

[Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma]

gone up. So in every measure taken, we have to see that the burden falls heavily only on those who can afford to bear it. We have tried to save the people who cannot pay, who are in difficulty. We have tried to tap the rich people.

Then I am not using the word 'tax'.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: The rich have been spared.

DR SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA: This is technically a fee and not a tax.

As for delay, delay would have resulted in a loss of Rs. 10 crores which would mean so much loss in other things. We want to utilise all this for improving the conditions. I want to make it clear that when we are talking of economy, we are not thinking of economy in terms of essentials for the worker. Even during this period while we were calculating we also decided about the quarters which had been stopped earlier types I and II. The ban on them had been removed and we are thinking of that. So this has to be balanced both ways in order that we may be able to meet the needs of the common man.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: He has not answered the point whether it was not possible to invest in Telecom industry, not by taxing people but by taking money from financial institutions.

DR SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA: As far as the Indian Telecom industry is concerned, the capital investment does not come to much. We have to pay for the equipment we use and this will mainly go for payment for the equipment that will be used.

12.41 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

(i) MINUTES

SHRI SEZHIYAN (Kumbakonam): I beg to lay on the Table minutes of the sittings of the Committee on Papers laid on the Table held on the 23rd June, 1975, 18th February and 1st March, 1976.

(ii) FIRST REPORT

SHRI SEZHIYAN: Sir, I beg to present the First Report of the Committee on papers laid on the Table.

12.42 hrs.

STATEMENT RE DISCOVERY OF OIL BY ONGC IN BASSEIN STRUCTURE

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is with a sense of considerable gratification that I rise to make this statement today. The Hon'ble Members are aware of the efforts made by us in off-shore exploration in an area of about 100,000 sq. km., spreading from the Saurashtra Coast to Konkan line. I have already stated about the special project known as the 'Deeper Continental Shelf Project' covering an area of about 20,000 sq. km. where seismic surveys have been completed in a record time of two months. The data obtained from the seismic survey of the deeper continental shelf project area are being processed and evaluated and the preliminary results are quite encouraging. In all probability, exploratory drilling in the deeper continental shelf area will also be taken up during this year.