

[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.

Against this background of good work done by the ONGC, I would like to announce another good oil discovery made by ONGC in the off-shore areas. On the basis of seismic surveys conducted previously, several independent structures were delineated off the Western Coast. One such structure is located about 70 km west of Bassein. In the light of the optimistic interpretation given by the ONGC's geo-scientists about this structure and some others, a programme for off-shore exploratory drilling was discussed at a two-day conference in the first week of February, 1976. As a result of these deliberations, ONGC launched a programme of simultaneous drilling at Bassein structure and at another structure 90 km south of Diu. The drilling was commenced on the Bassein structure on the 11th February, 1976 and the well has been projected to a depth of 2300 metres. After drilling about 1714 metres, a 71 metre thick lime-stone section containing oil and gas has been encountered. The preliminary testing could only be of a short duration but it indicated good production characteristics. A more precise estimate of the potential of this structure can be had after the well is drilled to the projected depth and the conventional production test completed. However, I dare say that the discovery is of very great significance and the oil is of good quality. The drilling has been resumed and is likely to be completed during the course of the next few days. In order to get a quick idea of the potential of the Bassein structure as well as the prospects of the neighbouring area, a programme has been chalked out for commencing exploration and appraisal drilling without losing any time. The exploratory-cum-assessment drilling will be completed by October, 1976. This new discovery of oil at Bassein would take us one more step towards the goal of self-sufficiency in oil.

12.44 hrs.

NAGALAND BUDGET, 1976-77

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Sushila Rohatgi will present the Nagaland Budget.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): Sir, the House is aware that the State of Nagaland is under the President's Rule with effect from 22nd March, 1975 and under the Presidential Proclamation issued under Article 356 of the Constitution, the powers of the State Legislature are exercisable by or under the authority of the Parliament.

MR. SPEAKER: You may lay it on the Table.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: Sir, I lay it on the Table.

BUDGET FOR 1976-77 OF THE GOVERNMENT OF NAGALAND

The House is aware that the State of Nagaland is under the President's Rule with effect from 22nd March, 1975 and under the Presidential Proclamation issued under Article 356 of the Constitution, the powers of the State Legislature are exercisable by or under the authority of the Parliament. Accordingly, with your permission Sir, I lay before the House the Annual Financial Statement of the Government of Nagaland for the financial year commencing from 1st April 1976. The Explanatory Memorandum and the Demands for Grants are also being circulated to the Honourable Members.

Revised Estimates 1975-76

The Budget of the Government of Nagaland for the current financial year, presented to and approved by the House, assumed Revenue Receipts at Rs. 45.22 crores including Rs. 39.10 crores as grants-in-aid from the Central Government. Revenue Receipts