

16.14 hrs.

*DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, 1977-78

—contd.

MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND MINISTRY
OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up discussion and voting on Demands Nos. 72 and 73 relating to the Ministry of Petroleum and Demand Nos. 11 and 12 relating to the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers for which 6 hours have been allotted.

Motion moved:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the Fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that

will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1978, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against Demands Nos. 72 and 73 relating to the Ministry of Petroleum".

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the Fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1978, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against Demands Nos. 11 and 12 relating to the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers".

Demands for Grants, 1977-78 in respect of Ministry of Petroleum and Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers submitted to the vote of Lok Sabha.

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant on account voted by the House on 30-3-1977		Amount of Demand for Grant submitted to the vote of the House	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM					
72.	Ministry of Petroleum	21,49,000	..	42,99,000	..
73.	Petroleum and Petro-Chemicals Industries	21,73,61,000	144,97,15,000	38,47,21,000	254,94,30,000
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS					
11.	Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers	14,35,000	..	28,71,000	..
12.	Chemicals and Fertilizers Industries	25,000	156,79,64,000	50,000	297,59,27,000

*Moved with the recommendation of the Vice-President acting as President.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members whose cut motions to the Demands for Grants have been circulated may, if they desire to move their cut motions, send slips to the Table within 15 minutes indicating the serial numbers of the cut motions they would like to move.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN (Arkonam): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am really glad that I have been asked to initiate the debate on the Demands relating to a Ministry which was in my charge in the past.

Sir, if you view our position with reference to the oil industry in the mid-fifties and if you consider the long way that we have travelled in these two decades and the stage that we have reached now, it will give cause for satisfaction to all concerned. Why I say so is because at times very irresponsible talk is indulged in as if nothing has been done in the past thirty years.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (**SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA**): Nobody says so.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I know that the hon'ble Minister will not be a party to that and, as such, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the strides that the oil industry has made in these two decades. Twenty years ago we were absolutely dependent on foreign capital, foreign know-how and foreign technicians to get our oil. Earlier to that we were importing all our petroleum products. Then in the mid-fifties the three foreign refineries were allowed to be set-up in this country. Now, we have reached a stage where we have attained almost self-sufficiency. When I use the word 'self-sufficiency' I do not use it in terms of quantum of the product but 'self-sufficiency' in the skills, technical know-how and capability that we have attained. We have reached almost a stage of self-sufficiency and we are in a position to build refineries

in other countries, as well. During the past year and earlier it was possible for us to nationalise these three foreign refineries—the multi-nationals—which loomed large in the minds of the Members of this House and the country. And when you see that these multi-nationals in the oil-field have been quietly removed from the country, you can evaluate the achievement that went with such a thing. Now, almost the entire oil industry including refining is in the public sector. There is a tiny little refinery at Digboi which was started around the turn of the Century and perhaps Oil India that remain to be nationalised. Even these two are going to be nationalised soon. When I say that the tiny refinery at Digboi will be nationalised, I mean that this tiny refinery to be nationalised will be the last one. Now, I am reminded of what happened in the political field. You know the bit of territory called 'Goa' was the last one to be freed. The entire Bharat was already freed. This last bit of territory remained under foreign control and that was also freed just before 1962. And what is more? We have started off-shore exploration. It is a very tricky business, a complicated business to explore for oil in the deep seas in the stormy seas and in such precarious conditions, it requires great skill and it requires great technical effort. All this we have been able to put through and last year, we were able to take out oil from our off-shore well to the extent of 40 lakhs tonnes—0.4 million tonnes—and we are assured that every year we will increase the production from this off-shore oil field at Bombay High to the tune of 2.0 million tonnes. In fact, the programme for this year, that is for 1977-78 is to take out 2.5 million tonnes of oil and we are going ahead with the programme of our Phase-I, Phase-II and Phase-III which will be completed in a couple of years, when we will be able to add 2 million tonnes of crude oil every year which we need so badly. So, this is no small or mean achievement.

In this connection, I may, without a sense of boasting, inform the House at my time, in the year 1966-67—that the I.O.C. which was streamlined was the first year when the IOC started paying dividend—had paid a dividend of Rs. 4.0 crores and from that time onwards, every year it has been paying dividend and so far it has paid a dividend upto a sum of Rs. 48.0 crores or so. So, this is the story of oil and here I should recall, with gratitude, the services that have been rendered to this country by our colleague, Shri Malaviya; he was the person who put this country firmly on the oil map of the world. You may have difference of opinion with him, but that should not blind us to the fact that here was the person who put firmly India on the oil map of the world. And those who followed him like my humble self, one of his successors, have also done our bit and I hope our hon. Minister, Shri Bahuguna, who is a very dynamic person, in every sense of the term, will carry forward this work and even attain a greater height in the field of oil.

Now, he has got a very good inheritance. Out of the total amount of Rs. 9,224 crores that has been invested in about 140 Government companies, the amount of capital that is accounted for by the companies which are under the control of both the Ministry of Petroleum and the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers comes to Rs. 1,964 crores which works out to 21 per cent. This is a very big investment in the public sector. That will give you a measure of the responsibility that you carry on your shoulders. Again in the year 1974-75 the pre-tax profits that were made by all those 140 government companies came to Rs. 312 crores. And who contributed most to that? You will find that it was the oil producing enterprises that contributed the most to the sum of Rs. 312 crores. IOC contributed as much as 52 and odd crores; ONGC Rs. 38 and odd crores and the

Indian Petro Chemicals contributed 14 and odd crores; that makes up a total of Rs. 105 crores, which is 35 per cent of the total profits. So you have inherited a very comfortable position. It is for you to carry on.

Even so what is our crude position? At the moment we are producing 8 million tonnes crude within the country. This will go on increasing. But our demands will also go on increasing. We are importing about 14 million tonnes of oil. Each million tonnes costs roughly 100 crores in foreign exchange. In about five years our demand will go up to 32 million tonnes and our internal production will be only 19 million tonnes. Still there will be need to continue the imports. We have to see that this position is amended as early as possible. We are taking all steps towards that. There is one direction in which we can take steps, in addition to the on-shore exploration that is going on in the eastern and western parts of India. That is to intensify our off-shore explorations. I think three firms have been licensed or contracted to do oil exploration in the off-shore basins of Kutch, Orissa and Bengal and in the off-shore Cauvery basin. It is for the hon. Minister to drive those companies to do exploration work as quickly as possible because we have learnt that it can be done quickly. The Bombay High exploration was a matter of great satisfaction, a matter of pride to the country that within a period of two years they were able to dig oil from under the sea. If the hon. Minister goads those companies they can find oil because all the surveys indicate that there is oil down below in the sea. That is the only way to correct this imbalance and I hope he will do it and see that oil is found in the off-shore regions in other places as we found in the Bombay High.

In order to give a boost to our economy the hon. Minister should see whether the prices of petroleum products, petrol and diesel and LPG

[Shri O. V. Alagesan]

could be reduced. I find that my sister, hon. Member Parvathi Krishnan has given cut motions to that effect. I do not know whether she will be participating in the debate. But it is necessary that we bring down the prices of those products. Now we are in a very comfortable position. What is the total capacity? The total capacity of our refineries is 27 million tonnes and we are doing only 23 million tonnes. There is still capacity available. You can import a couple of more million tonnes of crude. You may have to pay only Rs. 200 crores for that. You have got a huge foreign exchange reserve. You have artificially kept down the demand for petroleum products by increasing the tax element in the price of petrol which sells at about Rs. 3.7 or so per litre. The demand is calculated to have risen by 5.9 per cent. This demand can be much higher. But it has been kept down and because of that the automobile industry is in doldrums. The auxiliary industries which produce parts etc. to the automobile industry are also in doldrums. If you are able to put more buses and more trucks on the road, it means more employment. It will give a boost to our economy. The key to that is with the hon. Minister of Petroleum. He should think in terms of—I am not giving him a tall order but this can be certainly considered—whether he can reduce the price so that we are able not only to give a boost to our economy but also increase the employment in various sectors that go with the transport sector in this country.

I would not like to take much time of the House because many members on my side are also waiting to speak.

I would like to pass on to fertilizer. Fertilizer production seems to have turned the corner in the year 1976-77. I have got some figures. I do not want to weary the House. But still it is good to know them. In 1976-77, nitrogen production was 19

lakh tonnes, which was as much as 97 per cent of the target. Phosphates was 4.8 lakh tonnes which was 100 per cent of the target. Nitrogen capacity utilisation increased from 61.9 per cent in the previous year to 72.5 per cent last year i.e. 1976-77. Phosphates similarly increased from 50.6 per cent to 69.4 per cent last year. In spite of it, the Minister will not be able to have satisfaction about the results of the fertilizer production because the Fertilizer Corporation of India incurred a loss of Rs. 24.56 crores in 1974-75. FACT, another organisation producing fertilizer in South India incurred a loss of Rs. 12.84 crores. The total loss comes to Rs. 37.40 crores. Here is something which calls for an urgent remedy. It is said that the Fertilizer Corporation of India has become too big. What do we do generally when a thing becomes too big. We try to break it up. When a thing is too small, we try to club it up. I am told that the Ministry is thinking of such a scheme. We saw something in the newspapers also. I hope the hon. Minister will take the House into confidence when he replies and say as to what he is going to do. The Fertilizer Corporation of India has grown into a very huge organisation. I am told that the Ministry is thinking in terms of breaking it into four or five units so that it may earn profits. It is not as if all of them are not doing well. For instance, Sindri, the oldest plant, has begun to yield diminishing returns and it may not be of any use to continue it. Similarly, the Nangal factory consumes huge amount of electricity. When we built Bhakra-Nangal project, we thought there would be surplus power and to utilise that, we established the Nangal fertiliser factory based on electricity as the main raw material. But in the changed circumstances of power shortage, it looks as though it is not very wise to use this huge block of power to make fertilisers. Here also the minister has to see whether something can be done about it, to see that the position is changed.

The Minister should reduce the prices of fertilisers also. We were all disappointed when the Finance Minister did not come out with any reduction in fertiliser prices. Some reduction was made by the previous government. Urea price was reduced by Rs. 200 per ton and that of potash by Rs. 185 a ton. The price of urea now stands at Rs. 1650 per ton which the farmer cannot pay. Real food production depends upon the use of this important input. We have been treated to lectures by the new Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission and the Finance Minister saying that their strategy is going to be oriented towards agriculture and rural development. The test of that policy declaration will lie on this. This will be the touchstone whether they are going to have any reorientation towards agriculture and rural development: Are they prepared to reduce the fertiliser prices and bring them within the reach of the small farmer? They pay lip sympathy to the rural sector but do everything for the private sector industries. I will tell you a story. Lord Krishna had two wives—Rukmini and Satyabhama. The statement about two wives may appear to be an under-statement here, but we are now concerned only with two of his wives. Lord Krishna brought the parijata plant from the heavens and planted it in the garden of Satyabhama, who was very happy. Naturally Rukmini was displeased. But when the plant started flowering, all the flowers fell into the courtyard of Rukmini and no flower fell in Satyabhama's garden. So, this lady was disappointed and that lady was pleased. Similarly, you are saying that you are doing everything for the rural sector. But all the fruits go to the private sector in the industry. You have heaped concession upon concession on industry. What are you going to do about agriculture? If you are able to reduce the fertiliser prices, you would have done a big thing to improve the agricultural economy of this country.

I shall now take up drugs. Here also you will find that we have gone a very long way in the production of drugs. The value of the production of drugs in our country was only Rs. 11 crores in 1947. In 1975-76 it went up to Rs. 670 crores and the Fifth Plan target is Rs. 700 crores. Here also the IDPL which is a Government concern has made profits. But some of the units have been making losses. Especially the Hindustan Anti-biotics Ltd. made a loss of Rs. 3.28 crores in 1974-75 and Rs. 2.92 crores in 1975-76. Similarly the Surgical Instruments plant at Madras, which had been a sick man from the beginning, made a loss of Rs. 1.22 crores in 1974-75 and Rs. 1.36 crores in 1975-76.

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA: It has some genetic difference given to it by you perhaps.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I do not deny it. As I said already since its inception it had been a sick man. And in 1975-76 the loss it made was Rs. 1.36 crores and you have appointed various committees to go into this matter. I think they have recommended various schemes of diversification of production in this plant and so I would request you to see that these improvements are carried out and next year you will be able to come before us in this House and tell us. "See I have made this plant strong which was a sick child inherited from you." This is the only sick child. All others that have been given to you are healthy children. Again, in this field also I would ask for reduction of drug prices. This has been gone into and one of the previous ministers took various measures to reduce the drug prices. Unfortunately he could not continue for long. In this drug field also we have multinationals operating in the country. We are talking of multinationals in the field of oil etc., but the multinationals in the field of drugs in the country are much more powerful than the multinationals in

[Shri O. V. Alagesan]

any other field. One firm, I know, declared a dividend of 19½ per cent in one year. That is the amount of profit that these multinationals whom we have allowed, are making in this country.

SHRI SONU SINGH PATIL (Erandol): Which is the firm?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: When we say multinationals they are called foreign firms; when more than 40 per cent of equity capital is in foreign hands we call them foreign firms. I find that my own Government had issued licences to these firms—8 licences in one year and another 8 or 9 licences in another year—and if it is possible for you to revoke these Licences, then nobody can be happier than me. Of course the reason given is that the technology is so sophisticated that we are not able to acquire this technology. All these drugs are highly priced. They are not within the reach of the poor people. If the doctor prescribes these drugs a poor man cannot purchase. These are all very highly priced drugs. We should take steps, using the instrument of public sector concerns, to bring down the prices of drugs considerably and that will be a feather in the cap of my friend, Mr. Bahuguna.

I do not want to take more time of the House. I commend the Demands to the acceptance of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members may now move their cut motions.

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU (Chittoor): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Petroleum be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to provide more sums for the exploration of petrol and natural gas (1)]

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Petroleum be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to plan so to become self-sufficient in petroleum at least within ten years (2)]

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Petroleum be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure to speed up the construction of oil refinery at Mathura in Uttar Pradesh (3)]

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Petroleum be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to finance Madras Refinery Ltd. sufficiently (4)]

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Petroleum be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Delay in implementing the Polyester Filament Yarn Project at Johar Nagar in Gujarat (5)]

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Petroleum be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need for speeding up exploration for petroleum in Andhra Pradesh (6)]

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Petroleum be reduced to Re. 1."

[Need to bring down the prices of petroleum and diesel oils (8)]

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Petroleum be reduced to Re. 1."

[Need to reduce the price of domestic gas (LPG) (9)]

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Petroleum be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to increase the allotment of funds for the Madras Refinery Limited (10)]

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Petroleum be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to take steps to speed up the work in the Cochin Refinery and the development of the pipeline from Cochin to Coimbatore (11)]

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Petroleum be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need for more vigorous exploration of oil in the Cauvery basin (12)]

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Petroleum be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to meet the demands of the employees of erstwhile Burmah Shell in the eastern region and bring their services and other conditions at par with employees of the same concern in other regions (13)]

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Petroleum be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to speed up the work on Mathura refinery (14)]

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to make the country self-sufficient with regard to fertilizers (1)]

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure in completing the Sindri Rationalisation and Ramagundam Fertilizers Project (2)]

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to work the fertiliser factories to their full capacities (3)]

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to manufacture the required antibiotics, synthetic drugs and surgical instruments (4)]

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to manufacture insecticides at a cheaper cost (5)]

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need for early settlement of the location of new fertilizer plants to be started (6)]

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN (Coimbatore): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to check malpractices in the private sector enterprises engaged in the manufacture and production of fertilizers (16)]

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers be reduced to Re. 1."

[Delay in implementing the recommendations of the Hathi Committee (17)]

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to nationalise foreign multi-nationals in the drug industry thereby involving huge wastage of foreign exchange (18)]

[Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan]

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to supply drugs to the common people at lower prices (19)]

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers be reduced to Re. 1".

[Failure to check malpractices in the sale of drugs thereby adversely affecting the common people (20)]

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need for setting up a proper machinery for planned production of fertilizers (21)]

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to take-over Bengal Chemical and Pharmaceuticals Limited, run it on proper lines and make it a part of IDPL (22)]

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to institute inquiries against the malpractices and financial irregularities committed by Bengal Chemical and Pharmaceuticals (23)]

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to settle outstanding demands of the workers and employees of the Surgical Plants Limited Guindy, a unit of IDPL (24)]

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to speed up the negotiations with the workers and employees of the Antibiotics Plant, Rishikesh, a unit of IDPL which have been pending for a long time (25)]

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to ensure full utilisation of all fertilizers factories in private and public sectors (26)]

MR. SPEAKER: The cut motions are also before the House.

SHRI BASHIR AHMAD (Fatehpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the importance of petroleum in the present world cannot be minimized. It really constitute the life and blood of a nation—not only India, but every country of the world. My friend on the opposite side has praised the former government for bringing about self-sufficiency in petroleum in this country.

My friends on the opposite side have showered much praise and admiration on the ex-Minister Mr. K. D. Malviya for starting the off-shore drilling at Bombay High for obtaining petroleum products. I submit that much money, capital and labour were spent, but nothing fruitful could come out, out of this exploration. We have still to import large quantities of petroleum from other countries.

16.42 hrs.

[Miss ABHA MAITI in the Chair]

So far as petroleum is concerned, we have to depend to a great extent on imports from West Asian countries; and it is really the West Asian countries which hold the lever and balance in the matter of supply of oil, not only to India but to all the countries

of the world. It is in the fitness of things that our present dynamic Minister visited the West Asian countries and Gulf States and re-established relations which were lost during the last few years. The West Asian countries are really the source of supply of oil, not only to India, but to all the countries of the world. At the same time, these Gulf States and West Asian countries are very much under-developed. They do supply oil, they are oil-rich countries, but they are mostly under-developed. They need our help, they need cordial relations with us. I hope the present Minister will not only establish cordial relations with those countries, but he will also help them by providing them the technical know-how, by undertaking the task of development in those countries, and by helping them in meeting the problems which they have with their neighbours.

In order to ensure a free flow of petroleum from these countries and to maintain the price level, it is necessary to improve our relations with the West Asian countries. Not only do they have rich reserves of oil, but they are really rich countries, and they can also help India in various ways in the matter of our economic development. Therefore, we should establish cordial relations with them.

Petro-chemical industries are also a necessity for India's development. We are importing huge quantities of crude oil. The oil refineries in this country are naturally hardly adequate to meet our requirements. We have to develop more and more of oil refineries. We have also to provide machinery to these under-developed, but oil-rich countries, so that they may be in a position to export more and more of crude oil. Further, in order to have the prices lowered, we have also to maintain some sort of relationship with them, and participate in their economic and cultural development. This will enable us to create a balance between those countries and ourselves.

The production of petro-chemicals in this country is not sufficient to meet our requirements. Therefore, it is necessary that more and more attention should be paid for the development of petro-chemicals here. If petro-chemicals have to be developed, adequate research in this field should be made. So far as I know, the technical knowledge that we possess on this subject is not sufficient. So, we have to make development towards that end, so far as our country is concerned.

Special centres and special departments dealing with petro-chemicals should be opened in our Indian Universities. A separate Department should be opened in every University, specially on the subject of petro-chemicals and the development of oil. The students from those countries which are under-developed, which are oil-rich countries, they can also be trained apart from Indian students in these institutions. Unfortunately, at present we are not paying so much attention to the development of this science, as we are giving to other sciences. So, it is very necessary that we should open centres in Indian Universities, or rather establish a University on petro-chemicals separately, so that we can develop knowledge on this aspect of the matter.

We know that Japan has advanced much in this field than any other part of the world. Really we can say that the progress of Japan depended on the development of the petro-chemical industries. If we develop this industry, it will give a direction to our industrialisation and it will also solve our unemployment problem. If we have a separate Department in our Indian Universities, it will help a lot not only the Indian students but also students from West Asian countries, who can be invited to join these institutions, because we are in a position to impart knowledge and education on this subject to those countries which want to have studies in this field. I am sorry to say that we have not taken

[Shri Bashir Ahmad]

any action in this direction for opening such classes.

So far as the other aspect of the petroleum products is concerned, if we develop them, we can provide employment in various sectors to a large number of people, specially in the automobile industry, which is dependent on petroleum. So far as India is concerned, we have got only a few automobile factories and much has to be done in this direction. We can achieve self-sufficiency only when there is co-ordination between the oil corporations and have more production by establishing more refineries in this country and by importing more and more crude oil from other countries. Then we will be in a position to say that we have achieved self-sufficiency in oil. Then we can also say that our economic base, so far as oil is concerned, is on a strong footing. Otherwise, we cannot say that our problem of oil has been solved.

Here I may strike a note that, so far as oil wealth is concerned, it cannot last long. So, we have to find out other substitutes. Also, we have to develop our own resources rather than depending on other countries. For that purpose we have to look to scientific methods to discover whether there can be a substitute for oil so that our industrialisation is not affected by want of fuel in this country.

I am glad that the Minister in charge has visited those countries and established good relations with them. I hope the other Ministers will also make it a point to visit those countries and establish relationship with them in the economic and political aspects. That will give a great impetus to the import of oil to this country. Politically also we should have relationship with those countries which are providing so much relief and succour for the industrial development of this country.

There should not be a mad use of fertilisers without scientific testing of the soil. If we have a mad rush for the use of fertilisers, a time may come when the fertility of the soil may be lost for ever. This is a very important aspect. So, we have to provide fertilisers to land keeping in view this fact that the fertility of the soil is not dependent merely on fertilisers but also on its capacity to make use of the fertilisers, and keeping in view the period to which the soil will be able to make use of fertilisers. A survey system should be adopted on a scientific basis to find out the capacity of the land to make use of fertilisers and the period during which fertilisers can be used. We cannot use fertilisers indiscriminately on every parcel of land. We have to examine scientifically the capacity of every type of soil and see how much fertiliser should be used, and for that I submit that a scientific department should be opened along with the Soil Conservation Department to examine the needs of every part and region of this country, and to see to what extent fertilisers should be used. Some method should be adopted to regulate the use of fertilisers in every part of the country after examining the capacity of the land. That is very necessary, as otherwise we may lose the fertility of the land for ever. After all, fertiliser is a chemical element and this element will ultimately deprive the land of its power to consume more fertilisers. Therefore, the soil has to be examined before the use of fertilisers and a ration-quota system should be introduced for the supply of fertilisers. At present the poor farmers do not get fertilisers from every agency. The result is that only some of them get, while others do not. Therefore, after scientifically examining the soil, a ration-quota for every district should be introduced so that the fertilisers may be supplied to the lands which require them. Thus, only the soil which really requires fertilisers may be supplied and farmers who are in need of lands may also get the land.

Only then can we say that we have succeeded in giving fertilisers to our farmers.

There is an over-all shortage of fertilisers in this country. So, I request the Government to start more fertiliser factories to meet the needs of the farmers. The prices of fertilisers have also to be regulated keeping in view of the needs of the poor farmers and their capacity to pay. The Chemical and Fertiliser Department needs to be streamlined. I expect that the Government would undertake a task of developing those backward areas where there is no fertiliser factory. The fertiliser factories should be located in those backward areas where the soil is virgin and where the farmers have got no fertiliser company. A survey should also be made of the fertiliser production. I hope, our Minister will pay more attention to this aspect of the matter.

Our Minister is a very dynamic and capable person and I hope he will give a lead in the matter of development of the oil exporting countries. It will help a lot in developing not only this industry but developing good neighbourly relations with those countries. He has done a lot in this direction and I hope, he will do much more than this.

With these words, I support the Demands moved by the Minister.

SHRI S. R. DAMANI (Sholapur): Madam Chairman, the Ministries of Petroleum and Chemicals and Fertilisers have to play a very important role in the economy of the country and also for the development of the country. Last year, both the Ministries have shown a good account of themselves. I will be failing in my duty if I do not give my appreciation to **Shri K. D. Malaviya** for the excellent work which he has done regarding exploration of oil in the country. Similarly, I also would like to give my appreciation to **Shri P. C. Sethi** who was incharge of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers. On account of better

management, the country has saved Rs. 118 crores in foreign exchange by way of producing four million tonnes of more fertiliser. I am very happy that now **Shri Bahugunaji** is incharge of both the Ministries. **Shri Bahugunaji** is known for his dynamism and practical wisdom. I hope, both the Petroleum and Chemicals and Fertilisers Ministries will move towards self-reliance at a much faster rate.

The Congress Government took together the exploration of oil and also refinery. As far as refinery is concerned, it was thought advisable to put more refineries so that when the country is to produce crude oil, they can refine it. Along with this, it was also thought advisable that the country would import only crude oil and not refined oil and this has saved a lot of foreign exchange. I am happy on this decision and action.

At present, the capacity of our nine refineries is 24 million tonnes which is sufficient to meet our current requirements, side by side, they have also planned for the expansion of the Gauhati refinery by 7 million tonnes and the setting up of the Mathura refinery with a capacity of 6 million tonnes. Both of them are going to be completed by 1980. By that time, the country will have the refining capacity of 37 or 38 million tonnes so that we will have the surplus refining capacity.

17 hrs.

As regards oil exploration, the total production in the country is over 8 million tonnes. Our total requirement is about 23 million tonnes. That means, we are producing one-third of our requirements and we are importing two-thirds of our requirements from other countries. To meet the two-thirds of our requirements, last year we paid Rs. 1450 crores and, during the current year, it is estimated that we will have to pay Rs. 1550 crores which is one-third of our export earnings. Therefore, it is very important that all efforts should be made to explore oil in the country as soon as possible.

[Shri S. R. Damani]

In this connection, I would like to say that we are fortunate that we have found oil in Bombay High. According to the Report of the Ministry, by 1980 Bombay High will be able to produce 10 million tonnes of oil. That is in addition to 8 million tonnes which we are producing. So, we will be producing 18 million tonnes. If the hon. Minister can keep a strict control by using coal and other things, the country will become self-sufficient upto two-thirds of its requirements. Besides, the previous Government, the Congress Government, had also taken up certain exploration works in other areas, such as, Cauvery valley, Kutch, West Bengal and Orissa and, if they are successful, we can have extra production. These are the steps which were taken by the previous Government. It is now for Mr. Bahuguna to find out more places where oil can be obtained so that the country can become self-sufficient in oil. We have to pay a very large amount of money by importing crude from other countries.

I would also like to say that there are many by-products of crude which are used for manufacturing a large number of chemicals. It is well known that they are also saving foreign exchange. In the manufacture of chemicals and other items, like, nylon and terylene, the DMT is required. That is got by producing crude oil. Our requirement is more but our production is less. Therefore, we have to import it to meet our requirements. Here, I want to add that terylene, terycot and nylon are being used by the common man, by the middle-class and the low-class, not only by the rich. Therefore, to increase the production and to make more supply available will be beneficial and we will be able to cut our imports to a great extent.

As far as fertiliser is concerned, it is very important for agricultural production, but we are in short supply and we have to import a large quantity of

fertiliser from other countries. At present, our capacity of production is about 25 lakh tonnes and our requirement is about 32 lakh tonnes. Therefore, we have to import every year 7-8 lakh tonnes of fertiliser. Last year, we had paid Rs. 110 crores. Prior to that, we had paid upto Rs. 300 crore. In our country, we have got ample scope for increasing its production. Some action has been taken for the expansion of the existing capacity and also licences have been granted for the setting up of 15 new fertiliser plants. If the entire capacity is achieved according to the plan, as the hon. Minister has pointed out, in that case, we will be able to produce about 47 lakh tonnes of fertiliser. By that time, we will be able to meet the requirement of our country with the result that we will be able to save a large amount of foreign exchange.

Some emphasis was laid by the previous Government as well as this Government on the development of rural areas. This is a very good thing. Now, for the development of rural areas, what is necessary is more production of foodgrains and for achieving more production what is required is more per acre yield. If this is done, then the farmer is going to be benefited. I have got my own experience in regard to jawar and cotton. The cotton per acre yield is very low, it is 150 pounds per acre. Whereas in other countries, it is 600 pounds per acre. Therefore, if we try to increase it more, then it will bring more money to the farmer with the result that rural development will take place. Therefore, for increasing per acre yield what is required is fertiliser. For this purpose, I would request the hon. Minister to bring down the prices of fertiliser so that farmers can use it in plenty and can increase the production.

When we were discussing the Demands of the Ministry of Agriculture, many members said that the prices of fertiliser were very high with the result that the farmers could not use it. If they cannot use it, then how

can they get the return. Therefore, I would suggest to the hon. Minister to convince his colleague, the Finance Minister about it and ask him to cut down or take away the entire excise duty on fertiliser. If the prices are cut down, the farmers will get the benefit and there will be no loss to the country in foreign exchange.

At present, as far as cotton is concerned, it is in short supply and the country is importing it to meet its own requirement. This year, we are importing 15 lakh bales of cotton. If we can increase per acre yield of cotton, then we will be surplus in cotton, in jawar and in bajra and in other food-grains also. Therefore, it is very essential that the prices of fertiliser should be brought down. This is the only way of increasing our production. If the excise duty is taken away from it, then the farmer will be in a better position to use the fertiliser and increase the production. In this way, farmers will be benefited and it will also help in the development of the rural areas.

I have one more point to raise, and that is regarding pharmaceutical industry. Much has been said about this by the previous speakers. This industry is still in the hands of multinational corporations. The prices of medicines are very high. The Hathi Committee has gone into the matter in detail and has made some suggestions. I hope, the hon. Minister will consider and implement those suggestions, so that these companies do not take undue advantage and cheap medicines are produced in the country for the benefit of the common people.

With these words, I conclude. I hope the hon. Minister will take note of all these and, while replying, will tell us about more exploration of oil, about increasing the production of fertilisers and the other points that I have raised.

श्री बाई० पी० शास्त्री (रीवा) :
अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं पेट्रोलियम, रसायन,

और उर्वरक मंत्रालय की मांगों का समर्थन करने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूँ। जहाँ तक पेट्रोलियम पदार्थों और तेल का सम्बन्ध है, वह किसी राष्ट्र के लिए कितना आवश्यक है, यह कहने की आवश्यकता नहीं है। अगर हमारे देश को दुनिया के अन्य विकसित देशों के साथ आगे आना है तो हमें तेल के उत्पादन के मामले में आत्मनिर्भर होना पड़ेगा। हमारे लिए यह दुर्भाग्य की बात है कि अभी तक हम अपनी आवश्यकता का केवल एक-तिहाई तेल उत्पादित करते हैं। हमारा मुल्क अभी पूरी तरह से विकसित नहीं हुआ, औद्योगिक दृष्टि से हम बहुत पीछे हैं। हर किसी उद्योग धंधे में हम अभी बहुत पीछे हैं। अपने उद्योगों की आवश्यकता की पूर्ति के लिए साधनों का बहुत बड़ा भाग हमें दूसरे देशों से मंगाना पड़ता है। हमारे जितने भी कारखाने चल रहे हैं उनकी आवश्यकता के लिए भी हम पर्याप्त मात्रा में तेल का उत्पादन नहीं कर पा रहे हैं। हम केवल एक-तिहाई तेल का उत्पादन कर पाते हैं। अगर हमें अपने देश को विकसित करना है, आगे बढ़ाना है तो हमें प्रतिवर्ष तेल का उत्पादन बढ़ाना पड़ेगा। अभी तक हम केवल 80 लाख टन तेल का उत्पादन कर पा रहे हैं जबकि हमारी आवश्यकता दो करोड़ बीस लाख टन की है। यह अनुमान लगाया जा रहा है कि अगले पांच वर्षों में हमारी आवश्यकता और बढ़ेगी। यह आवश्यकता लगभग साढ़े तीन करोड़ तक पहुँच जाएगी। लेकिन हम इतने तेल का उत्पादन कर सकेंगे यह नहीं कहा जा सकता। अभी तो यह कल्पना ही प्रतीत होती है।

प्रसन्नता की बात है कि बम्बई के समुद्र में हम तेल की खोज कर सके हैं। लेकिन यहाँ से उत्पादन का जो पहले अनुमान लगाया गया था वह अनुमान

[श्री वाई० पी० शास्त्री]:

पूरा नहीं हो सका है। अभी हम प्रतिपक्ष के माननीय सदस्यों को सुन रहे थे। वे बड़ी प्रशंसा भूतपूर्व केन्द्रीय तेल मंत्री की कर रहे थे। बड़ी लम्बी चौड़ी बात कर रहे थे कि हमने तेल के उत्पादन में यह किया वह किया और आगे हम यह करने वाले थे। लेकिन जितनी बातें उन्होंने की थीं वे तो आज तक सामने नहीं आईं। उत्पादन उतनी तीव्र गति से बम्बई हाई से भी नहीं हो सका है और अन्य क्षेत्रों में तो वह अभी बहुत प्रारम्भिक स्थिति में है। चाहे कच्छ का मामला हो, उड़ीसा बंगाल क्षत्र का मामला हो या कावेरी का। सभी जगह वह प्रारम्भिक स्थिति में हैं। बम्बई हाई से भी उत्पादन की गति बहुत धीमी है। इस में प्रगति आनी चाहिये। जो नए मंत्री हैं उन से सभी सदस्यों ने अपेक्षाएं बावक्त की हैं। मुझे तो अपेक्षा व्यक्त करनी ही चाहिये क्योंकि वह मेरे पड़ोसी भी हैं और मैं उनकी कार्यकुशलता और दक्षता और प्रतिभा से कुछ परिचित भी हूँ। इसलिए मुझे आशा है कि उनके नेतृत्व में देश तेल के मामले में आत्म निर्भरता शीघ्रातिशीघ्र प्राप्त करेगा।

एक बात मुझे उनके ध्यान में लानी है। जहां तक उनके नेतृत्व का प्रश्न है उसमें किसी को सन्देह नहीं है। वह तो आगे ले जाना चाहेंगे देश को लेकिन पिछली सरकार के जहां अनेकों काले कारनामों हमें देखने को मिले वहां यह जो तेल का क्षेत्र है वह भी अछूता नहीं रहा। पिछली सरकार ने आयल एण्ड नैचुरल गैस कमिशन को भी राजनीति का अखाड़ा बनाया था। इसीलिए जो कार्यक्षमता की अपेक्षा इस कमीशन से थी वह आज दिखाई नहीं पड़ती। उस सरकार ने जानबूझ कर एक ऐसे आदमी को उसका अध्यक्ष बनाया जोकि पुराने कांग्रेस अध्यक्ष श्री देव कान्तजी बरुआ के बड़े कृपा पात्र थे। उनको डा० भाभा ने

एटमिक एनर्जी कमिशन से निकाला था। कुछ दिनों तक वह आंध्र में रहे और कई शक्कर कारखानों में उनकी हिस्सेदारी है। सुना जाता है कि अभी भी वहां उनका हित है। जिन को मल्टीनेशनल्स कहा जाता है और जिस की बात यहां बार बार की गई है, उन बहुराष्ट्रीय निगमों से भी उनका घनिष्ठ सम्बन्ध है। आज भी इस कमीशन के हितों की अपेक्षा करके अपने शक्कर कारखानों आदि के हितों की रक्षा करने के लिए वे प्रयत्नशील रहा करते हैं। ऐसे व्यक्ति को वहां रखा हुआ है। वह मैं नहीं समझता हूँ कि इस उद्देश्य को आगे बढ़ा पाएगा। उनके कारनामों के कारण बहुत से दक्ष लोक, बहुत से अच्छे वैज्ञानिक जो इस कमीशन के तहत काम करते हैं, जो बम्बई हाई में भी अपनी दक्षता के लिए प्रसिद्ध थे और कुछ काम करके दिखा सकते थे, वे कमीशन छोड़ कर दूसरे देशों में चले गए हैं अथवा दूसरी जगह काम धंधे के लिए चले गए हैं। उसका कारण यही है कि हर जगह पक्षपात चल रहा है। जिस प्रकार से अनेक वैज्ञानिक क्षेत्रों में हमारे देश में पक्षपात चल रहा था और जो पिछले दिनों में सुनने को मिला था वही पक्षपात यहां भी है और उसके तथा अन्याय के कारण अपने वैज्ञानिकों की सेवाओं से इस देश को वंचित होना पड़ा है। उसी प्रकार की धांधली इस कमीशन में भी दिखाई देती है। इराक में भी हमें पता चला है कि कोई प्रोजेक्ट हाथ में लिया गया था जिस पर आठ करोड़ खर्च भी कर दिया गया था लेकिन उसको छोड़ दिया गया। पूर्व वक्ता ने कहा कि पश्चिम एशिया के देशों से हम को अच्छे सम्बन्ध स्थापित करने चाहिए क्योंकि आने वाले दिनों में हम को अधिकाधिक तेल के आयात की आवश्यकता होगी। उनके साथ हमारे अच्छे सम्बन्ध हैं भी। उनको अधिक बिकसित करने की आवश्यकता भी है। लेकिन अगर इसी तरह का काम होगा तो हम समझते हैं कि इस आयल एण्ड नैचुरल गैस कमीशन के माध्यम से हम इस देश को तेल

के मामले में आगे नहीं ले जा सकेंगे। इसलिए मैं मंत्री जी से कहूंगा कि जिस तंत्र का सहारा ले कर उनको इस क्षेत्र में आगे बढ़ना है उस तंत्र को वह बदलें। अगर उनको मालूम पड़ता है कि उस में इस तरह की गन्दगी है तो इस गन्दगी को निकाल कर वह दूर फेंकें। हमारी सरकार ने कई कमीशनों में सुधार किये हैं। एस टी सी में, मिनरलज एण्ड मेटलस ट्रीडिंग कारपोरेशन में उसने अद्यक्षों को बदला है और हमारी जनता सरकार ने कुछ अन्य साहसिक कदम उठाया है। इसी तरह से इस क्षेत्र में भी कुछ साहसी कदम उठाने की आवश्यकता है। हम देख रहे हैं कि तेल का क्षेत्र दिन ब दिन पेचीदा होता चला जा रहा है। सारी दुनिया उससे चिन्तित है और हमारे जैसे विकासशील देश को तो चिन्तित होना ही चाहिए क्योंकि जो आपेक कन्द्रीज हैं उन देशों ने अपने राष्ट्रीय हितों को देखते हुए ही प्रतिवर्ष कीमत बढ़ाना शुरू किया है। प्रतिवर्ष कियों, 6, 6 महीने में कीमत बढ़ाते हैं। अभी 10 परसेंट बढ़ायी है और शायद दिसम्बर में फिर बढ़ेगी। तो जब यह कीमतें बढ़ती चली जा रही हैं और हमारी विदेशी मुद्रा का भंडार तेल के आयात में ही समाप्त होने को स्थिति में है, ऐसी हालत में हमको बहुत गम्भीरता पूर्वक विचार करना चाहिए कि किस तरह से हम आयात कम कर सकें और अधिक से अधिक आत्म-निर्भरता की ओर आगे बढ़ सकें। लेकिन आत्म-निर्भरता की ओर आगे बढ़ने में जो कठिनाइयों हैं इनको तो तुरन्त दूर करना चाहिए, अन्यथा हमारी यह बात आत्म-निर्भरता की कल्पना-मात्र बनी रहेगी, और जिनके माध्यम से हमको कुछ करना है वह माध्यम ही अगर खोटा रहेगा तो फिर हम कुछ आगे कर नहीं पायेंगे।

दूसरी बात मैं खाद के सम्बन्ध में कहना चाहूंगा। तेल जो उपयोगिता इस देश के लिए है उससे कम उपयोगिता उर्वरक की

नहीं है। हमारे देश की 70 प्रतिशत आबादी कृषि में लगी हुई है और कृषि उत्पादन हमारे लिए जीवन मरण का प्रश्न है ही। अगर अनाज के मामले में आत्म-निर्भर नहीं हो पाये तो फिर इससे बढ़कर के कलंक की बात कोई दूसरी ही नहीं सकती। अभी तक अनाज का उत्पादन जो कुछ भी हुआ है, जिसके लिए बहुत बड़ा श्रेय कोई लेने की बात करे, वह लज्जाजनक ही है। हमारे जैसा इतना बड़ा देश केवल 12 करोड़ टन अनाज पैदा कर सके इससे बढ़कर के लज्जा की कोई बात नहीं है। और जो पैदावार इतनी कम हो रही है उस का कारण यह है कि उर्वरक के मामले में हमारी नीति बहुत ही दूषित रही है। मैं नहीं समझ पाया कि क्यों सोचा गया कि उर्वरक पर 44 या 46 परसेंट एक्साइज ड्यूटी लगायी जाए? यह कोई ऐसी वस्तु नहीं है जिसका उपयोग केवल अमीर लोग ही करते हैं। हमारे देश के जीवन मरण का सवाल इससे जुड़ा हुआ है। अगर अनाज का उत्पादन बढ़ाना है तो उर्वरक से बढ़ कर और कोई दूसरी अनिवार्य वस्तु है ही नहीं। अभी आवश्यकता से बहुत कम उर्वरक का उत्पादन हम कर पाते हैं, जितनी उसकी खपत होनी चाहिए वह नहीं होती है, देश को जितनी आवश्यकता है उसको देखते हुए वह बहुत कम है, बहुत कम लोग खाद का उपयोग करते हैं। लेकिन एक्साइज ड्यूटी की वजह से खाद को ऐसी स्थिति में ला दिया गया है कि केवल अमीर लोग ही इसका उपयोग कर पायें और वही अनाज का उत्पादन बढ़ा सकें। एक तरफ कहते हैं कि सी-लिंग कर के भूमि की उच्चतम सीमा निर्धारित करके जमीन छोटे छोटे लोगों को, भूमिहीनों को देनी चाहिए। वह तो हो नहीं पाया, वह भूमि की उच्चतम सीमा कानून एक धोखा मात्र रह गया। लेकिन मान लीजिए अगर छोटा किसान है जो मार्जिनल फार्मर्स हैं वह खाद का उपयोग करना चाहते हैं तो वह कैसे इसका उपयोग कर सकते हैं। और फिर कैसे यह विषमता दूर हो। एक तरफ कुछ लोगों

[श्री वाई० पी० शास्त्री]

के पास 2 या 3 हजार एकड़ जमीन है और दूसरी तरफ 80 प्रतिशत किसान ऐसे हैं जिनके पास ढाई से पांच एकड़ के बीच जमीन है। तो ऐसे लोग उर्वरक का इस्तेमाल नहीं कर सकते। उनके पास अनाज एक, दो महीने के खाने के लिए भी नहीं पैदा होता है क्योंकि उर्वरक की कीमत बहुत अधिक है इसलिए वह उसका उपयोग नहीं कर पाते। इसलिए मैं मंत्री जी से निवेदन करूंगा कि वे इस बात पर गम्भीरतापूर्वक विचार करें, वित्त मंत्री जी से परामर्श कर के यह सब से पहली चीज है जिस पर से एक्साइज ड्यूटी समाप्त होनी चाहिए। एक्साइज ड्यूटी अगर समाप्त करने की सबसे पहली वस्तु कोई हो सकती है, जिस पर कि विचार किया जाना चाहिए, तो वह उर्वरक ही है।

मैं श्री अलगेशन का भाषण सुन रहा था और मुझे हंसी आ रही थी। वह कहते थे, खाद की कीमतें बढ़ गई हैं। मैं उनसे पूछता हूँ कि खाद की कीमत किसने बढ़ाई। आज से 3 साल पहले खाद की कीमतें 90 प्रतिशत एक ही बार बढ़ा दी गई थीं। चाहे वह यूरिया हो या कोई और खाद हो। आज ये प्रतिपक्ष में बैठकर किस मुंह से कहते हैं कि कीमतें बढ़ गई। इस बारे में कहने का हमको अधिकार है, उनको नहीं है। इस सरकार से हमको उम्मीद भी करनी चाहिए कि यह अवश्य ही अब इस पर ध्यान देगी और उर्वरक से जो मंहगाई की स्थिति है, उसको समाप्त करेगी। जनता पार्टी की सरकार से जनता बहुत बड़ी अपेक्षाएं रखती है, खासकर छोटे किसान बहुत ऊंची आशाएं रखते हैं ताकि वह भी खाद का लाभ उठा सकें। बड़े किसान तो उठाते ही हैं, यह ठीक है। बड़े किसान तो इसका उपयोग कर सकते हैं, आप जितनी भी ज्यादा कीमत रख देंगे, जितनी भी एक्साइज ड्यूटी लगा देंगे, उनके पास साधन है। वह गेहूँ और अनाज को कुछ दिनों तक अपने पास रखकर, बाद में जरूर

अकालग्रस्त होंगे, अभाव होगा, उस समय ऊंची कीमत पर बेच सकते हैं। लेकिन छोटे किसान कैसे खाद का उपयोग करें? आज यूरिया खाद की कीमत 165 रुपए क्विंटल है, 1650 रुपए टन यूरिया है। आप कैसे उम्मीद कर सकते हैं कि छोटे किसान इसका उपयोग कर सकते हैं ?

बड़े जं. से यह बात उठाई गई है कि मंहगाई बढ़ गई है। अगर अनाज की मंहगाई रहेगी तो सारी वस्तुओं की भी मंहगाई रहेगी। अनाज की मंहगाई तब तक रहेगी जब तक किसान को इनपुट्स कीट नाशक दवाएं और बीज की कीमत ज्यादा देनी पड़ेगी।

एक किसान ने एक साल पहले मुझ से कहा था कि उसने अपने खेत में 20 हजार रुपए का खाद डाला था, लेकिन जब वह अपनी पूरी की पूरी उपज को बाजार में बेचने के लिए गया तो वह सिर्फ 11 हजार रुपए में बिकी। अगर इस तरह की किसान की स्थिति रहेगी तो फिर इस देश के लिए हम कुछ नहीं कर पायेंगे। मैं मंत्री महोदय से निवेदन करूंगा कि इस देश के 70 फीसदी किसानों की स्थिति की ओर देखिए, अगर उनकी हालत सुधारनी है, उनके सम्बन्ध में आपको हमदर्दी है, तो सबसे पहला काम यह करना होगा कि खाद की एक्साइज ड्यूटी को समाप्त किया जाए ताकि यह सस्ते दामों पर मिल सके।

इसके बाद दवाओं का सवाल आता है। जीवन के लिए आवश्यक दवाइयां बहुत मंहगी हैं, इनके दाम घटाने की बहुत आवश्यकता है। मैं अपने माननीय मंत्री श्री बहुगुणा जी से कहूंगा कि आपके पास ऐसा विभाग है जिसका सम्बन्ध सचमुचमें लोगों की जिनदगी और मीत से है। इस बारे में पीछे हाथी समिति ने अपनी रिपोर्ट सरकारको दी थी, उसकी कुछ सिफारिशें हैं लेकिन पिछली सरकार ने उन सिफारिशों को ठंडे बस्ते में डालकर रख दिया, उस पर कुछ कार्यवाही नहीं की। जहां भी बहु-राष्ट्रीय निगम

पर चोट करने का सवाल आता था, तो पिछली सरकार जो उनकी चेली थी, इसलिए उन पर आघात करने की हिम्मत उसमें नहीं थी। उसने कुछ नहीं किया। हमें जनता पार्टी की सरकार से अपेक्षाएं हैं, मैं मंत्री जी से निवेदन करूंगा कि उन्हें हाथी समिति की सिफारिशों को देखना चाहिए और उनको पूरी स्वीकार करना चाहिए और उससे आगे भी जाना चाहिए ताकि ये जीवन रक्षक दवाइयां सस्ते दामों पर लोगों को उपलब्ध हो सकें। गरीब-से-गरीब आदमी भी अपने बच्चों का जीवन बचाने के लिए दवाई दे सके। आज देश की हालत यह है कि जो करोड़ों लोग गरीबी की रेखा से नीचे जीवन व्यतीत कर रहे हैं, उनके बच्चे बीमार रहते हैं, लेकिन वह उनके लिए दवाएं नहीं खरीद सकते हैं। कोई अगर अस्पताल में जाए तो डाक्टर दवाई लिखकर देते हैं लेकिन वह अस्पताल में मिलती नहीं है। बाजार में दवाएं महंगी हैं।

बहुत दिनों से सुनते आ रहे हैं कि बाजार में दवाओं की कीमा घटाई जायगी, लेकिन वह बढ़ती जा रही है। साथ ही उनकी क्वालिटी कई गुना घटती जा रही है। हमको स्वयं का अनुभव है कि अस्पताल के डाक्टर इस बात को कहते हैं कि अस्पताल वाली दवाई लेंगे तो कोई फायदा नहीं करेगी, क्यों अस्पतालों में जान-बुझ कर घटिया दवाइयां खरीदी जाती हैं। और ये दवाइयां मल्टी-नेशनलज की कृपा से हमारे देश में आती हैं। इन के द्वारा ऐसी दवाइयां भी आती हैं, जिन में कोई शक्ति गुण और तत्व नहीं होता है, जिस के कारण लोगों का जीवन खतरे में पड़ता है, उन की जिन्दगी के साथ खिलवाड़ किया जाता है।

मुझे आशा है कि मैंने जो सुझाव रखे हैं, उन पर सरकार ध्यान देगी और तत्काल आवश्यक कार्यवाही करेगी, ताकि देश की जनता को विश्वास हो कि सचमुच जनता पार्टी की सरकार के बनते ही हमारी अपेक्षाओं की

पूर्ति हो रही और वह इस दिशा में तेजी से कदम उठा रही है।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं इस मंत्रालय की मांगों का हार्दिक समर्थन करता हूँ और कटौती-प्रस्तावों का विरोध करता हूँ।

SHRI R. P. DAS (Krishnagar):
The Report of the Ministry of Petroleum indicates that the country's present total requirement of all petroleum products is around 24 million tonnes which will increase to around 32 million tonnes by 1981. Side by side the report further indicates a rise of the indigenous crude production from 8.8 million tonnes per annum to about 19 million tonnes per annum in 1981, leaving a gap of 13 million tonnes to be filled in by imports.

The cost of imports will be to the order of 1530 crores of rupees in foreign exchange during the year 1977-78. The same amount will also be required for imports after 4 years from now in 1981. If the prevalent 6 per cent growth rate in consumption of oil continues unchecked and the drainage of foreign exchange remains unabated, I am afraid that will mean less job, less food and more economic and political upheaval. Therefore, I would urge upon the Government to step up production of indigenous crude and at the same time to put emphasis on the economy of oil and to select as far as possible less energy-intensive technology.

Consumption of H.S.D. which is about 30 percent of our total petroleum products consumption can considerably be reduced through better maintenance, control of speed and minor adjustments to the engine assembly of anti-mobility which account for 70 per cent of the total H.S.D. consumption.

Similarly, extensive use of a new Kerosene stove designed by the Indian Institute of Petroleum can also reduce

[Shri R. P. Das]

kerosene consumption which constitutes 14 per cent of the total petroleum consumption by about 3,60,000 tonnes.

The Petroleum Conservation Action Group set up by the Government should become more active and act as a consultant, training and monitoring body to ensure that energy conservation programme becomes part of plant maintenance norms in all the industrial units.

Despite the fact that kerosene is an essential commodity of the poorer section of the society and particularly of the rural population, it sells at a very high price. The distribution system is also such that it seldom reaches the people at the lower level who need it the most at a reasonable price. In view of this, I would suggest that different taxes, transport charges and dealers' commission on kerosene should be reduced in such a manner as to ensure that the consumers do not have to pay more than a rupee a litre. I would further suggest the inclusion of kerosene in the list of essential commodities. The distribution of essential commodities like these should be made through the State Governments. Not only kerosene but fertilizers, artificial fibre and drugs should also be available to the people at a cheaper rate.

I do not know why India is called a home of cholera. It is in fact a house of all sorts of diseases on earth. There are 8 million tuberculosis patients; about 10 million suffer from goitre generally caused by nutritional deficiency and trachoma, which is endemic and is the cause of blindness of five million people. Besides this, filaria, malaria, typhoid, intestinal ailments etc. are widely present. Leprosy, cases of diabetes, hypertension, heart-disease and cancer are also on the increase.

It is common knowledge that people die here without or with a nominal treatment. The per capita consumption of modern medicine in this country is valued at about Rs 7. This fact

alone shows how the modern drugs have gone beyond the reach of the majority of the people. As a matter of fact, this existing pattern of production and distribution of drugs only caters to the need of a small urban elite neglecting the need of the millions.

The other day our Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Shri Raj Narain has made an appeal to the pharmaceutical industry to reorient its programmes in such a way as to make available its products to the people at a reasonably low price. But, I would say, appeal to the same big producers, the multinational companies, who really are against the theory of low pricing is nothing but a cry in the wilderness. We are no believers of such appeals and promises. We would rather like to know from the Minister why the recommendations of the Hathi Committee in regard to the pricing of 117 life saving drugs (which are thought enough to cure about 80 per cent common ailments) have totally been disregarded. Secondly I would also like to know from the Minister the approximate time when the price of the essential drugs will be brought down to a reasonable level and when the Government decision in regard to reserving all antibiotics, sulpha drugs and certain vitamins for the public sector will be implemented. I want to know when the much-publicised intention of the ruling party in respect of limitation on the profit will be imposed on the big producers of drugs.

Last but not the least is the problem of layoff retrenchment, termination of service of workers of the public sector etc. The management of the Indian Oil Corporation at Duliyan has laid off a large number of casual workers resulting in deep resentment among the workers. The said retrenchment by the authorities is quite contrary to the pronouncement made by the new Government, that the casual workers will be absorbed in permanent job vacancies.

Similarly, four employees of the Namrup Fertilizer factory, Assam and

six employees of Goraknpur Fertiliser Plant were victimised during emergency for reasons of their normal union activities. Most of them were arrested under MISA and were served with termination notices after their release.

In view of the new policy of the Government in regard to the restoration of democratic rights of the workers and employees of the country, everybody hopes that all of these employees would be taken back in their old jobs without further delay.

Before I conclude, I would like to refer to a proposal of the Government for setting up a petro-chemical complex at Haldia, a new sea port in West Bengal. The Haldia petro-chemical complex had been under consideration of the Central Government since 1964.

It was intended to be included in the Fifth Five Year Plan. It now seems to have been set aside for reasons unknown to the people. In view of the importance of supply of naphtha, infrastructural development and construction of an oil refinery at Haldia, Government should not hesitate in taking the necessary decision in regard to the establishment of a petro-chemical complex at Haldia.

With these words, Madam, I support the Demands for Grants.

SHRI D. D. DESAI (Kaira): Madam, Chairman, to optimise my limited time, pardon my speaking in telegraphic English.

SHRI A. C. GEORGE (Mukandapuram): He was formerly the Minister of Communications and he will understand that language.

SHRI D. D. DESAI: We have started using petroleum products from the last century only. Whether we need or not is the first question. Today 25 per cent of energy comes from petroleum

products, 20 per cent coal, 5 per cent from hydroelectric and 50 per cent from firewood, gobar gas and that sort of non commercial products. Therefore, even today, we are not that much committed to petroleum products. If we take into account the new policy of affluent U.S. which Mr. Carter has recently enunciated then it would be obvious that lesser the use and greater the economy we make the better we and the world would be.

We ourselves spend on oil imports a lot of foreign exchange. If we have some surplus of oil and if we find that out, we better keep it for future. Suppose we have so much of surplus of oil, it is always good to save or have foreign exchange. The renewable energy resource is the only answer for the salvation of India. And that could be not from hydro-carbons but carbohydrates. Sun's energy based photo synthesis will provide us with ample Argo produce. I am glad that some of our friends at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Research Centre have made some crude oil from non-edible oils which also promises some substitute. Regarding exploration, we have done fairly well but the pace had gone down. O.N.G.C. has done about 2.57 lakhs metres during 1975-76 but in 1976-77, they have done 2.65 lakh metres. But, our Bombay-high discovery has off-set this, and, that might have reduced this drilling. As compared to earlier years drilling of 2.57 lakh metres from 1.95 lakh metres in 1974-75. Exploration is going on still. The programme has to be expediated. I know that Mr. Bahuguna is a dynamic man and he has acumen and he would be able to do more than what we expect. The provision available in the draft Fifth Plan was Rs. 420 crores. It was to the credit of the earlier government that the final Plan had gone up to Rs. 1,056 crores. The present Government has to be congratulated that it is now left with enough resources for the O.N.G.C. to do drilling particularly in the Kutch, Saurashtra, Cambay gulf and north of Bombay. We may find enough oil there. We have now technical capabi-

[Shri D. D. Desai]

lities. When we find oil, unfortunately, the recovery is not to the extent which justified it internationally. The recent news of the Institute of Reservoir Study gives us some hope and I am quite sure that this would be taken into consideration seriously and made full use of without any political or regional considerations letting into it. In fact, Sir, while talking about regional consideration I may also bring to notice one or two other aspects. In this case I would only say that the best performance is given by the person who is immediately on the spot of action. If he is away from the scene the inverse ratio is there. The more a person is away or distant from the job the more reduced his output is.

Madam Chairman, we are talking about oil reserves. The Russians have put the off-shore reserve of our country at 4000 million tonnes. Our own ONGC people have put them at 450 million tonnes whereas the Indian Geologists have put—both off-shore and on shore—the total resources at 6200 million tonnes. These figures, no doubt, are not of much importance as a single new discovery may upset all these figures. The purpose of my telling this is that whatever the reserves are we should have the capability to take out the maximum of the material to the extent we can by sophisticated reservoir technology.

Madam Chairman, we have heard the good news from Bombay High people that they would be able to give 10 million tonnes of crude by 1981. They also say that it is of 39.5 API and of low sulphur. In that case this would be one of the world's best crudes. It is reported that about a hundred holes which are expected to cost Rs. 500 crores will yield this quantity of crude. All these are helpful indications. All that I would like to request the hon'ble Minister is that we should not have an earlier type of over-optimistic repetitions. For example, we had heard

about the Baramura as having the largest gas field of world but it has not yet turned out to be so. We have not heard much of it afterwards.

Madam Chairman, we have 27 million tonnes of installed refining capacity. We are processing 24 million tonnes of crude. There is 3 million tonnes of surplus capacity. But this is not enough for us. We should use the fullest refining capacity. There can be a huge cash generation, say, over Rs. 500 crores per year with the Petroleum and Chemical Ministry. My friend, Mr. Alagesan, has said that moneys to the tune of Rs 1,900 crores, that is, almost 21 per cent of the total public sector investment is with the Petroleum and Chemicals Ministry. It will generate cash annually to the tune of Rs. 500 crores by which the hon'ble Minister can set-up fertiliser factories, refineries and petro-chemical plants at ports. Those plants could be also export-oriented. What ever foreign exchange we are spending on import of oil would be more than so earned. At present nearly one-third of the total foreign exchange earnings of the country is spent on the import of petroleum products. What I want to drive at is that he should make the best use of the resources that the country has put in his charge.

The other point on which we have to be quite clear is about economising on our pipelines. We have often heard about a pipeline here and a pipeline there. Contradictory reports are there. All these things result in some uneasiness. What I would like to emphasise is that only the consideration of merit should weigh and not any regional or other consideration.

Madam Chairman, we have seen that the seed of injustice is the cause of all revolutions in the world. Whether it is the French Revolution or the American revolution, the Russian revolution or Indian revolution, all their sources are the seed of injustice. Therefore one has to be careful in sowing such seed.

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA: You may please clarify it to a lay man like me.

SHRI D. D. DESAI: I have been asking for a long time longitudes and latitudes of our off shore oil-fields. We have off shore own and chartered drilling ships there. The foreigners are working there. What is so secret about it that the Parliament Members should not know? Unfortunately, Parliament Members are denied this information. This creates suspicion that there is somebody interested to knock out some commission or make some favourable deal for laying longer and costlier route pipelines. Laying of pipelines shortest to the shore would be the cheapest. The submarine pipeline is definitely costlier than the on-shore pipelines. There is so much of extra effort and so much extra investment is involved in laying submarine pipeline. This information can be gathered from internationally available data which would show that on-shore pipeline is cheaper than Sea-bed or Submarine. It is not hazardous. We have so many extra high-tension power lines, electrified Railways, Highways, etc. along shore.

Sir, the fact is that most of the bureaucrats would like to have its location close to the major city as far as possible. Our policy is to develop the backward areas and under-developed areas. But if we have its location near the city, then the purpose is defeated. The natural instinct of human beings is to live near the cities. But this seems to be working against our policy decision.

Now, there are several pipelines which have been laid. Of course, we are not talking about other things. But please look into the whole affair of the pipelines. The first pipeline scandal was the Bengal-Bihar Collieries Pipeline, for which Thakru Commission was appointed to go into it. So much noise was there and many people lost their jobs. Some of the pipelines were not properly laid.

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA: You ask questions and we will give the answer.

SHRI D. D. DESAI: Therefore, let us have the data on longitudes and latitudes and related drawings. We can get best alternatives from even the international sources.

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA: Has this Ministry in the Sixth Lok Sabha denied this type of information to the hon. Member of the House?

SHRI D. D. DESAI: I know that the Janata Government has come out with an open democratic society policy. They have said that justice and merit will be the basis.

17.54 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

We have a wonderful achievement of I.O.C. We have been watching the performance of the I.O.C. for the last 17 years. It has a record turn-over of nearly Rs. 2500 crores. The main issue is that we should now concentrate not on very minor things but on the bigger things, because after all the I.O.C. has grown into one of the units which can be compared with the international ones. We have achieved self reliance in Lube stocks. With Haldia two lakh tonnes, with Barauni, with our Lube (India), M.R.L. and so on, we are in a strong position and this is what makes us feel sure that we can do well if we now go in for Port based integrated refineries. We have the middle-east oil fields, next door. If you put up a huge refinery at Kandla or any other port—some of my friends said about Gujarat, I would say, put it on Indian Soil anywhere....

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY (Bombay North-East): Do not be so enthusiastic; Bombay has been turned into a gas chamber; if you stay at Trombay you will know. Put it at Rae Bareilly.

SHRI D. D. DESAI: No one liked that; in Trombay we have such huge

[Shri D. D. Desai]

investment and if one bomb were to be thrown at it, the Indian economy would be paralysed for a fairly long time....
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Allow him to proceed.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY. I am telling him that he should be a little cautious in making this demand; Bombay is anyway dying. It has been turned into a gas chamber, especially my constituency.

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: The hon. Member must know that steps have to be taken against environmental pollution when starting an industry, the policy should not be to stop the development of any industry, but ensure these measures.

SHRI D. D. DESAI: With regard to Indane gas there have been many complaints of short weight. It is not difficult for us to have automatic weighing of the gas cylinders; the consumer must feel sure that he gets his money's worth. Then there are long queues for Indane gas connections and it creates difficulties in house cooking. The hon. Minister is well aware of these problems. He can make use of the automatic weighing devices so that complaints do not come.

Oil conservation is a big problem; there are various ways in which it can be done. You have been able to develop a kerosene stove which seems to give 60 per cent efficiency against the 36—45 per cent of the international stoves. This is a good step. You should also take the same step with regard to HSD. A large amount of HSD is used by trucks and so on. Today 60 per cent of our HSD is used on road and only 11 per cent for hauling trains. If you have direct speedy diesel traction trains for long hauls, there would not be any necessity for sending long-haul goods by trucks. That would bring in a good return and also save a good amount of diesel.

You have been using as fuel in Bombay low sulphur crude heavy stock; it is a premium product; you can get a much higher price for it in international market. For sale proceeds, you should get cheap high sulphur heavy stock from international market and sulphur superated to feed our fertiliser plants. We have to import sulphur and if we do what I suggest our input could cost less. We often hear complaints about the high price of fertilisers. But to reduce the fertiliser prices the only way is to use low cost raw materials and inputs, leaving apart excise which is a revenue matter. It is a policy matter. If we want to reduce the cost of our fertilisers, it could be done by this method. That can be easily done by seeing that each of the inputs or raw-materials are obtained at the lowest possible price, and one of the inputs is sulphur.

18 hrs.

When we are talking about crude. I request the Minister to consider the point at this stage itself that when the oil reserves go down, we will have to depend upon liquid hydrogen. For that, there is a KMS fusion company in USA which has developed technology through breeder reactor and this generates lot of hydrogen. Now hydrogen will be a future clean fuel and we have to start today to catch up after 25 years. The development of hydrogen as an alternative fuel is a must for us in case of reduction of other fuels. Even otherwise, we must do it.

The Indian Institute of Petroleum has made a study and they have got ready-made data as to how we can reduce the consumption of oil by 30 per cent. That also may be of some help. IIP people are quite knowledgeable and I think it would be good to look at it.

Coming to fertilizers, we have today N_2 and P_2O_5 fertilizers. These are the main fertilizers. Some of the members have talked about the ill-effects of fertilizers and this and that. We must develop these legumes and adopt plant rotation system. The

Israelis have developed a technology of transferring nitrogen fixing genes from the bacteria that is found in the nodules of these legumes to the bacteria generally harboured by other plants, particularly cereals like wheat. With this technology we can easily fix nitrogen from the atmosphere.

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI D. D. DESAI: I shall continue tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: You must conclude now. I have been waiting for you to finish your speech. But now you say you will continue tomorrow. No. Please conclude your speech now, in two minutes.

SHRI D. D. DESAI: Sir, I will finish in two minutes. We should not heavily depend on Naptha and Gas. We should not depend on imported rock phosphate and sulphur. We should develop our Udaipur, Maldiva Phosphates and sulphur from pyrites. Our fertilizer plants are incurring losses. But the Gujarat State Fertilizer Plant is making bumper profits. You can ask the Gujarat State Fertilizer Plant people to see as to how we can make profits in Fertilizer Corporation of India and other fertilizer plants.

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA: Perhaps you know the reasons.

SHRI D. D. DESAI: I know some of the reasons. The various reasons stated by the people need not necessarily be true. You can examine them yourself.

We have got fairly good performance from IPCL. But there was a delay of 5 years. We should see that we go ahead with the Olefin and Downstream projects and see that they are put up expeditiously. The Olefin Project is expected to be completed by October 1977. I am sure that they will not defer it further. I have got a fairly long statement to make about the Downstream Projects. Because I do not have time, I am cutting out that also.

Coming to drugs, I should say that FDA Rules are known to you. They had to throw sweetners into the sea. They had to ban drugs like Thalidomide. In our country we have large number of drugs which may not give us the expected performance. Therefore, there is no means to know which of the drugs have efficacy and which are fake. Of course, it does not fall under your Ministry. But its manufacture comes under your charge. The Health Ministry has to control it, but you can kindly organise this. The so-called vitamins are not necessarily vitamins. The so-called protein and other things also should be checked up. There are no patents in Italy. In France, the Supermarket tried non-branded goods and found that the cost had gone down by 30 per cent. Therefore, we can do away with brands and patents in medicines and the like. All these titanic talks about the deteriorating standards of medicines are not necessarily valid.

Then, there are common diseases and common medicines...

MR. SPEAKER: We shall now take up the half-an-hour discussion. Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan.

18.06 hrs.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

COMMITTEE ON STATUS OF WOMEN

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN (Coimbatore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this discussion arises out of the reply given to a question as to what recommendations of the Committee on Status of Women are being implemented. The reply was, "The recommendations which have been implemented or are being implemented are as under..." It is a vague statement. One does not know which recommendations have been implemented already, which are being implemented and which are likely to be