

[श्री तन्नेत्ति विस्वानथम वचनं की]

इन लाइनों को सदन के बाहर दोहराने के लिए
निकलतपूर्वक ध्यायह कर्तव्य।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Now, we shall take up the next item. Shri D. C. Sharma.

Shri Tenneti Viswanatham (Visakha-patnam): May I ask . . .

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There can be no questions now.

Shri Tenneti Viswanatham: I would like to ask what the purpose of personal explanation is . . .

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Certain allegations were made against the Member.

Shri Tenneti Viswanatham: I thought that the provision in the rules for personal explanation was intended to clarify if there was a misunderstanding. When a person makes a statement which is not clear and when somebody attacks that on the ground that it is not clear, then the person making one statement rises and says that what he meant was this or that. On the other hand, here we find a speech in answer to another speech, and the other hon. Member concerned is not here.

Some hon. Members: He is here.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There cannot be any further questions on this.

श्री तन्नेत्ति विस्वानथम : श्री तन्नेत्ति
महोदय, ध्यायह कर्तव्य है।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I shall not permit any further questions on this. This will not be recorded. Now, Shri D. C. Sharma (Interruptions).**

14.20 hrs.

MINERAL PRODUCTS (ADDITIONAL DUTIES OF EXCISE AND CUSTOMS) AMENDMENT BILL—contd.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: For her consideration of the following motion

moved by Shri K. C. Pant on the 6th April, 1967, namely:

"That the Bill further to amend the Mineral Products (Additional Duties of Excise and Customs) Act, 1958, be taken into consideration".

Shri D. C. Sharma may continue his speech.

Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I was submitting very respectfully yesterday that these oil companies are very powerful combines and there are only two persons who I know who have stood up to them. One was Dr. Mossadeq of Iran of blessed memory. He did so in a very big way and he nationalised that industry in his country. Of course, that country went back upon it afterwards, which was very unfortunate. The other was our Oil Minister, Shri K. D. Malaviya, who also tried to limit the powers, influence and money power of these companies. Of course, he did so within the framework of our mixed economy and, therefore, he did not succeed very much. But so far as his attempt went, it was highly creditable. I want that the whole of this Bill should be looked at from that context and it should not be dealt with in a cursory manner.

Now, it has been said that these duties which are being imposed will not pass on to the consumer. I do not know in what words the hon. Minister put it. I think he said that any duty that is imposed by this Bill will not pass directly or indirectly to the consumer. I think the hon. Finance Minister will be able to answer this question. I find that so far as kerosene oil is concerned the duty has been doubled. So far as refined diesel

**Not recorded.

oil is concerned, it has also been enhanced almost to the extent of 100 per cent. The duty on asphalt has also been enhanced.

To think that these duties will not pass on to the consumers is to think of some kind of arithmetic which perhaps prevails not in this world but in some other world. He should think of some other kind of economics which is not known to the economists of the world of ours but to some other economists of some other star.

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance (Shri K. C. Pant): Is he referring to the Bill and saying the duties have been enhanced? Only the ceilings have been enhanced within which the additional duties will be charged. These are the ceilings.

Shr D. C. Sharma: These are the ceilings. But I know and you, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, know that the floors go up and touch the ceilings, but the ceilings never go down. I have seen floors rise to meet the ceilings, but I have seldom seen the ceilings caving in. I have no doubt about it that the ceiling which the hon. Member is imposing upon this kerosene oil and other things will become ceilings in fact and in deed and in taxation and other things. Therefore I think that you should think of the consumer first.

The third point that I want to make is this, that unfortunately some of these things are already in short supply. For instance kerosene oil. A reference was made to kerosene oil yesterday. I think the reference was not needed from any State of India, because I know from my own experience of my State that kerosene oil is not to be found in abundance anywhere. Again, refined diesel oil and other kinds of oil are also not to be found in as much quantity as required by the persons who use them.

I want to ask one question. How are these shortages going to be met by the Ministry. I want to know whether this enhancement of excise duties is not going to increase the incidence of these shortages, or whether it is going to bring down the quantum of these shortages.

The last point that I want to make is this, that unfortunately I know about three things—kerosene oil, refined diesel oil and other diesel oil. These things have become more or less forms of monopoly trade. We have been thinking of the Monopolies Commission. We have not debated the Monopolies Commission's Report on the floor of the House, but I know the policy of the Government is that we should put an end to these monopolies as early as possible. But when I go round this country I find that the sale of kerosene oil is given to a handful of persons, that the sale of diesel oil is also given to a few persons, and I can say with a due sense of responsibility that sometimes these depot-holders of kerosene oil....

Dr. Ranen Sen (Barasat): That is right.

Shri D. C. Sharma: I do not want any approbation from you, I am speaking from my experience.

Shri V. Krishnamoorthi (Cuddalore): You are showing your hand this side, you should show your hand the other side.

Shri D. C. Sharma: If you are so tough, I cannot help it.

I was submitting very respectfully that these depot-holders are more or less—I am looking at the Deputy-Speaker....

Shri V. Krishnamoorthi: But you are showing your hand this side.

Shri S. Kandappa (Mettur): You are not showing it to the other side.

Shri D. C. Sharma: I was submitting very respectfully that the depot-holders of kerosene oil all over India

[Shri D. C. Sharma]

are the proprietors of concerns which I can call near-monopoly concerns, if not full monopoly concerns.

Similarly, the people who have been licensed for diesel oil and other kinds of oil are also persons who, I submit very respectfully, are trafficking in some thing which is a commodity of monopoly.

I want to ask one question. Are we here, I mean the Congress Government, and I am proud of belonging to the Congress Party, to put a seal upon these monopolistic tendencies which are prevailing, and which I am sure will prevail more on account of these duties? The moment you go to a place you find the kerosene oil has gone underground. I am very sorry that the kerosene oil that goes underground does not blow up that shop. If it blows up that shop, I would be very happy. But it does not do so. But the poor man, the average consumer, the common man goes without kerosene oil; some of those persons who operate our traffic in some ways also go without these things. Therefore, I would say that the hon. Minister, whom I congratulate on his becoming a Minister of State—he is the worthy son of a worthy father; his father also began as Finance Minister and he is also beginning as Finance Minister and I have no doubt that his horoscope reads very well—should see that by imposing these excise duties he should not be a party to those things which lead to monopolistic tendencies.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): All wrong English.

Shri D. C. Sharma: Sir, the soul of one of those persons who is no more here has come to possess the body of 'his demon; and I cannot help it. I was submitting very respectfully that one has to look at this from all those angles, so that nothing that is done

in this Bill will do wrong to the average consumer, to the common man. Of course, it has been said that nothing will happen to them, but I am looking forward to the day when with the Rumanian help, with the help of France, with the help of the United Kingdom, with the help of the Soviet Union, and with the help of other friendly countries who do not dabble in the politics of our country, we shall be able to prospect oil to that extent that we shall be able to have refineries on a big scale in this country. We should have all these things in such a way that our dependence on ESSO and Burmah-Shell and other foreign companies disappears.

Sometimes, when I am going about and I am in an impish mood—sometimes the impish mood does take hold of me—I feel like whitewashing the ESSO signs and Burmah-Shell signs; I feel like effacing them; I feel like painting in their places the Indian Oil Company. I want that the oil map of India in terms of prospecting, in terms of refining, in terms of sale and in terms of everything should be changed to Indian from A to Z. I look forward to that day and I hope that this Bill may bring that day nearer, but I doubt it very much if this Bill will succeed in that. However, I hope something will be done so that we would become self-sufficient in oil, because the threat of China and the threat of Pakistan—all those threats—are there. I know Pakistan can get oil from Iran, from Jordan and from other countries. They have got oil from those countries; they got even armaments from those countries; they got armaments from Iran which were given to Iran by West Germany; of course it was said they had been sent to Pakistan for servicing. In view of the emergency and the threat we are facing all the time, I wish my country becomes self-sufficient in oil. When we were fighting the Indo-Pakistan war—I am glad

we did extremely well in that—we were denied spare parts by America and so many other things by UK and other countries. If something like that happens and we are denied oil, the future does not look bright for our country. Therefore, we should look at this simple Bill having only 2 clauses not from the limited objective put forward by the minister, nor from that extremely short-range point of view, but we should look at it from as many angles as possible, from the correct perspective of the common man's consumption and the defence needs of our country.

श्री श्रीराम गोयल (बुध्डीगढ़) : रिप्टी स्पीकर साहब, सबसे पहले तो मैं यह अर्ज करना चाहूंगा कि मंत्री महोदय ने इस को एक मासूम या बिन जहिर करने की कोशिश की है और उसके समर्थन में यह दलील दी है कि जो ये एजीशनल इयूटीज लगेगी इन का बोझा उपभोक्ताओं के ऊपर नहीं डाला जायगा। मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि इन वक्त प्रश्न दो-तीन हमारे सामने महत्व के हैं—सब से पहला तो यह कि जहाँ तक ब्राडिनेन्स जारी करने का ताल्लुक है, हमारे कॉन्स्टीट्यूशन में, जिन दिनों पार्लियामेंट का सेशन न हो रहा हो, कानून बनाने के मर्यादित रूप से ब्राडिनेन्स गैर एक्टिविटी को दिये गये हैं, लेकिन हर मामले में, चाहे ज़रूरत हो या न हो, ख़ासतौर से फिजिकल मामलों में, वित्तीय मामलों में, सरकार इंजारेन कर के इस तरह से ब्राडिनेन्स जारी कर देती है, मैं यह समझता हूँ कि यह मुंजिब नहीं है। इस मामले में भी सरकार इंजारेन कर सकती था क्योंकि इस में कुछ कम्पनियों का ही सवाल था, लेकिन दलील यह दा गई है कि डिबैंगलिंग के कारण, हमारा मुद्रा अतिसूच्य के कारण उन कम्पनियों का घाटा पूरा करने के लिये इन इयूटीज का शरह में बुद्धि करने का ज़रूरत था।

रिप्टी स्पीकर साहब, इस में अतिरिक्त भी ये टेक-कम्पनियाँ हैं, ये बहुत धमर कम्प-

नियाँ हैं। इन के आर्थिक ढांचे पर विचार करते हैं तो हम देखते हैं कि इन के यहाँ जो लॉग कर्मचारी हैं उन को किस तरह से बेतन और सुविधायें मिलती हैं। यहाँ तक कि हमारे बड़े बड़े आई सी० एस० आर्थिकजर्ज भी इस बात की अभिलाषा रखते हैं कि उनकी जो सन्तान है, उन के लड़के सरकारी नौकरियों में न जा कर इन कम्पनियों की नौकरी में भरती हों। उनको आर्थिक स्थिति इस प्रकार की है कि वे कुछ महीने तक इन घाटे को बरदाश्त कर सकते थे और हमें इंजारेन करना चाहिये था जब तक कि इन लाकतभा का अधिवेशन बुलाया जाता और इस ब्राडिनेन्स को जारी न किया जाता।

जहाँ तक तेल का सम्बन्ध है—जहाँ इस का हमारे उद्योग-घरों से सम्बन्ध है, देश की रक्षा से सम्बन्ध है, हमारे यातायात और टूरिपोर्ट से सम्बन्ध है, वहाँ हमारे डोमेस्टिक यूज के लिये भी पेट्रोलियम प्रोडक्ट बहुत ज़रूरी है, हम अपने घरों में कैरोसीन आयल का इस्तेमाल करते हैं। इस लिये मैं आज की इनकी कीमतों की तरफ आपका ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूँ। सब से पहला बार जब इयूटीज लगाई गई, तब कैरोसीन आयल पर 12 पैसे पर इम्पीरियल गैलन, मोटर रिफ्रैक्ट पर 14 पैसे, रिफ़ाइण्ड डीज़ल आयल पर 12 पैसे, डीज़ल आयल पर 20 से० टन लगाई गई। उस के बाद जब एजीशनल इयूटीज लगाई गई, जिसका शजरा यहाँ दिया गया है, उसकी डिटेल्स भी मैंने हासिल कर ली हैं उस में कैरोसीन आयल पर 60 से० पर किलो लिटर, मोटर रिफ्रैक्ट पर 165 से० पर किलो लिटर, रिफ़ाइण्ड डीज़ल आयल पर 100 से० पर किलो लिटर, डीज़ल आयल पर 60 से० पर किलो लिटर लगाई गई।

अब इसके अलावा उन को ज़रूरत महसूस होती है कि मिनेरल प्रोडक्ट्स की प्राइस वोलिंग को ऊंचा किया जाय। यह कम्पनियों महसूस करती हैं कि उन को घाटा

[श्री श्रीराम गो. श.]

हुमा है और उस कमी को किसी न किसी तरीके से पूरा किया जाय। लेकिन जैसा कि शर्मा साहब ने कहा और वह सही कहा है कि उस का जो धमर पड़ना है, तेल आदि के दाम बढ़ाने या एंडीगनल ऐक्साइज इयूटी लगाने का, वह बोझा या असर भारत के नागरिकों पर ही पड़ेगा और यह बोझा जनता के ऊपर नहीं डाला जाना चाहिए। इन बात में मैं शर्मा जी से सहमत हूँ। भले ही सीधे तौर पर चाँहि हम यह बोझा उन के ऊपर नहीं डालें है लेकिन पड़ना बोझा उन्हीं पर जाकर है।

प्रश्न यह है कि यह कम्पनियाँ जब कैरिबेसीन ड्रायल पेट्रोल या दूसरी पेट्रोलियम प्रोडक्ट्स की कीमतें किलकुट करती हैं, फीसल्टी हैं तो मैं उन से यह समझना चाहता हूँ कि उन्होंने यह कीमतें तय करने का क्या नियार रक्खा है क्या फ़ाइटीरिया रक्खा है? अब यह ड्रायल कम्पनियाँ पाकिस्तान की अपनी प्रोडक्ट्स सस्ते दामों पर बेचती हैं और हैं; उन के मुकाबले मंहगे दामों पर बेचती हैं। पाकिस्तान के अन्दर यह चीजें बहुत कम शरह पर यह कम्पनियाँ मुहैया करती हैं तो यह जो उनका भेदभाव का सलूक है यह उचित नहीं है। आखिर प्राइस तय करने का कोई नियार होना चाहिए, कोई उस का एक तरीका होना चाहिए। इस सम्बन्ध में हमारी सरकार को इन कम्पनियों के साथ सारा दंत अपना रख कर कोशिश इस बात की करनी चाहिए कि चीजों की दरों के अन्दर, शरह के अन्दर कमी की जाय।

चंडीगढ़ की यूनियन टैरीटरी जिसको कि मैं रिप्रेजेंट करता हूँ मैंने वहाँ खुद गाँव में चुनाव के दौरान पैदल घूम कर देखा है कि गाँव जहाँ पर बिजली नहीं पहुँची है, जहाँ पर कोई दूसरी सुविधाएँ नहीं पहुँची हैं और मैं समझता हूँ कि रात के अंधेरे को रोसनी में बदलने के लिए यह जो किरोसीन ड्रायल है यही लोगों के लिए एक साधन है

लेकिन वह भी वहाँ के लोगों को कर्षाव माखा में उपलब्ध नहीं हो पाता है। उस की बड़ी कमी और किल्लत रहती है। यह ठीक है कि तेल के डिपोज खोले गये हैं लेकिन इस बात में भी शर्मा जी से सहमत हूँ कि जो कम्पनी के अधिकारी हैं वह अपने भादमियों को इन डिपोज पर तेल बेचने के लिए रख छोड़ते हैं।

इस के साथ साथ मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि यह रेट्स के अन्दर भी असमानता है डिस्पैरिटी है। चंडीगढ़ भी यूनियन टैरीटरी है और दिल्ली भी यूनियन टैरीटरी है अब आप मुलाहिजा फरमायें कि दोनों जगह के रेट्स में अन्तर है। यहाँ दिल्ली में पेट्रोल 50 पैसे की लिटर है जबकि चंडीगढ़ में वही पेट्रोल 1 रुपया पर लिटर के हिसाब से मिलता है। इस तरह की डिस्पैरिटी हालांकि दोनों यूनियन टैरीटरीज हैं, यह पेट्रोल के रेट के अन्दर 10 पैसे का अन्तर है। चंडीगढ़ में दिल्ली के मुकाबले 10 पैसे लिटर ज्यादा पड़ना है। मैं चाहूँगा कि सरकार इस और देख और विनियत: चंडीगढ़ जो एक यूनियन टैरीटरी है, उस में और दिल्ली जॉकि यूनियन टैरीटरी है पेट्रोल के दाम एक इंचिल पर लाना चाहिए। इस के साथ ही इन कम्पनियों द्वारा हमारे देश और दूसरे मुल्कों जैसे पाकिस्तान के साथ होने वाले ट्रेडिंग में भेदभाव है वह जो हमारे साथ डिस्कमिनेटरी ट्रेडिंग है उस को सरकार को दूर करना चाहिए। अगर हमारी सरकार इन ड्रायल कम्पनियों के साथ ट्रेडिंग से बातचीत करके अपना केस रखे तो कोई बजह नहीं मालूम पड़ती कि पाकिस्तान और दूसरे देशों के मुकाबले में यह ड्रायल कम्पनियाँ हों; क्यों अपेक्षाकृत अधिक दाम पर प्रोडक्ट्स मुहैया करें? यह विरिक्त: इन दूर हूँना चाहिए। ऐसे मामलों में प्राविनेंस लाने की जरूरत नहीं है इसलिए मैं उस का विरोध करता हूँ।

Shri Chintamani Panigrahi (Bhubaneswar): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am quite aware of the limitations in the scope of discussion on the oil policy so far as this amending Bill is concerned, but certain points need some elucidation and I hope the hon. Minister will throw some light on them.

So far as our country is concerned, the consumption of oil and petroleum products roughly amounts to six million tons. The refineries we have set up are producing nearly four million tons. So far as the import aspect is concerned, we are importing nearly two million tons. In the Statement of Objects and Reasons of this Bill the hon. Minister has put in that it is according to the Import Price Parity Agreement with these oil companies. After devaluation Government has come forward for changing the ceiling rates which were previously fixed. We would like to know from the hon. Minister on what basis this ceiling has been fixed after devaluation. Was it according to the demand of the oil companies and what were the details of the discussion? I hope the hon. Minister will give all the details. The hon. Minister was saying that this is the highest ceiling which has been fixed. Between the lowest and highest limit, what is the option so far as the oil companies are concerned? To what extent can they avail themselves of the highest ceiling?

Secondly, on what basis has the price been fixed after devaluation? We find that for kerosene it is now Rs. 160 whereas previously it was only Rs. 60 per metric ton. So, on what basis has this been fixed?

Thirdly, the hon. Minister has claimed that this enhancement in the ceiling price for the import duty is non-recoverable.

Shri K. C. Pant: Enhancement is not on the ceiling price. It is only on the duty that could be levied.

Shri Chintamani Panigrahi: I hope the hon. Minister will make it a little
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more clear when he replies to the debate whether this non-recoverable item will be met out of the profits of the oil companies. Otherwise, if it is shifted to the consumers, the price of kerosene would increase which we must resist. We do not want it. Therefore, he must categorically tell us that this will be recovered from the profits of the oil companies. If that explanation comes, that will be at least one redeeming feature of this Bill.

श्री जार्ज करनेन्डिस (बम्बई दक्षिण) :
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, धाज सुबह बिडला कम्पनी को छूट देने के मामले पर एक निवेदन श्री महोदय ने यहाँ पेश किया था जिसमें डीजल के ऊपर, हाई स्पीड डीजल के ऊपर जो एक्साइज ड्यूटी लगाई जाती है उस का जिक्र करने में धाया था और यह जो था उस निवेदन में कि 665 रुपया एक किलोलीटर हाई स्पीड डीजल प्रायल का दाम है बम्बई के बन्दरगाह में उस को खाली करते हुए उस में से 480 रुपया सिर्फ सरकार की एक्साइज ड्यूटी है। यानी तेल के दाम हो गये 178 रुपये और उसके ऊपर एक्साइज ड्यूटी हो गयी 480 रुपये। अब जो नया बिल इस सदन के सामने धाया है मैं समझता हूँ कि यह जो एक्साइज ड्यूटी किरोसीन पर कहिये या दूसरे किसम के तेल पर कहिये जो लगाई जाती है उसको किसी न किसी तरीके से और बढ़ाने के लिए लाया गया है।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, इस बात को यहाँ ज़ास तौर पर बताने की ज़रूरत नहीं कि दुनिया में शायद ही कोई ऐसा मुल्क हो जहाँ कि किरोसीन, पेट्रोल और डीजल के तेल के दाम हिन्दुस्तान से ज्यादा हो। इतना तो मैं निश्चित जानता हूँ कि अमरीका या रूस, यूरोप के किसी मुल्क या इंग्लिस्तान या और भी कहीं मुल्कों में हमारे यहाँ जिस दाम से पेट्रोल, डीजल और किरोसीन प्रायल बेचा जाता है उससे धाढ़े के कम दाम पर ही वहाँ निश्चित तौर से बेचा जाता है वह ऐसे

[श्री जार्ज फरनेग्जिस]

मुल्क हैं जहाँ का जीवन मान हिन्दुस्तान के जीवन मान से कई गुना ज्यादा है जैसे कि अमरीका के लोगों का जीवन मान हमारे देश के लोगों के 50-60 गुना ज्यादा है।

अब मैं फिर सुबह के निवेदन की ओर ध्यान देने की नीति के अनुसार जो बिल इस समय सदन के सामने है और राजस्थान में बिड़ला को छूट देने का जो तरीका सरकार ने अपनाया है उसकी दृष्टि से यह बहुत महत्व रखता है। निवेदन में सुबह यह बतलाया गया था कि जब राजस्थान में छोटे बड़े कारखानेदारों को साढ़े तेरह पैसे यूनिट के हिसाब से बिजली दी जाती है तो बिड़ला को, जो एक महान सेठ हैं, 3 पैसे यूनिट की दर से बिजली दी जाती है। उसी निवेदन में धार्य यह बतलाया गया है कि जो डीजल प्रायल का इस्तेमाल कोटा में बिजली बनाने के लिये किया जाने वाला है उस पर 55 फी सदी इयूटी माफ करने का काम किया जाने वाला है। सरकार के ऊपर हमारा हमेशा खुला आरोप रहा है कि सरकार की ओर से अगर किसी का खयाल होता है तो सब से ज्यादा बिड़ला सेठ का होता है। वह सेठ बिड़ला को मदद देती है, उन के जैसे उद्योगपतियों को सहयोग देती है। हिन्दुस्तान की गरीब जनता को किस तरह से लूटा जाता है, इसका उदाहरण सुबह के बयान से और इस बिल में हम लोगों के सामने साफ आ जाता है।

जब मैं हाई स्पीड डीजल प्रायल का जिक्र करता हूँ तो सिर्फ राजस्थान के बिजली के कारखानों में ही उसका इस्तेमाल नहीं किया जाता। सारे मुल्क के छोटे बड़े शहरों में और देहातों में जो मोटर गाड़ियां चलती हैं, बम्बई शहर में बी० इ० एस० टी० अन्वर्टेकिंग में, उत्तर प्रदेश में उत्तर प्रदेश रोडवेज में भी उसका इस्तेमाल होता है। दिल्ली की तरफ धगर धाप देवें तो डेल्टी

ट्रांसपोर्ट अन्वर्टेकिंग में भी जो गाड़ियां चलती हैं वह भी हाई स्पीड डीजल प्रायल से चलती हैं। मैं एक ही शहर का उदाहरण दे सकता हूँ क्योंकि बम्बई शहर से मेरी थोड़ी बहुत पहचान है। बी० इ० एस० टी० अन्वर्टेकिंग पांच साल पहले जब डीजल का इस्तेमाल करती थी तब उस पर 60 लाख रु० एक्साइज इयूटी के रूप में देती थी, लेकिन आज वहाँ पर करीब करीब 2 करोड़ 40 लाख रु० एक्साइज इयूटी सिर्फ डीजल के ऊपर उसे हर साल देनी पड़ती है। नतीजा यह होता है कि शहर के लोग जो बी० इ० एस० टी० की गाड़ियां इस्तेमाल करते हैं, देहातों में जो रोडवेज की गाड़ियों को इस्तेमाल करने वाले लोग हैं, उनका किराया हर साल बढ़ता जाता है। हर साल वह बढ़ता गया है और धार्य भी बढ़ने वाला है। किरोसीन का इस्तेमाल देहातों में किसान करते हैं, शहरों में झुग्गी झोंपड़ीयों में रहने वाले करते हैं और कहीं पुरानी बस्तियों में रहने वाले, जहाँ अभी तक बिजली नहीं पहुँची है, करते हैं। लेकिन उसी पर धाज धाप इयूटी बढ़ाने की बात करते हैं।

बम्बई के ट्राम्वे में जहाँ एस्सो की रिफाइनरी है, बर्मा शेल की रिफाइनरी है, उन में जो किरोसीन तैयार होता है, मैं समझता हूँ कि 15 पैसे पर लिटर के हिसाब से तैयार होता है। एक लिटर किरोसीन तैयार करने में 15 पैसे खर्च होते हैं लेकिन उसी किरोसिन को दिल्ली शहर में, बम्बई में और हिन्दुस्तान के हर एक देहात और शहर में 50 और 60 पैसे लिटर के हिसाब से सरकारी नियंत्रण में बेचा जाता है धाप सोचिये कि यह कितनी बड़ी लूट है। एक तरफ तो विदेशी कम्पनियों और दूसरी तरफ सरकार की हमको लूटने वाली एक्साइज इयूटी यह दोनों मिल कर इस मुल्क के गरीबों को लूटने का काम करती हैं। अगर जब बिड़ला सेठ को कितने दायों पर बिजली दी जा रही है वह मसला सरकार

के सामने आया तब फिर मंत्री जी का निवेदन वहाँ आता है कि बिड़ला सेठ का बिजली तैयार करने का जो कारखाना है वहाँ हम एक्साइज ड्यूटी 55 फी सदी माफ करने का कि बिड़ला सेठ को मुनाफा ज्यादा हो जाये ।

मैं आपसे इतना ही कहूंगा कि इस सरकार से हम जैसे लोग कोई उम्मीद ले कर नहीं बैठे हैं, न आज ही कर रहे हैं । हमें कोई ऐसी उम्मीद नहीं है कि बिना इस सरकार को हटाये यह मसला हल होने वाला है, लेकिन इतना कहना चाहता हूँ कि जो विधेयक लाया गया एक्साइज ड्यूटी को बढ़ाने का, इस मुल्क के गरीब लोग जो बाहुन इस्तेमाल करते हैं, उसके किराये को बढ़ाने का, किरासिन का दाम बढ़ाने का और हर तरह से लोगों को तकलीफ में डालने का, उसको हमारे मंत्री महोदय वापस लें और जिन तकलीफों में हम सब लोग पड़े हैं उनमें से हसको निकालने के लिये कोई रास्ता बताने का काम करे ।

Shri K. C. Pant: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, let me begin by expressing my gratitude to the two hon. Members, Shri S. M. Banerjee and Shri D. C. Sharma, who made very kind personal references to me. After that, I should like to assure Shri Fernandes that many of the fears which he entertains are not relevant to this particular Bill and he might have spared himself much of the agony through which he has gone if he had cared to study my opening statement yesterday which tried to set out the purpose of the Bill in very clear terms. I can understand the element of misunderstanding or confusion that has crept into the matter because this excise duty is somewhat exceptional and abnormal and out of the way and it is natural to confuse this excise duty with the ordinary run of excise duties which ultimately go on to increase the prices of commodities. I can understand it because it

took me some time to get the hang of it and if this is thrown suddenly at somebody, his first reaction will be that this is probably the ordinary excise duty which will go to enhance the prices. In actual fact, this is absolutely a non-controversial piece of legislation and, I am sure, no hon. Member will disagree with the objective and the purpose of this particular Bill.

Sir, the purpose of the Bill, if I may be allowed to repeat it, is to mop up the excessive profit that would otherwise have accrued to the foreign oil refineries. That and that alone is the object and the purpose of this Bill. I should perhaps explain this a little further because it has been misunderstood. The import parity formula is based on an agreement between the Government of India and the foreign oil companies according to which the ex-refinery selling prices in India are determined by the c.i.f. prices, say, at Bombay, the port-land in India, and the f.o.b., the Abadan price plus freight, plus insurance, plus port charges which constitute the import parity price. This is the ex-refinery price. When the rupee was devalued, then naturally the Abadan price of the products that were imported went up notionally to the extent of devaluation and, therefore, the price of these products at the Indian port also went up notionally. To that extent, the ex-refinery prices that the oil refineries became entitled to also went up. This time, they went up in terms of hard rupees, annas and pies. The Government felt—I think, the Government has shown commendable alertness in this matter—that while it was true that the prices did go up in terms of rupees to the extent of devaluation, the costs in the refineries did not go up to the same extent as the costs in the refineries consisted of certain imported elements, crude oil, certain chemicals, etc., the price of which did go up as a result of devaluation but not other elements of cost of production, the labour charges and so on and so forth. The cost of pro-

[Shri K. C. Pant]

duction did not increase to the extent that the prices increased. Therefore, there was a windfall profit which was going to the oil refineries and the purpose of this particular Bill is to see that we can increase additional excise duties to such an extent that we can take some of these profits into the exchequer.

15 hrs.

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Shri Chintamani Panigrahi: What is the percentage?

Shri K. C. Pant: He is not following my argument. Please try to follow.

These are not excise duties which are charged on the products after they leave the refinery. Those Central excise duties are charged. Ordinarily on every commodity, excise duty is charged after it leaves the factory, and in this case, after it leaves the refinery, Central excise duty is charged. But these additional excise duties are not those Central excise duties; these are duties which are meant to siphon off the whole of the windfall profits that would otherwise have gone to the oil refineries. They do not come from the consumer, they do not come from the trade, they come from out of the profits of the oil refineries. I hope I have succeeded in making this point clear.

Shri Jyotirmoy Basu (Diamond Harbour): Not clear.

Shri K. C. Pant: I shall explain it a little further. You, in your mind, have to be clear about the difference between the two excise duties. One is the Central excise duty that is levied on the products of refineries after they leave the refineries. As a result of devaluation, when the prices went up, these excise duties were actually reduced by the Government

in order to see that the prices that the consumer had to pay for petroleum products did not go up. Now, you forget these excise duties. That is one aspect.

The additional excise duties are not Central excise duties which are charged on the products after they leave the refineries, but these are duties that will be payable by the oil refineries out of their profits, the windfall profits, which they have obtained as a result of the rise in the notional value of the import parity prices, as a result of devaluation; instead of flowing to their coffers, they will be siphoned off to the Government. That is the whole point.

Shri Jyotirmoy Basu: What is the true first cost of production of oil at Abadan and then in India and how much was the poor consumer asked to pay?

Shri K. C. Pant: Now he is asking me whether the f.o.b. price charged in Abadan is proper or not. I will come to that.

श्री जार्ज करनेजिबल : एक्साइज ड्यूटी से प्राय कितना नफा कमा रहे हैं ?

Shri K. C. Pant: It is a somewhat technical point.

Shri Jyotirmoy Basu: Kindly mark my words. What is the true first cost of production?

Shri K. C. Pant: I shall try my level best to explain a somewhat technical matter—as best as I can—and I shall rely on your generosity to try not to interrupt me while I am doing so. At the end of it, if you are still unconvinced . . . (Interruptions).

I am not yielding.

The second point which, I think, the hon. Member has referred to is whether we are charged excessive prices f.o.b. Abadan. I think, it is a relevant point.

Yesterday Dr. Ranen Sen referred quite true that, when the Committee as well as of the Talukdar Working Group in this respect. It is quite true that, when the Committee and the Working Group made their recommendations, at that stage, we were dependent, to a large extent, on the quotations of f.o.b. prices in Abadan, but that is no longer the position today. These observations to which the hon. Member has referred are not wholly applicable today. The position has since considerably changed. Imports of deficit products like kerosene, HSD etc. are no longer in the hands of the foreign oil companies. Such imports are arranged by the Indian Oil Corporation in the public sector from free rupee sources at competitive rates. The foreign oil companies do import their requirements of crude oil from their own sources to the extent that indigenous crude cannot be supplied to them.

Shri Jyotirmoy Basu: May I know...

Shri K. C. Pant: I am not yielding. The allocation of foreign exchange for the import of crude is made with due regard to the competitive prices known to be prevalent in the world market. The prices of indigenous crude charged to the private oil companies, for example, the Burmah Shells and the Essos are also determined on parity with the cost of imported crude of equivalent quality.

Coming specifically to the question asked by the hon. Member, in Abadan, when these committees gave their reports, India was paying quoted prices. Since then, our market information has improved considerably, because we go into the world market to buy various petroleum products and crude. We are very much better aware of the prices; in fact, we are well aware of the prices. As a result thereof, you will be glad to know that we have succeeded in getting discounts on these quoted prices to the extent of 8 to 10 per cent, because we are now aware of the world market trends.

A point was raised by Shri Shri Chand Goel why we issued the ordinance. We issued the ordinance because if we did not issue it we would have lost revenue; we did not want to lose the revenue and, therefore, we issued the ordinance. So, it is as simple as that.

So far as the ceilings go, these are not ceilings of excise duty. These ceilings became necessary because certain ceilings were imposed under the parent Act, and since there was no more buffer for those taxes to be raised, it became necessary to raise the ceilings, and these ceilings are there so that Parliament can lay down certain ceilings within which these taxes can be raised; it is an instrument in the hands of Parliament to keep a watch over these duties which are payable by the oil companies.

Even in the past, these duties,—these are additional duties; let them not be mixed up with the Central excise duties—have been used to prevent the trade from profiting from any fall in international prices, because Government would take away the margin, whatever the margin might be; so, that does not go into the hands of the trade.

Shri Jyotirmoy Basu: Why should he not pass it on to the poor consumer instead of taking it to his exchequer?

Shri K. C. Pant: My exchequer and his exchequer are the same.

Shri Jyotirmoy Basu: The poor man wants some relief.

Shri K. C. Pant: Coming to the other point, which is very understandable, I see the anxiety of the hon. Members that this duty should not be passed on to the consumer, and I shall try to satisfy them that it will not be passed on to the consumers.

Firstly, the parent Act under which these duties are levied says specifically that the additional duties of ex-

[Shri K. C. Pant]

cise and customs are not to be added to the price of goods for sale. This is provided for under section 5 of the parent Act. In fact, I made a mention of this in my opening speech, but it may have escaped the notice of hon. Members.

The present system of fixing the prices of kerosene is as follows. Kerosene being naturally the main consumer article, everybody is worried about it, and I share the anxiety of hon. Members; kerosene is an item of daily necessity for large masses of our people. Kerosene is the product which is most widely used amongst the products that are mentioned. Its prices down to the retail level are controlled under the Kerosene (Fixation of Ceiling Prices) Control Order, 1966 issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The retail prices at all levels are fixed by the State Governments on the basis of the main port installation prices fixed by the Government of India under the price formula introduced from 1st February, 1966. The State Governments etc. render quarterly reports to the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals about the prosecutions launched against contraventions of this order. This order has helped maintain prices at appropriate levels throughout the country.

The question is raised whether devaluation resulted in an increase in the price of petroleum products in India or not. It is a matter of fact. Coming to that, I would like to state the position very clearly.

I would like to refer to the selling prices of the major products. So far as the ex-oil company storage points are concerned, I have the figures for Bombay. They have not changed. I will come to the retail prices at Bombay before devaluation and after. I have got these figures for September 1965 and September 1966. Petrol before devaluation Re. 8.86 per litre, in September 1966 after devaluation Re. 0.86 per litre. There is no change. Kerosene: Re. 0.47 per litre, after devaluation, Re. 0.47 per litre—no

change whatsoever; refined diesel oil Rs. 686.28 per k.l., after devaluation Rs. 686.28 per k.l.—no change; light diesel oil Rs. 331.07 per k.l., after devaluation Rs. 331.07 per k.l.—no change; furnace oil Rs. 190.80 per k.l., after devaluation Rs. 190.80 per k.l.

There has been no increase in the retail price of kerosene. As an illustration, I say that in Delhi it has remained at 52P per litre.

So I have tried my best to explain how this was possible. This has nothing to do with the additional excise duties which we are discussing. The central excise duties were reduced in order to absorb the shock of the increase on account of devaluation to the consumer so that he was not allowed to suffer. Therefore, the only purpose of this Bill is to see that the oil companies do not make windfall profits and that the profits that have adventitiously accrued as a result of devaluation because of the change in the par value of the rupee can be siphoned off to the exchequer.

I hope, I have persuaded my hon. friend, Shri Panigrahi, that since this will not be passed on to the consumer, he will not find it necessary to move his amendment.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Mineral Products (Additional Duties of Excise and Customs) Act, 1958, be taken into consideration".

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There is an amendment by Shri Panigrahi. He is absent.

The question is:

"That clauses 1 to 3, the Enacting Formula and the Title stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 1 to 3, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

Shri K. C. Pant: I move:

"That the Bill be passed".

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed".

The motion was adopted.

15.14 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (TWENTY-FIRST AMENDMENT) BILL

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Y. B. Chavan: I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration".

This is one of the most important Bills and I may say equally welcome Bill. This demand of the Sindhi people to have the Sindhi language included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution is a long-standing demand.

Shri Nath Pal (Rajapur): This is of all the Indian people; we also join them in the demand.

Shri Y. B. Chavan: That is why I say it is most welcome. This is actually overdue. This is naturally the culmination of a process which was taking place in the country for the last 20 years since partition. Before partition, Sindhi was the language of Sind, one of the constituent provinces of undivided India. In the process of partition, Sind was lost to India, but I am glad Sindhi was not lost to India.

श्री रवि रे (पुरी) : जब गृह मंत्री जी भारतीय भाषाओं के बारे में बोल रहे हैं, तो वह हिन्दी में बोलें ।

Shri Y. B. Chavan: Lakhs of Sindhis came to India, and at the present moment there are a million people living in India whose language is Sindhi.

In the last ten or 15 years, even in the administration, many things have been done to recognize Sindhi as one of the important languages. We are seeing that the Sahitya Akademi and the National Book Trust have accepted Sindhi for their programmes for development of Indian languages. Sindhi programmes are broadcast from a number of stations of All India Radio. Sindhi books are considered for awards given by the Ministry of Education for merit. Even so, since it is not recognised as one of the Indian languages to be included in the Constitution the logical step has not been taken so far. This is the reason why a constitution amendment should be moved in this House.

Sindhi is one of our ancient languages, a well-developed language, and it is one of the rich Indian languages. It has a very noble cultural tradition, and I am sure its coming back to the fold of the family of the sister languages of India is something which every Indian would certainly welcome.

As a matter of fact, this Bill does not require any lengthy speech for its recommendation. I have no doubt that this Bill will be accepted unanimously by the House.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (बलरामपुर) :
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं इस विधेयक का समर्थन धीरे स्वागत करने के लिए बड़ा हुआ हूँ ।
देर से ही क्यों न हो, सिंधी भाषा के प्रति जो एक धन्याय बला प्रा रहा था, आज हम उसका निवारण कर रहे हैं ।

सिंधी हमारी राष्ट्रीय भाषाओं में से एक है । सिंधी में भारत की धारणा बोलती है । सिंधी का रक्षण धीरे विकसित हुआ