

[Shri R. K. Sinha]

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting-Films Part I.

13.29 hrs.

**MATTER UNDER RULE 377**

**PILFERAGE FROM BARAUNI-HALDIA OIL PIPELINE NEAR ASANSOL**

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Alipore):**

With your permission, I bring to the attention of the House a very alarming report which has appeared in the press. A PTI message of April 22 from Asansol side reports:

"Over 5000 k.l. of petroleum oil worth about Rs. 5 lakhs was stolen by some unknown persons by boring a hole in the Barauni-Haldia pipeline near here on Saturday. According to Mr. B. M. Bhat, Director Mines Safety, Eastern Zone, the Miscreants drained off the oil and carried it away in a tanker. The incident was detected yesterday. The hole has since been filled in and a police picket posted on the spot. No arrest has so far been made."

But I would like to point out to you that pilferages from this pipeline were reported two or three years ago also. I remember I has raised the matter in the House at that time, and we were assured at that time by the hon. Minister that precautionary measures would be taken to see that no opportunity was given to people to do any such thing. This pipeline runs underground and it is not above ground but below the soil, and yet people are in a position to come and bore holes in that pipeline to remove the oil and just transport it away. The report further says:

"According to Mr. Bhat, these 5,000 k.l. were carried away in a tanker."

It could not be carried away in a single tanker. 5000 k.l. of oil would require more than one tanker to be carried away. Therefore, it is an extraordinary thing. I would like to know where these tankers are pro-

cured from. Who are these expert thieves or miscreants or pilferers who are able to have at their disposal a number of tankers in which they can fill this oil and take it away from the pipeline. On the face of it, it does not seem so innocent as it looks. There must be some people, I do not know who they are, connected with the operation of the pipeline, some people of the IOC organisation who must be in collusion with these thieves and miscreants. Otherwise such a thing cannot be done.

I would just point out to you what a dangerous thing it is. If some saboteur wants to destroy this pipeline, they could do it with great ease. If they could make a hole in the pipeline, instead of removing the oil they may as well set fire to it and the entire pipeline would be destroyed within a short time. This pipeline was constructed after the 1962 war primarily with a view to our defence and security arrangements in the future. This is the kind of thing which is happening now. At this stage, the hon. Minister may probably say that he is collecting the information. But I would like to know what immediate precautionary measures are going to be taken for proper patrolling for mobile patrolling of the whole length of this pipeline.

You will notice also that the news report has given the information not from their own department but from the Director of Mines (Safety). The reason is that in this Asansol area, as we all know, the Haldia-Barauni pipeline has been aligned across the colliery area which is itself another matter of scandal which has led to the Takru Commission which is going into this whole pipeline business. This oil pipeline is going across an area where there are coal mines situated, and if a fire breaks out in the pipeline, it will not be restricted only to that. A large number of coalfields or coal mines will also be enveloped.

A tremendous conflagration can take place in the whole area.

Therefore, this is a very serious matter indeed. I would like to know from the Minister if he has any more facts to add to this newspaper report, what actually has happened and what precautionary measures they are taking. It is extraordinary that not a single arrest has been made. They have carted away the oil in several tankers Nobody is arrested It must be a case of collusion I would like to know what is their information and what steps they are taking immediately to see that such cases do not recur

श्री मधु लिनये (श्राका) अध्यक्ष महोदय, जब कभी बरौनी हल्दिया पाइपलाइन का मामला उठता है, तो मन घृणा और गुस्से से भर जाता है, क्योंकि शुरू से आखिर तक हम में इतने बड़े पैमाने पर घले हुए हैं कि जिन की जांच अभी तक पूरी नहीं हो पाई है। यह लाइन जिन कोलबेल्ट से गई है, उससे बागे में हम सदन की कमेटी ने अपना यह निष्कर्ष दिया है कि हम पाइपलाइन के कारण 350 करोड़ रुपये का कोयला निकालना असम्भव हो गया। अब उम कोयला कादाम और बढ़ा है—700 800 करोड़ रुपये उस का दाम हा गया होगा। इस की एलाइनमेंट के सम्बन्ध में उम समय भारतीय विशेषज्ञों ने जो राय दी थी उस का ठुकरा कर विदेशी कम्पनियों की सहाह पर हम तरह का एलाइनमेंट किया गया जिन के बारे में पब्लिक अडरटेकिंग कमेटी ने कहा था

"The object reliance on foreign companies went to the extent of rejecting outright the expert opinion of Government's own mining engineers".

मैं यह जानना चाहता हू कि क्या इस इलाके में पूरी पाइपलाइन भूमिगत जमीन के नीचे है, या उस का कोई हिस्सा जमीन से ऊपर भी है। मैंने पूरी पाइप लाइन के एलाइनमेंट का अध्ययन नहीं किया है। कभी कभी नदी-नाला कास करते समय पाइप लाइन जमीन से ऊपर भी हो सकती है। क्या कोई ऐसा हिस्सा भी है, जहाँ यह पाइप लाइन जमीन के नीचे नहीं, बल्कि

उसके ऊपर से जाती है, जिसके कारण उस में छेद करना आसान होता होगा? पाइप लाइन में छेद किया गया और उस में में तेल निकाल कर टैंकर में डाला गया। मुझे तो ऐसा लगता है कि पाइप लाइन पर काम करके वाले जो अधिकारी लोग हैं, उन में से कोई ना कोई जरूर इस रिकॉर्ड में फसा होगा, और इसी कारण टनना बड़ा चारों का काम करने में काम करने में इन लोगों को मफलता मिली है।

जैसा कि अभी श्री इन्द्रजीत गुप्त ने कहा है, यह आश्चर्य की बात है कि यह जानकारी डायरेक्टर आफ माइन्स सेप्टी ने, या उसके कार्यालय में, दण को मिल रही है। यह मामला में नही आ रहा है कि इस बारे में यह मंत्रालय क्या कर रहा है।

इस पाइप लाइन के मामले में बड़े घपले हैं। दो बार यह मामला प्रिविलेजिज कमेटी में गया है और मंत्री, श्री पी० आर० नायक तथा श्री खेरान माफी मागी है। मंत्री महोदय इस घटना के बारे में पूर तथ्य सदन के सामने रखे। वह यह भी बताये कि इस पाइप लाइन की रक्षा के लिए क्या समुचित कदम उठाया गया है और पश्चिमी बंगाल और बिहार आदि जिन जिन राज्या में से यह पाइप लाइन गुजरती है, उन की सरकारों से इस बारे में क्या सहयोग लिया जा रहा है। इस बार मैं वह विस्तार से बयान दे, तथा इस सदन का इस विषय में सतोष होगा।

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHANAWAZ KHAN) At the outset, I would like to state that this pipeline is carrying not a finished product but it is a crude oil pipeline

SHRI MADHU LIMAYE We know the meaning of 'petroleum oil'

SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN It is taking crude to Barauni.

SHRI MADHU LIMAYE: Petroleum oil means that.

**SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN:** During the early hours of 21 April, it was observed that the pressure had fallen very low. Immediate steps were taken to locate the actual spot where the incident had taken place. It was found that a quarter inch whole had been drilled in the pipeline. On the spot were found some chisels, and hammers and obviously somebody had done it.

**SHRI INDRAJI GUPTA:** what is the thickness of the pipeline?

श्री मधु लिमये : वह हिस्सा जमीन के नीचे था या ऊपर था ;

**SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN:** It is generally below the ground. According to information available to me, the spot is 17 km from Asansol in the direction of Calcutta. The loss of crude oil is estimated between 11 and 15 kilolitres, not 500 kl. The cost if it would be between Rs. 7000 and Rs. 10,000. We do not know whether any tankers were used but it is unlikely that any tanker was used for this purpose. Anyhow we have lodged a report with the police immediately and the police are taking necessary steps. They have already posted police pickets on the spot and they are patrolling the line to ensure that there is no recurrence of this trouble.

श्री मधु लिमये : यह नहीं बताया है कि वह हिस्सा जमीन में ऊपर था या नीचे था ।

श्री शाहनवाज खां : इस बात पर उन-फ्रेंडेशन में पता नहीं है ।

**MR. SPEAKER:** Later on you should come with some more information on this.

श्री मधु लिमये : मंत्री महोदय सारे तथ्य इकट्ठे करके बाद में वक्तव्य दे दें ।

**MR. SPEAKER:** I have already ask-

ed has that when more detailed information is available he should come.

**SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN:** What more information, Sir? I said that the pipe was underground.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Members are exercised about this. When the result of the enquiry comes before you you can give more information at a later stage. When an enquiry is made new facts may come to your notice; you may share them with the House.

**SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN:** Certainly, Sir. But for the information of the hon. Members I should like to say that the pipe was underground; it was dug up. The thickness of the pipe is quarter inch.

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:** The diameter of the hole is also quarter inch?

**SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN:** Yes. 13.39 hrs.

\*DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, 1974-75—  
Contd.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

**MR. SPEAKER:** The House will now take up discussion and voting on Demand Nos. 18 to 23 relating to the Ministry of Defence for which 5 hours have been allotted.

DEMAND No. 18—*Ministry of Defence*

**MR. SPEAKER:** Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,24,39,000 on Revenue Account and not exceeding Rs. 20,94,35,000 on Capital Account be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1975, in respect of 'Ministry of Defence'."

DEMAND No. 18—*Defence Services—  
Army*

**MR. SPEAKER:** Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.

\*Moved with the recommendations of

the President.