the interests of the country.

I want to make only one suggestion in regard to the payment of compensation in foreign exchange. Since our country is now asking for foreign collaboration in various fields, including oil exploration, as well as funds from foreign countries for starting various industries, could we not ask this Company to re-invest that money in our country, because they have already taken more than the amount of compensation which is going to be paid, by way of profit from our country. So, this particular point should be considered by the Minister and I am sure he will look into it.

Secondly, as the hon. Minister has very rightly said, and I fully agree with him that this Assam Oil Company base which was leased out to this foreign firm has got tremendous possibilities of crude oil exploration as well as gas. But after 1947 this Company was in a fix as to whether they will be allowed to stay here and whether they will be allowed to do their business in the manner they were doing in the past. As a result, the development work of these areas was very slow. So, I

would request the hon. Minister to take all possible steps, as he has taken in other fields in other parts of the country, to explore all possibilities to find out more crude oil and utilise the gas which is produced there and also to see the possibility of extending the present NEFA area into a bigger base. The crude oil in Assam which is now being taken out and the expansion which is taking place in various parts can easily justify the expansion of a refinery. To have another refinery Government may consider. Time and again there is a pressure from Assam and North Eastern region for it. But I personally feel that this Assam Oil Refinery has got tremendous possibilities of expansion. If its capability is expanded with a little capital expenditure, you can get more return and save our foreign exchange spent in buying crude oil from other parts of the world.

In the Bill which has been introduced, we have seen that all possible care has been taken to give protection to the employees. But there is a fear complex amongst the employees. The Assam Oil Company which was originally a British Company and which is still a foreign company, the pay scales there are a bit better than those of the Indian Oil Corporation and other Indian oil companies. When Government is taking this over, there is a general disparity in the service conditions between the existing staff and the incoming staff. So, the Government should take care about it, as very rightly the Minister protected their interests and ensured that the interests of these employees who have put in service for years in getting pension and gratuity and other things are not affected in any way because though they worked in the foreign company, they served our country and so all protection should be given, specially in the field of gratuity. I know certain companies which have been taken over by Indians, not by the Government but by private firms, where the British companies

[Shri Sontosh Mohen Dev]

in terms of their contract agreed to pay gratuity to employees getting a salary of more than Rs. 1,000/p.m. The Indian Gratuity Act says that the people getting a salary of more than Rs. 1,000/- will not get gratuity and consequently, they have gone to the court. These are very small things from the point of view of the Government. But if the people serving the Company for 30 years or 40 years are deprived of their legitimate rights, that will be a very bad thing for us.

I would also request the hon. Minister for one thing. I am a man from Assam and I know the Assam Oil Company. In respect of this Assam Oil Company, before the Government of India took certain steps and gave some guidelines for giving agency to petrol pumps in Assam, we had seen one or two particular families owning 40 to 50 petrol pumps in the names of X, Y, Z. — I do not want to name them in this House. I think it will not be proper to do so, but the Government should see that these agencies are not given to a particular group of people. According to the present guidelines, the unemployed youth, the Scheduled Castes, the Ex-Servicemen and such others are entitled to get the petrol pumps and as such the Government should review the whole situation in respect of allotment of petrol pumps (40 or 52 in number) which have been given to particular families and give agencies to those people who deserve them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why not inform the Minister through a personal letter.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Personal letters are always replied to looking to the.... (*interruptions*). It is better to say on the floor of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: How will he know?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN

DEV: In the past when I requested to give rigging machines for Cachar, he has given for oil exploration in Cachar District. I have the experience whenever we say something, there is one Minister who takes care of it. That is why I am taking the liberty to say that timely action may be taken.

In Assam Oil Co. there is another funny thing. Minister is more experienced in this. In Assam there are dealer—run petrol depots. The Indian Oil Co. agents are getting petrol against cheque facilities or against bank drafts, these dealers are getting petrol supply on consignment basis. Even a depot at Dharam Nagar until recently was run by a dealer of the Assam Oil Co. and not by the Company. Those things Minister should look into.

After this Bill has come and negotiations have been going on, we have been seeing that certain officers of the Assam Oil Co. have been creating a lot of complications. Considering all this I would like to ask—is Government sure about the assets and liabilities i.e. are assets more than the liabilities or the liabilities are more than the assets in the case of all the three subsidiaries of the Assam Oil Co.?

After this Bill negotiations have been going on. Many shabby things have taken place in the Assam Oil Co. I have full faith in the Minister. I would request him to take care of all these things and to see that these points are taken care of. Before the settlement of claims with suppliers and dealers, Government should give special care to all these things. There is a tendency to give many things which the dealers and contractors do not deserve.

With these words I congratulate the Minister for bringing this Bill. I am sure that the points raised by me will be taken special care of.

श्री राजेग कुमार सिंह (फिरोजा-वाद) : सभापति महोदय, यह बिल तो बहुत पहले ही आ जाना चाहिए था। आयल एण्ड नैचुरल गैस कमीशन 1959 में बना था। इस लिए इस बिल का स्वागत करने के लिए बड़ा इन्तजार किया गया। लेकिन यह जो बिल आया है, वह बड़ा लुटिपूर्ण है। सरकार ने इस कम्पनी को 21.56 करोड़ रुपये देने की बात कही है, और वह भी फ्री आफ टैक्सिज। इसके अलावा क्लॉज 10(2) में यह भी कहा गया है :—

“Where the amount specified in sub-section (1) is not paid or before the 15th day of October, 1981, it shall carry simple interest, free of taxes, at the rate of eight per cent per annum from that date, till the date of its payment.”

पता नहीं, सरकार ने यह किस खुशी में दे दिया है। मंत्री महोदय को मालूम है कि आयल इंडिया लिमिटेड में इन कम्पनियों का क्या शेयर था। उसका एथाराइज्ड पेड-अप कैपिटल 50 करोड़ रुपये था। इन दोनों ने एक हजार रुपये प्रति-शेयर के हिसाब से 28 करोड़ रुपये कॉन्ट्रीड्यूट किया। इन दोनों का शेयर बराबर था। इस तरह सिर्फ 14 करोड़ रुपये होता है, लेकिन सरकार ने 21 करोड़ रुपये दे दिया है।

जहां तक आसाम आयल कम्पनी का सम्बन्ध है, श्री संतोष मोहन देव ने बताया है कि उसकी हालत खस्ता है। उसका 80 बरस पहले का एक डिग्वाय आयल फोल्ड है, जिसकी हालत बहुत खराब है। वहां पर जहां पहले 1 लाख टन पर ऐनम, प्राइक्शन था, आज 40,000 टन से भी कम है। जिस स्थिति में सरकार ने इस कम्पनी को लिया है, उसको देखते हुए उसे नया इन्विपमेंट

लाना पड़ेगा और नया एक्सप्लोरेशन भी कराना पड़ेगा। फिर प्राइक्शन के लिए भी कुछ उपाय करने पड़ेंगे। बहरहाल उस में बहुत खर्च और लागत की बात है। मैं इसलिए यह चर्चा करना चाहता हूं कि क्या आप ने निगोशिएशन करते वक्त इन बातों पर गौर किया था ?

फिफथ फाइव ईयर प्लान के अन्दर 118.28 करोड़ का आउटले आयल इंडिया लिमिटेड की बेरियस ऐक्टिविटीज के लिए एनविजिज किया था जो कि 174.39 करोड़ हो गया था जिस में 34.29 करोड़ 1975-76 में और 38.78 करोड़ 1976-77 में खर्च हुआ। मैं यह इसलिए कह रहा हूं कि आप ने जब निगोशिएशन किया होगा तो इन बातों को मद्दे नजर रख कर ही निर्णय लिया होगा। 1971 में जो कम्पनी के एकाउंट्स थे उन के बारे में यह कहा गया कि Since 1971, all accounts of the Company are being treated as provisional because of varying interpretation of agreement clause. उस के बारे में कोई सफाई नहीं थी, इसलिए कम्पनी को बड़ा लाभ हुआ। कम्पनी का 1971 में तो कोई फाइनल बलेंस शीट नहीं था और कम्पनी ने आप से डिमांड किया 13 परसेंट, आप के आफिशियल्स ने इंटेरिम डिविडेंड 9 परसेंट देने की बात कही और आप ने 7 परसेंट दिया। तो उस वक्त ही इस कम्पनी को इतना पैसा पहुंच चुका था कि कम्पनी को दोबारा कम्पेन्सेशन देने की कोई आवश्यकता नहीं पड़ती थी। यह सारा पैसा देश का पैसा है और इतने दिनों से इस देश का पैसा यह कम्पनी विदेशों में ले जा रही है। उस के बावजूद आप इतना पैसा दे रहे हैं। इसलिए यह 14 करोड़ देने का तो कोई

[श्री राजेश कुमार सिंह]

श्रीचित्य कहीं नहीं दिखाई दे रहा है। कम्पनी की इस सारी स्थिति पर और इन सारे मुद्दों पर आप ने अवश्य विचार किया होगा। फिर भी जो यह पैसा दिया जा रहा है उस से मैं कतई सहमत नहीं हूँ। बाकी बात आप की सही है कि विदेशी कम्पनियाँ जो देश में काम कर रही हैं, बहुत पहले देश की आर्थिक स्थिति में उन्होंने सहयोग किया होगा लेकिन उस से ज्यादा पैसा वह विदेशों में ले जा चुकी हैं, ऐसी जो भी कम्पनी है उस को सरकार को अपने हाथ में लेना चाहिए, इस में कोई दो राय नहीं हो सकती। लेकिन कम्पेन्सेशन देने में यह अवश्य देख लेना चाहिए कि हम जो दे रहे हैं वह इतना तो नहीं दे रहे हैं जितना कि हमें नहीं देना चाहिए और उस में कहीं ज्यादा प्यार और मोहब्बत वाली बात नहीं होनी चाहिए, इतना ही मैं कहना चाहता हूँ।

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY (Nizamabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I congratulate the hon. Minister for having brought forward this Bill. Just now, the hon. Member from the Opposition who initiated the debate said that the Minister has surrendered to the interests of this Company. I want to say that the Minister or this Government or this Party does not surrender to anybody except to the will of the people of this great country. In our constitution, it is clearly stated that we will not take over any property without paying any compensation. The Minister has rightly assessed the payable amount and has put the minimum amount to be paid to them.

In this connection, I would say that the Minister is taking so many steps in the matter of finding gas and oil. I want him to succeed in that work at an early date so that

the import of oil from other countries may be stopped completely.

With these words I support the Bill.

श्री सूर्य नारायण सिंह (बलिया) : सभापति महोदय, इस बिल का आम तौर पर मैं समर्थन करता हूँ। जैसा कि श्रीर माननीय सदस्यों ने कहा इस बिल को बहुत पहले ही आना चाहिए था। विदेशी कम्पनियों का राष्ट्रीयकरण करने के बाद ऐसी कुछ कम्पनियाँ बच गई थीं जो आज तक इस पेशे में लगी हुई हैं और उन्होंने अकूत मुनाफा कमाया है। आश्चर्य की बात है कि लगातार पिछले वर्षों में इस बात का संघर्ष चलता रहा है, माँगें होती रही हैं, कि तेल जैसे महत्वपूर्ण उद्योग में विदेशी स्वार्थों को बहुत पहले समाप्त हो जाना चाहिये था। हम इस बात को नहीं भुला सकते कि देश की आर्थिक आजादी को मजबूत करने के सिलसिले में तेल उद्योग का बहुत महत्वपूर्ण योगदान होता है। और हमारे देश में तेल उद्योग को विकसित करने के सिलसिले में इन विदेशी कम्पनियों ने हमारे सामने तरह तरह के अवरोध खड़े किये हैं वह हमें भली भाँति मालूम है। हम जानते हैं कि उस के लिये हमें कितना कठिन संघर्ष करना पड़ा है। लेकिन देर से ही सही इसका अधिग्रहण किया जा रहा है, यह स्वागत योग्य कदम है। लेकिन जैसा माननीय सदस्यों ने बताया ऐसी कम्पनी जिसने पिछले सालों में इस देश के विकास के क्षेत्र में बगैर कुछ इन्वैलपमेंट का काम किये और केवल इस उद्देश्य से कि उसका मुनाफा कैसे बढ़े भले ही उपयोग का विकास हो या न हो काफी मुनाफा कमाया है, उसके बाबजूद 21.56 करोड़ का कम्पेन्सेशन देने की क्या औचित्य है, यह बात हमारी समझ में नहीं आती। और सबसे बड़ी

हेरानी की बात है कि उसकी जो लाये-बिलिटीज हैं, चाहे उन्होंने कर्ज लिया हो या बकाया हो, इन सब को देने की जिम्मेदारी सरकार ने ले ली है। इसका स्पष्टीकरण नहीं हुआ, जैसा कि हमारे माननीय सदस्यों ने बताया है कि कितनी उसके ऊपर लायेबिलिटी हैं इसकी कोई चर्चा नहीं हुई। उनकी पूंजी कितनी कम थी और कितना मुनाफा कमाया और विकास के काम में उन्होंने कितना खर्चा किया, यह बताये बिना आप इतना भारी कम्पेंसेशन दे रहे हैं और लायेबिलिटीज और बकाया का भार अपने कंधों पर ले रहे हैं, यह सर्वथा उचित नहीं है। इस पर मंत्री जी को फिर से विचार करना चाहिये।

दूसरी बात यह है कि अधिग्रहण करने के बाद जो उनके कर्मचारी हैं उनको जो सहायितयें और सुविधायें मिलती रही हैं उन कम्पनियों के अन्दर उसमें किसी तरह की कटौती नहीं की जानी चाहिये, ऐसा मंत्री महोदय ने कहा है। लेकिन कई ऐसे इंस्टीट्यूट हैं इसी देश में जिन फारेन कम्पनियों का अधिग्रहण किया गया और उनमें जो भी सहायितयें मिलती थीं बाद में उनमें कटौतियाँ होने लगीं इस बात को ले कर काफी विवाद हुआ और औद्योगिक सम्बन्धों में गिरावट आयी। मैं समझता हूँ ऐसे महत्वपूर्ण उद्योग में कितना उत्पादन कर सकेंगे यह इस बात पर निर्भर करता है कि औद्योगिक सम्बन्ध कितने मधुर होते हैं। मैनजमेंट में हम कर्मचारियों की सहाय्यकारी देते हैं कि नहीं ताकि मैनजमेंट और कर्मचारी दोनों मिल कर सिर्फ औद्योगिक सम्बन्धों को सुधारने के सिलसिले में कारगर कदम उठाये बल्कि उत्पादन बढ़ाने के सिलसिले में एक आदर्श अनुशासन पैदा हो सके

इस उद्योग में जो दूसरों के लिये अनुकरणीय हो सके, इस बात को हमें सदा ध्यान में रखना है। हाँ हमें ऐसा अनुभव है, हमारे क्षेत्र में बरोनी फटिलाइजर का कारखाना है और वहाँ पैदावार काफी बड़ी और जो इन्स्टाल्ड कैपेसिटी है उस हिसाब से पैदावार बढ़ी। उसका कारण यही था कि वहाँ औद्योगिक सम्बन्ध अच्छे थे। जितने तरह के बाद-विवाद पैदा हुए उसका समाधान आपस में बैठ कर किया गया। लेकिन आज अगर जो सहायितयें और उपलब्धियाँ उनको पिछले दिनों में मिली हैं उस पर किसी तरह का आघात पहुँचा तो औद्योगिक विवाद बढ़ने से कोई नहीं रोक सकता, और यह दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण होगा इसलिये इस पर काफी सोच-विचार करने की जरूरत है।

अन्त में, मैं फिर इस बिल का समर्थन करता हूँ आमतौर से और इसको बहुत पहले आना चाहिये था। लेकिन देर से ही सही, इसको ला कर एक बड़ा कदम उठाया गया है। धन्यवाद।

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Harish Kumar Gangwar.

SHRI HARISH KUMAR GANGWAR (Pilibhit) : rise—

AN HON. MEMBER : He is not present.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do you mean to say that he is mentally absent ?

SHRI HARISH KUMAR GANGWAR : He cannot see the person standing here.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Chairman saw you allright. You do not care for others. The Chairman is vigilant.



श्री हरीश कुमार गंगवार : माननीय सभापति महोदय, मेरा सरकार से अनुरोध है कि जब राष्ट्रीयकरण से संबंधित कोई भी बिल हाउस में पेश किया जाए तो जिसका हम राष्ट्रीयकरण कर रहे हैं, उस के सम्बन्ध में कम से कम पिछले तीन साल के ऐसेट्स और लायबिलिटीज का लेखा-जोखा भी हमारे सामने होना चाहिए। उसकी स्थिति क्या है, उसका ज्ञान तो हमें होना चाहिए। आप यहां पर बिल प्रस्तुत कर देते हैं कि इतना देना है और लायबिलिटीज अपने सिर पर ओढ़ लेते हैं और यह कहीं नहीं बताते हैं कि उसकी स्थिति क्या थी, क्या हमें और देना पड़ेगा। उसकी हालत कैसी है, खसता हालत है या मजबूत हालत है। इससे पहले भी मारुति लिमिटेड के राष्ट्रीयकरण का सवाल आया; उसमें भी आपने कहीं नहीं दिया। अभी इससे पहले आपने ब्रिटिश इंडिया कारपोरेशन का नेशनलाइजेशन किया, लेकिन उसकी स्थिति के बारे में, नेशनलाइजेशन तो नहीं कहना चाहिए, उसका एक कदम है नेशनलाइजेशन की तरफ, आपने अपनी तरफ से कुछ नहीं दिया। हम लोग खोज-खोज कर लायब्रेरी से या अखबारों से, ला रहे हैं, तब कहीं जाकर आपको बता रहे हैं। यह आप क्यों छिपाते हैं।

श्री एम० राम गोपाल रेड्डी : वह हमारी आदत नहीं है, आप लोगों की आदत है।

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री (पटना) : आपकी आदत तो ज्यादा बोलने की है।

श्री हरीश कुमार गंगवार : आपकी आदत ऐसी बनी रहे कि आप सब चीजों को प्रकाश में लायें, यही तो हम चाहते हैं। आप एडमिट कर रहे हैं, लेकिन इसमें छिपा लिया है, तो फिर आगे आप क्या देखेंगे।

श्रीमन्, मेरा अनुरोध है कि कोई बात बीच में कही जाए, तो ऐसी कही जाए कि जिसका कोई मतलब हो, कोई मतलब निकलता हो। हम तो जो आप छिपा रहे हैं, वह निकाल रहे हैं, और हमें ही कह रहे हैं कि...

सभापति महोदय : कुछ निकला भी है।

श्री हरीश कुमार गंगवार : निकला है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछता हूँ कि इस कम्पनी का नेशनलाइजेशन करते समय, शेषसं अजित करते समय, उसका हिस्सा लेते समय, आपने क्या देखा और क्या पाया? मशीनस खराब हैं या नहीं, बिल्डिंग खराब हैं या नहीं, इन्होंने किसी से कर्जा ले रखा है या नहीं और आपको इसमें लाभ हो रहा है या नहीं? आपने उनको 21 करोड़ 56 लाख रु० की रकम देना स्वीकार कर लिया है। क्या नेगोशिएशनस थे, आपको कोई-न-कोई कागज तो इसके साथ रखना चाहिए था, जिससे हम लोग समझ लेते कि आखिर यह एक जनवरी, 1977 क्या चीज है, जिसे आप लागू कर रहे हैं। दूसरी बात यह है कि आप एक्वाइटेड-डे कह रहे हैं और सब जगह आप ऑर्डिनेंस से नेशनलाइजेशन कर लेते हैं या उन चीजों को ले लेते हैं, लेकिन इसमें ऐसी कौन सी खास बात थी, जिसमें आपने ऑर्डिनेंस नहीं निकाला? यदि इस बीच में कोई बर्गलिंग हो जाए, तो आप क्या करेंगे? श्रीमन्, जैसा कि बाहर लोगों में मेरी बात हुई है, वे कहते हैं कि इसमें पांच करोड़ रु० का आफिसरों के जरिए, इस कम्पनी के जरिए सौदा हुआ है।... (व्यवधान)... बाहर जो लोग कह रहे हैं, वही मैं कह रहा हूँ, हो सकता है कि वह झूठ हो।

सभापति महोदय : आप झूठ नहीं, असत्य कहिए।

श्री हरीश कुमार गंगवार : अच्छा, सही है। यह मेरा चार्ज नहीं है, रेविन्यू और की जनता जो आपके लिए वह रही है, वह

यह कह रही है कि पांच करोड़ रु० का इस महकमे ने उस कम्पनी से सौदा किया है। यह विदेशी कम्पनी है और इतना पैसा आप ले रहे हैं।

**आचार्य भगवान देव (अजमेर) :** इसी को कहते हैं, न बुद्धि न ब्रह्मचारी।

**श्री हरीश कुमार गंगवार :** बुद्धि ऐसी चीज नहीं है जिसका कोई इंजेक्शन बना हो। या कोई टेबलेट बनी हो। यदि होती तो मैं माननीय आचार्य जी को दे देता ताकि एक दम प्रचण्ड बुद्धि और पक्षपात रहित बुद्धि उन में आ जाय। . . . . (व्यवधान) . . . . मैं ईल्ड नहीं कर रहा हूँ।

**आचार्य भगवान देव :** अपनी बात करो, आप की बुद्धि जो कहे वही करो. . . .

**श्री हरीश कुमार गंगवार :** मैंने ईल्ड नहीं किया है. . . . आपने जो यहां किया है वह सारी दुनिया जानती है. . . .

**सभापति महोदय :** बुद्धि की बात छूट जाय, तो ठीक है।

**श्री हरीश कुमार गंगवार :** आपने बुद्धि की प्राकाश्या उस दिन कर दी थी, जिस दिन फोटो फाड़े थे।

अगर सब चीजें सामने आ जातीं तो जो लोग बाहर कहते हैं, उन बातों का एक्सप्लेनेशन मिल जाता और हम उनको रगड़ा सकते थे कि ऐसी बातें नहीं हैं। सारे प्रांकों दिए हुए हैं, सरकार ने जो किया है वह ठीक किया है। लेकिन सारी बातें सामने नहीं आई हैं, इसीलिये संशय हो रहा है और वह बढ़ रहा है। दूसरी बात मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि आपने आज तक जितनी कम्पनियों के राष्ट्रीयकरण किये, सही नीति लागू न करने के कारण उन सबका उत्पादन गिरा है, बढ़ा नहीं है। राष्ट्रीयकरण कर देना ही काफी नहीं है। राष्ट्रीयकरण के पश्चात् उस उद्योग के द्वारा अगर हम को आय नहीं हुई अधिक उत्पादन नहीं हुआ और

देश की अर्थ-व्यवस्था में उसका योगदान नहीं हुआ तो इस देश में खाली सरकारीकरण करने से काम नहीं चलेगा। इसलिये इन बातों की तरफ ध्यान दिया जाय। आपने बहुत सी कम्पनियों, बहुत से उद्योग-धन्धों का राष्ट्रीयकरण किया है और सरकारी तौर से अपने भी उद्योग-धन्धे लगाये हैं। लेकिन उनकी हालत क्या है? मैं यह नहीं कहता कि उनका राष्ट्रीयकरण नहीं होना चाहिये लेकिन उन नीतियों को अपनाना चाहिये, उस तरफ ध्यान दिया जाना चाहिये, जिससे राष्ट्रीयकरण के बाद उनमें उत्पादन बढ़े और देश की अर्थ-व्यवस्था में सुधार हो—इस बात को आप न भूल जायें। अब तक जो किया है, उससे तो ऐसा लगता है कि आप भूल गये हैं।

श्रीमन् मैं यह भी कहना चाहता हूँ कि असम में एक "टेकनीकल यूनिवर्सिटी आफ पेट्रोलियम" या इस तरह की कोई यूनिवर्सिटी खोली जाय जिससे खास तौर से असम के लोगों को इस विषय में तकनीकी ज्ञान हो सके। मेरा तात्पर्य यह है कि इसमें असम के स्टूडेंट्स को तकनीकी ज्ञान हो सके। मैं यह भी चाहता हूँ कि असम के बेरोजगारों को रोजगार देने के लिये किसी तकनीकी ज्ञान की नई पद्धति का विकास किया जाय।

इस अवसर का उपयोग मैं इसलिये भी करना चाहता हूँ कि आपने बहुत से स्थानों पर तेल की खुदाई के लिये काम शुरू कर दिया है लेकिन इसमें अब ऐसा लग रहा है कि उत्तर भारत में तो सारा खुदाई का काम बन्द कर दिया है तथा दक्षिण भारत में खुदाई शुरू कर दी है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि आपने ऐसा कौन से नीति के मातहत किया है कि उत्तर भारत को बिल्कुल छोड़ दिया है। जहां काम शुरू हो गया था, ड्रिलिंग का काम एक जमाने से हो रहा था, वहां ड्रिलिंग पूरा किए बगैर सब मशीनें उठा कर दक्षिण भारत में ले गए, आप ने काम को पूरा ही जाने दिया होता। मैं पीलीभीत से चुन कर आता हूँ— वहां तीन स्थानों पर खुदाई का काम होना

[श्री हरीश कुमार गंगवार]

था। वहाँ पर एक स्थान है—परैवा वेश, जहाँ आधी खुदाई करके ही छोड़ दिया, एक बार भी पूरी खुदाई नहीं की जब कि आप का कितना रूपया सड़कें बनाने पर दूसरे कार्यों पर, सारा इन्विपमेंट वहाँ ले जाने पर खर्च हुआ। दूसरे स्थानों पर तो छूआं तक नहीं, मशीनें वहाँ से हटा ली और ऐसा और स्थानों पर भी हुआ है। तो जो वहाँ के लोग हैं वे ऐसा कहते हैं। आप कहेंगे कि यह भी कहीं सुनी बात मैं कह रहा हूँ लेकिन अब वहाँ पर लोग ऐसा कहते हैं कि अब दक्षिण भारत में ही ड्रिलिंग हुआ करेगा चाहे वहाँ तेल निकले या न निकले। एक्सपर्ट्स ने जो यह कहा था और यह रिपोर्ट दी थी कि वहाँ से तेल निकलेगा, वह रिपोर्ट बिल्कुल बेकार हो गई। इस बात को आप खुद समझें, मैं इस के बारे में ज्यादा नहीं कहना चाहता। आप इस बात को देखें कि उत्तर भारत में जहाँ जहाँ खुदाई हो रही थी, वहाँ से उस को क्यों ट्रांसफर कर दिया गया दक्षिण भारत को और वहाँ पर आप ने खुदाई शुरू करवा दी।

श्री एम० रामगोपाल रेड्डी : सभापति महोदय, यह उत्तर और दक्षिण की बात कह कर उनमें झगड़ा कराने की बात कर रहे हैं ?

श्री हरीश कुमार गंगवार : आप दक्षिण के हैं या उत्तर के ।

श्री एम० रामगोपाल रेड्डी : मैं तो उत्तर का हूँ।

सभापति महोदय, एक भारत के बारे में सोचिए, उत्तर और दक्षिण भारत के बारे में नहीं।

श्री एम० रामगोपाल रेड्डी : उसके बारे में तो ये सोच नहीं सकते।

सभापति महोदय : ठीक है, उन का भी कि प्वाइन्ट है।

श्री हरीश कुमार गंगवार : यह कि रोग इन को ऐसा लग गया है कि उठते बैठते, ये बीच में टोकते हैं। मेरी समझ में एक रोग इन को लग गया है जो ये इस तरह से बीच में टोकते हैं। मैंने यह बात उत्तर और दक्षिण में झगड़े के लिए नहीं कही। मैंने तो यह कहा कि उत्तर भारत में जहाँ पहले खुदाई हो रही थी, वहाँ खुदाई बन्द हो गई है और वहाँ से सब सामग्री उठा कर दक्षिण भारत में इन्होंने भेज दी।

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA (Pali):  
Sir, I rise on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is it?

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA: Sir, this gentleman said that he belonged to North India. I think he belonged to South India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Excuse me.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: I am sorry. I belong to the whole of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You kindly resume your seat. Yours is neither a point of order nor a disorder but it is a point of confusion. You may continue.

श्री हरीश कुमार गंगवार : ये जस्ट बोर्न हैं नदरन इंडिया के। यह बात मैंने आप के सामने कही और मैं चाहता हूँ कि मंत्री जो इस पर ध्यान दें क्योंकि वहाँ के लोगों में इस चीज को लेकर बड़ा असंतोष है। करोड़ों रुपये खर्च करके वहाँ के लिए इन्विपमेंट्स लिए गए और वहाँ पर इस काम को करने के लिए सड़कें बनाई गईं और सब चीजों का विकास किया गया लेकिन अचानक बिना कारण ड्रिलिंग का सारा सामान वहाँ से भेज दिया गया जो लोगों में यह चिन्ता का विषय होगा ही।

मैं एक बात की ओर सरकार का ध्यान दिवाना चाहता हूँ। कभी-कभी जो एक्सपोर्ट्स बाहर से आते हैं और हम उन विदेशी एक्सपोर्ट्स से कहते हैं कि आप ट्रिलिंग करवाइये और देखिए कि कहां कहां तेल निकलेगा तो कभी कभी ऐसा लगता कि ये हिन्दुस्तान को तेल के मामले में सक्षम नहीं होने देना चाहते और इसलिए गलत राय देते हैं। तेल निकलने वाला हो, तो कह देंगे कि तेल नहीं निकलेगा और न निकलने वाला हो, तो कह देंगे कि तेल निकलेगा और इस तरह से आप का पैसा बेकार खर्च होता है।

**सभापति महोदय:** यह आप का जाती खयाल है, व्यक्तिगत खयाल है।

**श्री हरीश कुमार गंगवार:** मैं आप को उदाहरण देता हूँ। चीन ने रूस के एक्सपोर्ट लोगों की एक टीम प्रारम्भ में अपने यहाँ बुलाई थी और उस से कहा कि हमारे यहाँ देखिए कि कहां कहां तेल निकल सकता है। उस टीम ने काफी समय तक सर्वे करने के बाद कह दिया कि आप के यहाँ तेल नहीं निकल सकता है और उसके बाद चीन में वहीं से तेल निकला और अब वह सेल्फ सफोशियेंट है तेल के मामले में। मैं माननीय भन्नी जी को सिर्फ यह कहना चाहता हूँ, यह सुझाव देना चाहता हूँ कि इस बात को भी ध्यान में रखा जाए कि जब भी हम किसी से तेल निकालने के बारे में निगोशिएसन करे तो इस बात का ध्यान रखें कि कहीं ऐसा तो नहीं कि राजनीति के कारण हमारे देश को मजबूत न होने देने के लिए वे गलत राय तो नहीं दे रहे हैं। और गलत स्थानों का चयन करा रहे हैं और ठीक स्थानों का चयन नहीं होने दे रहे हैं। यह मोटी बात मैंने आपके सामने सिद्धांत रूप में रखी है। मैं नहीं कह रहा हूँ कि हिन्दुस्तान में भी ऐसा

हो रहा होगा। लेकिन इन बातों का ध्यान में रखा जाना चाहिए। मैंने चीन का उदाहरण दिया, वह बिल्कुल सही बात है। कई पेपर्स में आया था।

श्रीमन्, पहाड़ों में एक्सप्लोरेशन की बड़ी गुंजाइश है। अल्मोड़ा, गढ़वाल साईड में बहुत से ऐसे स्थान हैं, हिमाचल में ऐसे स्थान हैं जहाँ कि तेल निकल सकता है। पांच छः साल पहले गढ़वाल में सर्वे वगैरह आपने करवाया था लेकिन वह पूरा नहीं किया, बीच में ही खत्म कर दिया। मैं फिर से कहना चाहता हूँ कि आप हिमाचल से लेकर अल्मोड़ा साईड की बेल्ट में खुदाई की शुद्घात कराने की कोशिश कीजिए, वहाँ अनुसंधान कराइए, मुझे विश्वास है कि वहाँ आपको तेल जरूर मिलेगा।

श्रीमन् यह जो अपोइंटेड डे आपने लिखा है, जब आप आडिनेन्स जारी करते हैं तब तो यह साफ लिख देते हैं कि फलां दिन से लेंगे लेकिन इस में अपोइंटेड दिन कौन-सा होगा? मौत का दिन भी एक मोइयन होता है। यह अपोइंटेड डे इस में क्यों नहीं मॅशन किया जा रहा है कि इस तारीख से ले रहे हैं? क्या इस में भी कोई बंगलिय की गुंजाइश हो सकती है, तारीख घटाने और बढ़ाने में भी हो सकती? यह सबन आप से जानना चाहता है।

बाकी आपने राष्ट्रीयकरण के प्रति कदम उठाया। जैसा मैंने कहा कि जब कुछ नहीं रहता, सब कुछ खत्म हो जाता है तब आप इसके लिए कदम उठाते हैं। इस से पहले कदम नहीं उठाते। भविष्य में भ्रमवात आपको सद्बुद्धि दे कि आप समय पर कदम उठाएँ। इस से अधिक मैं क्या कह सकता हूँ।

[श्री हरीश कुमार गंगवार]

इन विचारों के साथ मैं आपको धन्यवाद देता हूँ कि आपने मुझे बोलने का समय दिया।

SHRI P. C. SETHI : Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Members who have participated in the debate. I think hon. Members from both sides as far as the nationalisation of the company is concerned have welcome the measure. They are some how or other—because of non-supply of detailed information—critical of the amount which is being paid as compensation.

Sir, I would like to point out in this connection that Mr. Das, Mr. Rajesh Kumar Singh and Mr. Surya Narayan Singh—all Members from Opposition—have supported the measure in the sense that the company is being nationalised. The last speaker, Mr. Gangwar, had nothing much to say about the nationalisation of company except that he was giving a random survey of his own thoughts. I was surprised about the type of attack that he made on the basis of hearsay. I would like to point out in this connection that as far as the take-over of the company is concerned since 1974 the Government of India's policy has been to nationalise practically all the oil companies and take-over the distribution in the public Sector. I have narrated in the beginning of my speech how in 1975-76 and in previous years we have taken over ESSO, Caltex, Burmah Shell etc. The policy which was followed in regard to compensation to be given to these companies, that is, ESSO, Caltex and Burmah-Shell, has been followed in this case also. It was left for some hon. Members to point out, why do you, a negotiated amount of settlement money and not pay a compensation which could be anything and because, a compensation to be paid,

could not be challenged in a court of law. Now, Sir, our policy as far as take over of any foreign company is concerned has been this. We are still in the process where we are nationalising some of the companies who have been working here. But at the same time—here I am not talking of other areas, but the area of oil alone—we have thrown open 32 blocks of the country for the foreign companies to come and explore. And therefore it would not be a desirable thing to do that we expropriate or decide the amount which is not reasonable for commensurate with what they should get. Now, it is true that some of these companies are old companies and have been established in India and because they were established companies according to the process of law they have taken away from here certain amount of money which accrued to them as a profit. Only because they have taken away some money which accrued to them as legal profit we cannot come to a conclusion that no compensation should be paid. Now, I would like to inform hon. Members that as far as the takeover of these companies is concerned Oil India Ltd. in which the Government and the BOC each hold 50% share is engaged in the exploration and production of oil for over 20 years and today produces about 3 million tonnes of crude oil and 1300 million cubic metres of natural gas per year. This clearly show even after functioning for 20 years this company is engaged in a work which has got great potential. In assessing the compensation the net worth of the company as on 1-1-77 has been taken into account to determine the value of the shares. Now, Sir, this date 1-1-77 is the cut off date which was decided upon. Negotiations for the take over of these companies was carried out even during the previous Government's time. But unfortunately that could not be decided upon as somehow the Assam Oil Company had number of litigation cases pending in the court. Therefore it was decided by the previous Government that it should

be linked with oil India takeover. And because the linkage was there in the take over of the Oil India shares, Burmah Oil Company (India Trading) and Assam Oil Company, the linkage created lot of difficulties because Assam Oil Company had number of litigation cases going on with regard to income-tax, other taxes and so on. And therefore, decision was taken, first of all, in this regard that there should be no linkage, and we should negotiate separately the take over of these companies. The Government was willing to take over and the foreign company also gave a helping hand, and they came for negotiations. So, Sir, this linkage was broken but ultimately, while negotiating it was found that while Oil India had lot of assets and practically no liabilities it would be proper that Assam Oil Company should not be left over and it should also be taken over simultaneously. And the companies agreed to this.

I will now go into details as to how this compensation was arrived at. Therefore, nothing would be hidden from the hon. Members. As far as compensation is concerned, I must first of all point out that this compensation negotiation was not done in the manner alleged by hon. Member Shri Gangwar who is not even present in the House to hear what I am going to say in reply to what he said. A committee consisting of the officers of the Ministry of petroleum, Ministry of Finance and Chairman of one of the petroleum companies, was appointed to go into this, wherein the Finance Advisor Mr. Klossa, the Petroleum Secretary Mr. Laveraj Kumar and officials of the Finance Ministry were present. This committee carried on negotiations. After the negotiations, there was a Cabinet Committee which went into the whole thing. The Cabinet Committee was headed by the Finance Minister, the Petroleum Minister, the Law Minister and 1 or 2 other colleagues. This Cabinet

Committee, along with all the officers from the Finance Ministry, Petroleum Ministry and other officers who were concerned with this, went into the whole thing. This is how this compensation was decided. I was not associated with any one of the company people. The whole discussion took place between this committee of officers and the company people. No Minister, including the Finance Minister or myself carried out any negotiation with regard to compensation which was to be paid to them. Therefore, it is surprising to hear such wild allegations as "Rs. 5 crores were negotiated."

AN HON. MEMBER : You need not reply to such silly allegations.

SHRI P.C. SETHI : It is all right. Originally, the claim of the BOC was Rs. 42.78 crores which, after negotiations, came down to Rs. 28.62 crores. And these Rs. 28.62 crores were for Oil India shares, assets and liabilities in India of Assam Oil and marketing assets and liabilities of BOC (IT).

16.58 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Even then negotiations were carried on ; and ultimately, it was decided that we should follow this procedure. There were Rs. 28 crores worth of shares of Oil India, of which their share was 50% Rs. 14 crores was the share of the Government of India. Therefore, Rs. 14 crores were payable to them, out of the share value. Then Rs. 1.66 crores, over and above this Rs. 14 crores, were to be paid to them as the premium, which brought the figures to Rs. 15.66 crores. Then, the interest from the cut-off date to the present (30-6-1981) at the rate of 8% came to Rs. 5.51 crores. Therefore, Rs. 21.10 crores were decided. Over and above this, the value of the unexpired concessions

[Mr. P. G. Sethi]

was Rs. 0'36 crores. So, Rs. 21'66 crores is the actual value which should have been paid to BOC. But instead of Rs. 21'66 crores which was the amount to be paid to BOC, the whole deal has been clinched at Rs. 21'56 crores which not only includes BOC (IT) but also the Assam Oil Company.

As far as Assam Oil Company's liabilities and assets are concerned, I would like to point this out for the benefit of the hon. Members, regarding the contingent tax liabilities and other claims dealt with in the computation of compensation. The gross contingent income-tax, excise and sales tax liabilities of AOC were earlier assessed at Rs. 4'92 crores. These were examined further in consultation with CBDT and CBEC. The official level group finally assessed these liabilities net of contingent assets at Rs. 2'73 crores. These were deducted from the net worth of the company for ascertaining the fair amount of compensation which came to about Rs. 5 lakhs.

17 hrs.

The AOC had also submitted the following further claims net of taxes :

	Rs. lakhs
(a) Reimbursement of additional costs on paraffin wax . . . . .	207
(b) C & F adjustment account . . . . .	133
(c) Reimbursement of additional refinery costs . . . . .	86
TOTAL . . . . .	426

The internal assessment of the Official Level Group deliberately did not take into account the above

claims of AOC which had been kept pending in view of the negotiations for the takeover. At least one for Rs. 53 lakhs (net of taxes) on account of the G & F Adjustment Account would have had to be conceded to the AOC in conformity with the policy followed for all other refineries, all of which are in the public sector.

Therefore, taking into account all these claims which were made by this company on the various tax grounds and the increase in prices which were incidental and came to crores of rupees and particularly in view of the fact that now the crude oil prices have been increased, if these negotiations had not taken place, perhaps we would have to pay much more higher amount to these companies that what we are paying today. Therefore, as far as Assam Oil Company is concerned, ultimately, the Assam Oil Company was settled for Rs. 10 lakhs and, therefore, the total figures of the Oil India and the Assam Oil Company and BOC (IT) comes to Rs. 21'56 crores. There is nothing which needs to be not shown to the house. We have come out with full facts and details.

\*With regard to the appointed date, this date will be notified by notification issued by the Government after passing of the Bill. Naturally, till the Bill was pending before the House—if it was an Ordinance, it was possible to give a date—but unless this Bill is passed by this House, this appointed date would not be given. Therefore, according to the agreement, after the Bill gets passed by both the Houses and gets the consent of the President, it will become the law; and then it will be by 15th of October which is the date which has been settled in the negotiation. Therefore, since the Parliament Session was going to commence and one did not know, since the last six or seven days, I had been waiting to see that the Bill

should come and ultimately it has come today. Therefore, this date was not given. There was no question of any bungling, as far as this date is concerned; the date is fixed. We wanted to do it before the 15th of October because by 15th of October we would like to finally settle with these companies payment and other things. Therefore, there is nothing about this.

Then one of the hon. members Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev who happens to come from the area where these things are lying there has raised a very valid point. He has probably supported this Bill and welcomed these measure. But he has raised certain points with regard to the development of the company, with regard to the problems which the employees are going to face, with regard to the old agencies and the practices which these companies are following. In this connection, I would like to point out that as far as the capacity of AOC's refinery at Digboi is concerned, he suggested that it should be expanded and there is a scope for a much bigger refinery in Assam. We are doing all our best to see that the refinery in Assam can be expanded. Therefore, we have already sent a team to Digboi to find out how much this AOC's refinery could be improved upon. A team from Engineers India Limited has already made a preliminary study to determine the improvement that can be effected in this; and this refinery particularly being a refinery of paraffin wax, therefore, we ourselves are keen to improve this refinery; and if possible, we can not only improve it but would certainly like to expand it also.

As far as the Digboi Oil field is concerned, it has an area of about 52 sq. kms. It was discovered in 1890. Over a thousand wells have been drilled, out of which, as on 31-3-1981, 418 wells were under production. The present production from this field is about 40,000 tonnes

per annum which according to one of the hon. Members, has come down. In our country when the wells are working for quite some time, it is possible that the rate of production of the well comes down. Then we have to see what recovery methods will have to be applied. In order to find out as to how this well can be recovered and whether by water injections or any other methods the wells can be improved upon. Now that the Government is taking over this Company, we will try to see that this field which is full of potential is fully utilised and developed.

As far as the employees are concerned, I would like to assure that all the employees of both the Companies will be taken over by the Government. Such of those employees who want to retire, after taking their pension, will be allowed to retire after taking the pension. As far as accrued pension and gratuity are concerned, they will be taken care of and there will be no problem. But it is possible in some companies, for example, when we took over the *Burmah Shell*, the *ESSO* and *Caltex*, we came across a situation where the employees of these Companies were being paid much higher salaries than what were being paid to our own employees. Therefore, they have to be brought on par whether it is in the refining division or in the distribution system and therefore it will have to be done sooner or later. The salaries and emoluments of these employees will have to be brought on par at the all-India level. We will start discussions with them and we will see that there is no tear-shedding as far as this transitional period is concerned.

Now, as far as agencies in that area are concerned, I may assure the hon. Members that we have already issued instructions to find out as to how many agents are there, because our policy is, if a family has got a petrol or *LIG* distribution agency, then no other member of the same family will get this additional facility either of petrol pump,



[Shri P. C. Sethi]

or kerosene dealership or LPG dealership. Therefore, we are trying to restrict even in this present situation, from one to one in a family and therefore we may go into the old records and if anything is outside the purview of this policy we shall try to change. With regard to new agencies, we have already issued instructions that 70 per cent of the new agencies would be in the reserved categories, 25 per cent for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and 10 per cent for unemployed graduates that is, 10 per cent for unemployed engineers, 15 per cent for physically handicapped, defence personnel and warwidows, and 10 per cent to freedom fighters and 30 per cent to open category. All these categories will be covered and the new agencies will be distributed according to this. Therefore, thirty per cent will be on the basis of... (*Interruptions*).

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : मंत्री महोदय ने अभी स्वतंत्रता-सेनानियों का नाम लिया है। अभी तक उनके लिए कुछ किया है या नहीं ?

श्री प्रकाश चन्द्र सेठी : स्वतंत्रता-सेनानियों के बारे में निर्णय लेने के बाद अभी पिछले महीने गैस की एजेन्सिज के लिए एडवर्टाइजमेंट्स दिए गए हैं और उनकी दरखास्तें आ रही हैं। वे प्रॉसेस हो रही हैं। होम मिनिस्ट्री से वैलिडिटी सर्टिफिकेट यह कि वे फ्रीडम फाइटर है—ग्रान्ते के बाद उन पर निर्णय किया जाएगा। उनके लिए 10 परसेंट कोटा निश्चित किया गया है।

bers have also given suggestions. For example, Mr. Ram Gopal Reddy has given a suggestion that oil exploration should be expedited. We are trying to do it; particularly in the Godavari basin and other offshore basins, we are doing it. I am going to Andhra Pradesh next month. I am also visiting certain parts of Rajasthan where oil exploration is going on, particularly Jaisalmer. We hope that oil exploration work will be taken up on a big scale.

Mr. Gangwar also gave us an advice. I do not know whether it is an expert advice or only an advice which normally comes. He said that foreign companies which are asked to survey normally do not want India to become self-sufficient. That is the story we have been telling. We have been telling it before 1956, when Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru took the decision that India had to find out oil and he invited USSR. USSR might not have been able to give a correct assessment of the situation in China, but there is difference between China and India. USSR gave us correct advice. It was with the advice given by USSR that new oil finds were made in Gujarat. At one time, when we started this work in collaboration with USSR, foreign companies, particularly of western countries, said that it is not wise for India to spend so much on oil exploration. At that time, those countries discouraged us saying that India has no oil. Now when we have found out oil and we have thrown open 32 blocks to foreign countries to come here for exploration and drilling, those companies from USA, Mexico, U.K., Italy—most of them from western countries—have come here and they are hopeful that oil will be found. Apart from that, we are not depending on those companies only. Vast areas of this country have been handed over to Oil India and ONGC and I am

Therefore, I would like to plead that with hon. Members that nothing has been left out, which we want to tell the House. Hon. Mem-

confident with their experience, expertise and dedication, they will strike oil. ONGC boys and engineers are striking oil from place to place. Because the oil finds are small, therefore I am not announcing it in the House. Oil has been struck in Nagaland. We have found new oil wells in Assam and also some new oil wells in Gujarat. Two days back I have announced a new oil find which appears to be quite substantial because only through a half inch choke, we got 1030 barrels in one day and that was only an exploratory well. This area where oil has been struck is about 80 sq. in aerial extent. Therefore, we are hopeful that oil will be found. I am sure—although nobody can forecast—that we will be able to find oil in Godavari basin also and it is possible that in a couple of days or after a month or so, I may be in a position to make some announcement.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : In Cauvery basin also.

SHRI P.C. SETHI : In Cauvery basin also. Therefore, with these words, I request the House to kindly pass this Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr Shamanna has moved an amendment to the consideration motion. Are you withdrawing it?

SHRI T.R. SHAMANNA : I would like to speak for 2 or 3 minutes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That stage is over. You cannot speak now. I shall now put Mr Shamanna's amendment to the vote of the House.

*Amendment No. 1 was put and negatived.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

“That the Bill to provide in the public interest for the acquisition

of the shares of Oil India Limited held by “The Burmah Oil Company Limited” and for the acquisition and transfer of the right, title and interest of the Assam Oil Company Limited and “The Burmah Oil Company (India Trading) Limited” in relation to their undertakings in India and thereby to secure that the ownership and control of crude oil and gas produced by Oil India Limited, and of crude oil, gas and petroleum products produced by the undertakings in India of the Assam Oil Company Limited and of petroleum products marketed and distributed by the said undertakings and the undertakings in India of “The Burmah Oil Company (India Trading) Limited” are so distributed as best to subserve the common good, be taken into consideration.

*The motion was adopted,*

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now we take up clause by clause consideration. In clauses 2 to 22 there are no amendments. The question is:

“That clauses 2 to 22 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was adopted.  
Clauses 2 to 22 were added to the Bill  
Clause 1, the Enacting Formula,  
the Preamble and the Title were  
added to the Bill.*

SHRI P.C. SETHI : I beg to move:

“That the Bill be passed.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is:

“That the Bill be passed.”

*The motion was adopted.*