

11.02 hrs

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:—

"I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on Monday, the 24th May, 1976, adopted the following motion in regard to the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee of the Houses on the adoption of Children Bill, 1972—

"That the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Adoption of Children Bill, 1972, be further extended up to the last day of the Ninety-seventh Session of the Rajya Sabha".

11.02 hrs.

**COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS
THIRTY FIRST REPORT AND MINUTES**

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO (Chattrapur): I beg to present the following Report and Minutes of the Committee on Petitions:—

- (1) Thirty-first Report.
- (2) Minutes of Seventy-eighth to Eighty-second sittings.

11.2½ hrs.

STATEMENT RE. COMMENCEMENT OF COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION OF CRUDE OIL IN THE BOMBAY HIGH

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a statement on the commencement of commercial production of crude oil in the Bombay High.

Statement

I have been keeping the House informed of the progress in our efforts at oil exploration and production in the Bombay High offshore area. Bombay High is an extensive field and if we had followed the normal course of appraising the potential of the structure, drawing up a techno-economic plan for its development and then drilling the production wells, it might have taken four to five years before commencing commercial production from the field. In order to minimise the gap between discovery and the commencement of commercial production, we took certain special steps with the advice of our Consultants and telescoped the appraisal of the structure and the commencement of the first stage of production. As I have mentioned on other occasions, this field, on being fully developed, can yield oil at the rate of 10 million tonnes per annum. This potential would be achieved in five successive phases, so that by 1980-81, the full production potential would be established. Bombay High was discovered in February, 1974 and I am glad to inform the House that commercial production commenced on 21st May, 1976 i.e. in a period of about 27 months. This is considered to be a highly satisfactory rate of progress by international standards. The ONGC deserves our congratulations for this achievement and so do the consultants and collaborators who have helped the ONGC in this task. The Two wells which are on production would be acidised in a few days time and the flow of oil then is expected to improve considerably higher. It would have been perhaps proper for us to withhold this news till our production per well had increased after acidisation. But the House is well aware of the excitement which the oil news creates especially amongst those who are diligently engaged in this thrilling pursuit.

It would be worth while recalling the assistance that we have received from various parties in this effort. The first