

tation of further programme, and whether in this matter there is adequate coordination between the concerned Directorates.

9. To review in broad terms the adequacy, both in terms of quality and quantity, of seismic, drilling, testing, production and other important equipment at present available and in use in the ONGC, and if gaps and shortcomings are revealed to suggest measures for removing these;

10. To review the deployment of drilling rigs and seismic equipment and suggest measures for their better and more effective utilisation;

The Committee is being requested to give their report within a period of three months.

12.55 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE THIRD REPORT

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Third report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 15th July, 1971."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Third Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 15th July, 1971."

The motion was adopted

12.56 hrs.

WEST BENGAL STATE LEGISLATURE (DELEGATION OF POWERS) BILL*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. C. PANT): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to confer on the President the power of the legislature of the State of West Bengal to make laws.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE—*rose*.

MR. SPEAKER: You should be very brief.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Burdwan): Of course, with your permission, Sir.

This is a matter of importance, an important piece of legislation which is sought to be introduced.

This Bill seeks to do away with the entire democratic process of legislation. Because, there could be no opportunity of discussion or of debate in respect any Bill or anything that may be passed or law enacted in respect of West Bengal,

So far as the Constitutional provision is concerned, I know, the Minister will refer to Art. 357. But that should be taken recourse to in gravest emergency: not as a regular procedure to be adopted in every case where Presidential rule is promulgated. So far as the Constitution is concerned, there are various provisions in Part IV, dealing with Directive Principles which are never taken recourse to, and this has become something like a monument of Government's in action and apathy because Government has never taken any steps for the purpose of enforcing the Directive principles.

Just because there is a Constitutional provision it is not necessary that Parliament should abdicate its function of enacting law for the purpose of the State over which Presidential rule is promulgated and leave the entire process of legislating for that State to the executive, in the name of the President. It will give rise to tendencies of passing laws without discussion, laws which will be in the nature of 'anti-people' laws. And, we will have no opportunity to discuss that. The only provision made is that there can be amendment of any of the Acts which are passed by the President in exercise of the powers under this statute. But, Sir, that will be only in the case of amendment that may be proposed, but there is no scope for general discussion or for disapproval of the Presidential Act that may be passed.