

12.44 hrs.

**PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE**

Hundred and Sixth Report

**SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO** (Hanamkonda): Sir, I beg to present the Hundred and Sixth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Forty-eighth Report relating to Defence Services.

12.44-1/2 hrs.

**ESTIMATES COMMITTEE**

Twenty-seventh Report

**SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA** (Aurangabad): Sir, I beg to present the Twenty-seventh Report of the Estimates Committee (English and Hindi versions) on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Twentieth Report on the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (Department of Rural Development)—Survey of Unemployment in Rural Sector.

**COMMITTEE ON SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION**

Fifteenth Report

**SHRI DURGA CHAND** (Kangra): I beg to present the Fifteenth Report of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation.

12.45 hrs.

**STATEMENT RE. NEW OFFSHORE GAS DISCOVERY OFF MAHIM (BOMBAY)**

**THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS** (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): Sir,

I am happy to announce discovery of natural gas in a well which is under drilling by 'Shenandoah' a jack up rig, in an offshore structure 120 kms. northwest of Bombay city and due west of Mahim town. The well is under production testing and the gas bearing column is about 70 m. in thickness. The testing of a selected part of the column covering 35 metres was commenced on December 9, 1978. With a 1/2" choke the production has been 220,000 cubic metres per day together with condensate. Three more horizons in the well are to be tested. After all the zones are tested the potential of this field will be determined. Thereafter a few assessment wells will be drilled to determine the size of the field and the commerciality of the gas find it is our hope that although this field will not be as large as South Bassein gas field which was discovered in May 1976, this field could be rated as one of significance.

It will be recalled that ONGC entered the offshore in 1973 with the arrival of ONGC's own jack up rig Sagar Samarat. In February 1974 oil was discovered in the Bombay High field and after the field was delineated by drilling of a number of assessment wells, development of the field was taken up. Today the production is upto 90,000 barrels per day together with associated gas. In due course the potential for production is to be built up to 240,000 barrels per day (12 million tonnes per annum).

Following the discovery of the Bombay High field ONGC discovered small oil fields on a structure called North Bassein and another known as B.38 and a large gas field on a structure called South Bassein, all these off the west coast near Bombay. Gas has also been discovered in a well in the South Tapti structure. However, assessment drilling will have to be taken up before this structure can be declared as commercial. ONGC is presently having four drilling rigs in operation in the North Arabian sea area.

The interesting possibility is that the establishment of the commercial gas field in South Bassein which may be followed by the establishment of one or more gas fields in the Cambay Basin would open up a new vista with exploitation of natural gas assuming an importance, which so far was assigned to crude oil. However, we have to wait for a clear picture concerning the gas potential of this area until more information is gathered over the next four or five months.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Bahuguna, because of the importance of the matter, I have allowed you to make a statement without giving me a copy in advance. Under the rules, you have to give me a copy of the statement earlier. Please follow this practice in future.

12.48 hrs.

BANKING LAWS (AMENDMENT)  
 BILL\*

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 1891, the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, the State Bank of India Act, 1955, the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959, the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Act, 1961, the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 1891 the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, the State Bank of India, Act, 1955, the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959, the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Act, 1961, the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976".

The motion was adopted.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: I introduce the Bill.

\*Published in Gazette of India Ex. Extraordinary, Part II, section 2, dated 21-12-78.