

appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, so as to provide for the extension of social control over banks and for matters connected there with or incidental thereto, and also further to amend the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, and the State Bank of India Act, 1955, upto the 6th May, 1968."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do extend the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, so as to provide for the extension of social control over banks and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, and also further to amend the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, and the State Bank of India Act, 1955, upto the 6th May, 1968."

The motion was adopted.

(ii) **Appointment of Member on Select Committee**

SHRI THIRUMALA RAO : I beg to move :

"That this House do appoint Shri Hem Raj to the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, so as to provide for the extension of social control over banks and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, and also further to amend the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, and the State Bank of India Act, 1955, *vice* Shrimati Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit resigned."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do appoint Shri Hem Raj to the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, so as to provide for the extension of social control over banks and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, and also further to amend the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, and the State Bank of

India Act, 1955, *vice* Shrimati Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit resigned."

The motion was adopted.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, 1968-69
—contd.

Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals —*contd.*

MR. SPEAKER : Now the House will take up further discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals. We have still a little time left—about 40 minutes now and one hour and odd in the afternoon. The Minister will reply at 2:30 or 2:45 in the afternoon. Then we shall take up the discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Department of Communications at about 3 or 3:15, and finish it by the evening, before 6:30, because there is a half-an-hour discussion, so that we can take up something else tomorrow. As I said, the Minister for Petroleum and Chemicals will reply at 2:30 or 2:45 P. M.

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN (Ambalapuzha) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a close study of the report of the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals will reveal the fact that we are not going in the path of self-reliance but in the path of more and more dependence on foreign countries. We can take one item after another and see the truth of this.

The estimated cost of methanol unit of the Trombay project of the Fertiliser Corporation of India was Rs. 4.5 crores. Due to undue delay the cost went up to Rs. 6 crores. The installed capacity of the unit was 33,000 tonnes per year, but the present production capacity of the unit is only 45 per cent of the installed capacity. The loss due to low production will be Rs. 1.5 crores. In addition, we have to import Rs. 50 lakhs worth of methanol. The cost of production is thrice the international cost of production. This year, during the first ten months, the production was only 6,000 tonnes. That means that the production this year will be only 10 to 20 per cent of the installed capacity. This product is an essential part of our defence industry. Any country which is supplying

[Shrimati Suseela Gopalan]

us methanol would suffocate us in the time of emergency. In regard to the production in the methanol unit, Government are behaving very callously.

12.22 hrs.

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker in the Chair]

They have not taken any action against the company concerned.

Coming to the question of naphtha we are exporting naphtha, while at the same time we are importing fertilisers. We are exporting about 40 per cent of the production of naphtha. The French Petroleum Institute has stated that the cost of naphtha should not be more than Rs. 80 per tonne inclusive of taxes and transport expenses. But Burmah Shells are supplying us naphtha at the rate of Rs. 131 per tonne exclusive of taxes and delivery charges. This clearly shows that foreign monopolists are allowed to earn fabulous profits at the cost of our economy.

According to official estimates, the stock of sulphur pyrites in our country is 300 million tonnes. The actual quantity of pyrite mined is only $2\frac{1}{2}$ million tonnes. Czechoslovakia is prepared to supply machinery for pyrite mining but we are not prepared to use it. We are getting machines from elsewhere but those machines will be defective. We are getting techniques, but we are not getting modern techniques.

The Planning and Development Wing of the Fertiliser Corporation of India is in a position to manufacture complete plants without any foreign aid, but we are refusing to accept it. Last year, three hundred engineers of the Planning and Development Wing had written to the Prime Minister that they were prepared to manufacture complete plants with our own techniques, but not even a reply was sent to them. They are confident of producing coal-based fertiliser at cheap rates. Brilliant talents are there in our country but we are prepared to utilise those talents and we are more and more depending on foreign countries.

SHRI NAMBIAR (Tiruchirappalli) :
Particularly America.

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN :
What about the Cochin Refinery agreement? The Government of India are giving a process margin of 1.35 dollars per barrel of crude oil to the Philips Petroleum Co. In 1967-68, Rs. 56 lakhs was paid. For 1968-69, Government have set apart Rs. 75 lakhs for this purpose. For technical services we have to pay to the company Rs. 6.5 crores within fifteen years. The price of crude oil is not fixed once and for all but is fixed from time to time. The crude oil coming from East European countries is not allowed to be refined in that refinery. These are the provisions of the agreement. The Burmah Shells alone remitted abroad about Rs. 30 crores of profit within five years. The total investment is only Rs. 14 crores. From 1962 to 1966 the foreign oil companies have remitted abroad Rs. 390 crores. The actual profit cannot be calculated, for the real price of crude oil is something which we are not in a position to calculate, since it is those companies that are fixing the prices. This is what the Estimates Committee years.

Government are allowing the foreign oil companies to expand their business along with the public sector. They are earning more and more from our own country. The total asset of the foreign oil companies is only Rs. 79 crores, but in 1966-67 alone, they had earned a profit of Rs. 9 crores.

With this approach and trend, we shall not be able to be self-sufficient even within the next fifteen or twenty years. But one thing is there that even if we are not self-reliant, the sons and relatives of the Ministers, Governors and higher officials of Government are getting a number of petrol pumps from these oil companies. If the hon. Minister is prepared to have a probe into this, we are prepared to give him ample evidence in regard to this.

Coming to the labour policy, the oil companies are installing electronic computers and thousands of employees are thrown out on the streets. During the last five years, nearly 25 per cent of the employees had been thrown out. Of course, Government have appointed the Gokhale committee to look into the matter and submit a report within six months, but till now it has not submitted its report. But

retrenchment is going on smoothly and the Petroleum Ministry has blatantly refused the request of the workers to absorb them in the public sector undertakings. Sometimes, I wonder whether the Ministry is working as the headquarters of the Essos, or Burmah Shells or Caltex.

The IOC is also following an anti-labour policy. The Madras unit of the IOC, instead of discussing the outstanding disputes with the recognised union bolstered up puppet unions in Madras and Andhra and are discussing matters with them in order to disrupt the workers. All these things are being done by Mr. T. V. K. Rao, the branch manager at Madras. The IOC management is encouraging these activities and this is proved by the fact that while no other person is retained at a place for more than three years, Mr. T.V.K. Rao has been kept in Madras for more than six years. Perhaps, the branch manager is emboldened by the fact that he had given three staff cars of the IOC to Shri Alagesan, the then Petroleum Minister for his election purposes.

SHRI S. KANDAPPAN (Mettur) : Now, he will have diplomatic immunity because he is in Ethiopia.

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : In the Sindri fertilisers, Government are prepared to lose Rs. 5 lakhs per day for two weeks rather than to concede the demands of the workers which would have cost them only a fraction of the loss incurred by Government. Despite the settlement arrived at, the terms of it are not being implemented. They are continuing their vindictive measures against the workers. Industrial relations in Trombay and Nangal are also fast deteriorating. The IOC unit in Calcutta is also victimising a large number of trade union functionaries. If this attitude continues, if it does not change, they will have to face a new wave of struggles on the part of workers in the near future.

There is no use crying over the losses in public sector undertakings. If they are not prepared to change their policy of encouraging foreign monopolists, if they are not willing to give up their policy of encouraging the bosses in the bureaucratic machinery in the way they are carrying

out the work of these undertakings, there will not be any change in this situation. The worker is the backbone of the public sector undertakings. When they are treated so badly, they lose their moral and do not have the moral courage to work for them.

Government are talking of self-reliance but are at the same time, depending more and more on foreign monopolists. This is what the Estimates Committee say :

“The Committee are unable to appreciate Government’s decision to pose the Trombay extension scheme to USAID for assistance, particularly when P & D claim that they could undertake this assignment and had amply demonstrated their capabilities by the designing, engineering and installation of the Rourkela Fertilisers group of plants as far as the years back”.

So in spite of possessing our own technique we are depending entirely on foreign monopolists for building up of our industries. So the least the Ministry should do is to build our own industries using our own techniques, our own know-how, our own engineers. Unless this is done, we will continue to be perpetually dependent on the foreign monopolists, and that will not pave the way to socialism.

As far as I am concerned, judging by the experience of the last 20 years, I have no illusion that this Ministry will take up these projects and use the experience and know-how of our own engineers and build up really a self-relying sector of industry in this respect, because it is working for the welfare of these oil monopolists and foreigners who are coming to our country.

I would like the Minister to go deep into these questions, specially the callous way in which they have been behaving towards the workers in these public sector undertakings. By following this sort of anti-labour policy, they are only showing the way to the monopolists in our country who are already treating the workers very badly. Unless this attitude is changed, nothing can be achieved in our country.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Changalraya Naidu.

SHRI NAMBIAR : A number of very important points and queries have been raised by the hon. lady Member. They must be answered immediately.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The Minister while replying will answer all queries.

SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU (Chittoor) : I congratulate Government whatever they have done in the field of oil especially in the face of opposition and fifth column activities they are having to face in this field. The fact that they have been able to do something in spite of these difficulties is a marvellous thing and we have to congratulate them on it.

Regarding fertilisers, they have done very well. But if more funds are allotted, we can meet the entire fertiliser needs of the country. I have to say something about Government's policy in locating fertiliser factories. In Andhra we consume more fertilisers and produce more food and export it to other States. Thereby we save a considerable amount of foreign exchange. Instead of recognising this fact and giving Andhra its due share in the establishment of these factories, the Central Government have neglected our State and are showing favouritism to some other States.

I will bring to your notice one instance. The American Co-operative Consortium came to our country and after preliminary talks and investigations, they have decided to set up two factories in the co-operative sector, one at Kandla and the other at Vizagapatam. For that, they are prepared to contribute 70 per cent and only 30 per cent has to be contributed by the Central Government and also by the co-operatives in our country. When they have agreed for two, and when the Andhra Government have helped the Central Government in regard to foreign exchange, even if the Central Government do not have funds, if they wanted only one, they could have chosen Vizagapatam, but unfortunately, they have chosen Kandla. Why is that? I wanted to know this: whether the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals is responsible for doing this unjust act on its part or it is due to the Finance Ministry or it is due to the Planning Commission. There is some unseen wicked hand in these things and they are not able to do justice. I only

want justice to be done to Andhra Pradesh which helped them to save so much foreign exchange and not to illtreat Andhra by these methods.

In Kothagudem they first sanctioned one fertiliser project in the public sector, but unfortunately, it was given to a private magnate to start that plant. He is not able to put up that factory, and now the State Government have approached the Centre to take it up in the public sector. I came to understand that the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals is examining the case. I want to expedite the examination and start a fertiliser factory in the public sector.

Now, they are manufacturing complex fertilizers in the Trombay factory, and they are also manufacturing it in Nangal and other places. In our country, the agriculturists need not only ammonium sulphate and urea but they also need more of these complex fertilisers. In the manufacture of these complex fertilisers also, they should take the advice of the agriculturists at least. The authorities prepare something and we do not want those fertilisers; so we want them to take the advice of some agriculturists and then manufacture these things. For instance, in the Trombay factory, they are manufacturing SUPHALA-20-20, that is nitrate-phosphate. If they can mix up nine per cent potash it will be a very good thing for the agriculturists. Like that, they should take some advice from the agriculturists and manufacture these fertilisers.

Regarding oil, in spite of the fifth column activities of those foreign companies, our people were able to do better. Though they have not reached the target, we must take note of what they have done. Regarding foreign companies I do not know for how many more years they are going to be allowed to exploit our poor people in the country. They are allowed to import crude oil at a rate which they fixed and our Government have nothing to do with it. In Madras, Gauhati and Bombay, they convert this into oil. When they convert, what are the charges? They are charging too much and our Government is agreeing to what they are asking. Thereby, the cost of diesel and petrol—every-thing is going up,

For bringing down the prices, we must check up at what price they are importing the crude and what is the conversion charges in the refinery. Now there is no check and in the last 5 years, they have sent Rs. 30 crores of their profits to other countries. They are not spending anything here. The Stanvac oil company was asked to explore for oil. For so many years, they have wasted a lot of our money, but they are not interested in finding oil. They know that if they find oil, their interests will be affected. Similarly, for off-shore drilling, Government is considering the offer of some American companies. The Opposition has charged that our Prime Minister has asked the Petroleum and Chemicals Ministry not to rush up and there is delay in finalising it. I cannot understand these opposition members. If some contract is given, they will say that the contract has been given for so much and money is lost. But if they are careful in finalising the contract, the Prime Minister is found fault with. I say that the Prime Minister has got every right to interfere in any matter concerning any Ministry in the interests of the country.

If the American oil company is given the contract, I am told they will have rights and shares in this permanently. The minister should explain whether it is permanent or only for temporary fixed period, the number of their directors and our directors, who will be the Managing Director of this company, etc. I do not think it is in the interests of the country to give them permanent rights in off-shore drilling. They will only try to safeguard the interests of the foreign oil companies and they will not strike oil here in our country. Why not our Government purchase the equipment and machinery from the Americans, send our people to other countries for receiving training and then start the offshore drilling ourselves instead of entrusting it to a foreign company whether American or Russian? We can also give the drawings to the Heavy Engineering Corporation at Ranchi and they will be able to manufacture the machinery. The minister should give his serious attention to these things.

We are not able to achieve self-sufficiency in kerosene. More people live in villages where there is no electricity and they depend on kerosene for lighting their

homes. There is dearth of kerosene and they have to pay black-market prices for it. Instead of allotting the entire kerosene for use in urban areas, Government should fix a quota for the villages on the basis of population and allot kerosene to them.

Regarding petrol and diesel oil, when we start production of these commodities in our public sector it is in the interest of the country to bring down the prices and also to have a check on the American and other foreign companies. In this regard our Government have not done anything. Our Minister, Shri Ashoka Mehta, is a big Socialist and we thought he being in charge of this Ministry he will at least bring down the prices to help the poor man in purchasing diesel oil, kerosene and other things. Unfortunately, after seeing the Americans and other people he has also become a capitalist. He is also selling petrol and oil at the same rate at which the Americans sell. What is the socialism here, I do not understand. In the matter of fertilisers also the prices have not gone down. In other countries the prices are lower than the price of fertilisers manufactured by our public sector. They are making crores of rupees by way of profit. Who wants the profit which runs into crores of rupees? We want fertilisers to be supplied to the poor peasants at a cheaper rate so that it may help the grow-more food campaign. As I said earlier, after he became a Minister, unfortunately, Shri Asoka Mehta has become a capitalist and he earns crores of rupees even on fertilisers. Even if you make a Communist in charge of this organisation I think he will immediately become a capitalist. These Communists and socialists should not be made to head any organisation; they should only be advisers and then only the prices will come down. I am not accusing our Minister, I am only requesting him to bring down the prices. He should think that he is a socialist first and not a capitalist. He should not earn any money from these public undertakings. We want them to be run on a no-loss no-profit basis. Let our oil companies be a check on the foreign oil companies, let our fertiliser factories be a check on the import of fertilisers and let the prices be brought down to help the grow-more food campaign in the country.

SHRI S. R. DAMANI (Sholapur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, at the very outset I want to congratulate the hon. Minister for the encouraging performance during the course of the year. Petroleum and fertilisers are very essential for the development of the country. Petrol is required for running the industries and fertilisers for increasing production. During the twenty years after this country became independent we have made sufficient progress in both these fields. In 1947 when our country became independent our production was only 0.2 million tonnes and now it has gone up to about 6 million to 7 million tonnes. It is a big achievement. In the same way our refining capacity was nil and we used to import all our requirements from other countries, but now we have a refining capacity of 16 million to 17 million tonnes. It is a big achievement. But still we are spending a large amount in importing petroleum products to meet our requirements because our requirements and our consumption are also going up every year. As such, we have to import a large quantity from other countries. If I may say so, during the last five or six years the production in our country has not increased. Though efforts were being made to exploit new oil fields and experiments were being conducted, actual production has not increased to the extent we wanted. So, more efforts should be made to increase production. Merely depending on foreign countries for exploration work will not help us solve the problem. Our technicians are quite qualified and intelligent and they have got experience. They should be entrusted with exploration of oil fields so that we could increase our production.

Then, some hon. Members were asking while the refining capacity was increased when our production is so low. There is a reason for it. Previously, we used to import finished products. Now we are importing only the raw material, for which we are paying less. In this way, we are saving foreign exchange. I think the Government has taken the right decision in installing larger capacity in our refineries so that we can process the crude oil and make petrol. Therefore, the criticism against installation of larger capacity in the refineries is not correct. It was

a right decision on the part of the Government.

Then, some hon. Members were saying that some companies in the private sector were charging higher rates. When these companies established the refineries they did it with the motive of profit. They have invested huge amounts in the country with the hope of getting some profit and there is nothing wrong with it. Of course, if they are earning such a high amount which is not justified, it can be considered. But we must appreciate that they have done a good job in establishing refineries in this country which will help our further development. We can ensure that they earn only legitimate profits and not undue profits.

In order to increase our production we may attract many other foreign companies to come to this country and enter this field so that we may become self-sufficient. At present we are spending about Rs. 110 crores every year in foreign exchange for the import of petroleum products. So, about 10 per cent of our total export earnings are consumed by this one single item. Therefore, we should concentrate our attention on bringing some other companies to help us increase our production so that we can become self-sufficient and save this foreign exchange which we are spending every year.

Then, if the foreign companies are making profit, why should we grudge it? We are charging them incometax at a high rate. They are giving employment to our people and increasing the production of our country. They are also paying excise duty. In my opinion, they should be encouraged and allowed reasonable profit so that more and more people may enter this oil field.

Having said this, I would request the hon. Minister to tell us in what period the country will become self-sufficient. He should also give the expected year-by-year progress in this field. This is very important because we are now paying Rs. 110 crores per year for import of petroleum products. How long will we have to continue these imports? What progress are we going to make in the next few years? I would say that the Ministry should be given discretionary powers to

implement the schemes so that we can save all this foreign exchange.

Some people have said, and I have also heard, that the refining cost of the public sector refineries is higher than that of the private sector. Just now I have mentioned about the private sector, but the cost of refining of the public sector refineries is something which required to be considered and checked. If it is high, what are the reasons? All efforts should be made to bring it down.

Now I would like to say something about fertilisers. In this field also, the country has made sufficient progress. Production during the course of this year has gone up. But the present production is not sufficient; it is too low to meet the requirements. In the last 5 or 6 years in this particular field also, no progress has been made. There were many applications for the establishment of factories in the country, but on account of certain difficulties they could not be finalised; as such, we have to import huge quantities of fertilisers from other countries. There we have also to spend a large amount of foreign exchange.

Fertiliser is very essential. Now our farmers who have used fertilisers have known the advantage. In the earlier stage they were hesitant in using fertilisers. Now they are accustomed to it. I know in my constituency, Sholapur, some years back when they were asked to use fertiliser, they were very hesitant and were doubtful whether it would not affect the crop. Because they are poor people they do not want to take the risk. Now they are convinced and use the fertilisers. So, whenever we go there, they ask for more supply of fertilisers. Therefore, more effort should be made to increase the production of fertilisers to meet the demand of the country.

At present we are importing a large quantity of agricultural production from other countries, like foodgrains, cotton and many other items. By the use of more and more fertilisers and water, we will make the country self-sufficient which will make the country very strong. Therefore, in this connection also, I request the hon. Minister to take urgent and immediate action to increase the production of fertilisers and give a schedule as to by what time

the country will become self-sufficient as far as fertilisers are concerned.

Regarding chemicals, I am very happy that in many items we have become self-sufficient. In caustic soda, soda ash and many items we have become self-sufficient and we have got a surplus capacity. That is a big achievement that we have made. But in the intermediaries we are still lagging behind. We have to import many items. In this connection the progress is a little slow and I would request the hon. Minister that more licences and financial assistance should be given to those entrepreneurs who want to put up such intermediary factories in the country so that we can become self-sufficient as early as possible.

With these words I support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry.

SHRI S. KANDAPPAN (Mettur) : Sir, I am thankful for the opportunity that you have given to me to make a few observations on the Petroleum and Chemicals Ministry.

We had high hopes when Shri Asoka Mehta took up this department. The credit goes to his predecessor, Shri K. D. Malaviya, whatever people might say about his shortcomings otherwise, for putting India and the public sector on the map of oil and chemicals. But, unfortunately, afterwards the Government did not take much interest to streamline the public sector oil undertaking, with the result that we find that people are finding fault with the public sector itself. I for one would like to commend the work of the public sector so far as it goes, but there are a few shortcomings which the Government would do well to rectify and really take an interest, in the right direction.

I would like to say a few words on that. For example, I have come across in a lot of these oil company managements that.....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He may resume his speech after lunch. The House stands adjourned to meet again at 20' clock.

13 hrs

*The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch till
Fourteen of the Clock*

(The Lok Sabha reassembled after Lunch at five minutes Fourteen of the Clock.)

[Shri G. S. Dhilon in the Chair]

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, 1968-69—Contd.

Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals—Contd.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have to inform the House that the Home Minister will make a statement in the House to-day at 6.15 p.m. regarding the detention and removal of Sarvasbri Hem Barua, Jagannath Rao Joshi, Madhu Limaye and Nath Pai, all M.Ps. at Khavda Kutch District.

Mr. Kandappan.

SHRI S. KANDAPPAN : While commending the work of the public sector oil undertakings, I have been trying to draw the attention of the Minister to some of its shortcomings. Sir, for one thing, we do not post people with management acumen to manage our public sector undertakings. This is true with regard to our oil undertaking also; and also, Sir, quite a number of posts at a higher cadre were unnecessarily created just to provide lucrative jobs for their kith and kin and to rehabilitate them in employment. So, if these kinds of shortcomings are removed—I am speaking from a little experience and I do not want to give any kind of concrete examples here openly on the floor of the House—and if these things are streamlined, I am sure the work of the oil company will definitely improve.

Also I come across in some places in our public sector refineries military people whom they have brought into manage these undertakings. I wonder what their qualification is for managing a public sector undertaking. In the ONGC and also in the oil refinery and elsewhere I find that wherever military men are occupying posts, they do not know how to behave with the labour and actually it is their militarism that creates labour problems. They do not have the human touch, they do not have the business acumen to manage things. This is a very serious matter they have to consider.

Also, Sir, in some places there is surplus labour which the refinery or the concerned concern in so much afraid of and

reluctant to retrench because of the public opinion that may be aroused and the agitation that might be created. But I think in a business concern like this, the Government should take courage in both hands and go ahead with improving the working of the Oil Refineries as well as the ONGC and other concerns that are under the direct administration of this Ministry.

As it is our Oil Corporation is almost in a position to compete with the private oil companies and I am proud of it. But I cannot totally say that they are competing with them because they still have Government patronage to some extent, but if proper efforts are taken and if their working is properly streamlined and guided, I am sure, a time will come in the near future when we will be in the proud position of competing with private oil companies and only then we can say that we have succeeded in our public sector enterprises.

Sir, with regard to the working of the ONGC, I would like to pinpoint one or two things. As far as I understand, the working of the ONGC is very much chaotic and they are not able even to a small extent to justify the expenditure that was incurred on the ONGC. It is engaged on a very vital sector, I mean, the exploration and the extraction of crude oil in this country. As it is, we are informed that Government have some firm targets by which they think they can get at all the crude that we need within the country itself. In Ankleshwar and some other oil-fields we did get some oil and we had some exploratory work there, but the work is not commendable and we have miserably failed on many occasions. For one thing I find in the ONGC some of our geologists are the lowest paid even in India compared with other exploratory companies engaged in this field for similar works. In Assam we have got the association of Government and Burmah-Shell joint venture where we do have this exploration of oil. Even compared with that company our people are very much lower paid. I would plead with the Minister that he should give top priority to this and they should try to attract the best talent that is available in this country for the exploration of oil. Then we can go ahead with the extraction of crude to the extent that we may need

it and I hope we can succeed if proper efforts are taken in the right direction.

In this connection I would like to draw attention to a very important fact, that is the Cambay offshore drilling. Sir, after all, we know that the Cambay belt is very rich in oil. That is what I understand from the reports of various experts who know about these things. Even foreign people feel that there is enough oil there and our own people feel that there is enough oil there but unfortunately we are not making any move in the direction to extract the oil that is available in the Cambay belt. I know the offshore drilling is a very scarce know how in the international market with the result that a very high price is demanded for collaboration or outright purchase of technical know how or asking other people to take the work on our behalf. But it is so important and basic that we should get the know-how by associating ONGC itself with some other foreign companies or purchase the know-how on an assured basis, instead of frittering away our resources. In this way we should get the crude so that we may not be in need of crude and we may be able to meet our demand in the near future. And, apart from Cambay, of course, there are other places which are not sure as oil-bearing areas. We already know that Cambay is a rich belt and so, I think, instead of wasting our resources and energy in going to exploration of other areas where there may be oil or may not be oil I think it would be fruitful to go ahead with the extraction in the Cambay belt as early as possible.

Another thing to which I would like to draw the attention of the Minister is in regard to fertilizers. Much has been said about fertilizers. We know the fertilizer companies have got long gestation period and in the beginning, I am afraid, the Government has under-estimated the demands for fertiliser in our country with the result they have not brought into existence as many factories as we would need and now we are dependent to a large extent on foreign countries for our basic fertiliser. I am afraid, even now the assessment of the Government is not correct and it is on the low side. I feel that we may need more fertiliser than what the Government seems to estimate. Sir, I say this because

I know about the farmers of this country. Government had a wrong notion that farmers do not take to fertiliser readily. That is not correct. I have not come across any farmer in this country who when it is proven to him that it would be useful and beneficial for him to resort to modern methods does not do so; in fact, he definitely takes to modern methods when he is convinced of their benefit.

Everywhere, we find that there is a grant demand for fertilisers in this country. But, unfortunately our people do not have the know-how regarding the right type of fertiliser to be used in a particular soil. We have no machinery so far to guide the farmer in this respect. But, still the demand is there, and some time back when we had put questions to Government after the subsidy on fertilisers was removed, we were told that even after the removal of the subsidy, there was a great demand for fertilisers. I would like to know whether Government were justified in removing the subsidy on the ground that even if the prices were on the high side, the farmers were still purchasing the fertilisers. That would be indeed very strange logic. Are we justified in paying the present prices to the farmers for their produce, when we are increasing the fertiliser price in this country in this manner either deliberately or unwittingly! The present prices of fertilisers are on the high side and there is a case for reducing them for the benefit of the farmer.

I would also say that there is a lot of speculation particularly in the areas where there is scarcity of urea and other fertilisers which are not available. I know for certain what is happening in my place in regard to this matter. During the tobacco season, the Andhra farmers who used to cultivate tobacco in large tracts used to come to Madras hundreds of miles away; they used to approach the farmers of my area and purchase the fertilisers that they had acquired from the credit societies or other corporations at a very huge price. The result is that the farmers who took the fertiliser for their own use at first were so much attracted by the profit that they earned by selling the fertiliser to others that the fertiliser has been drained from there and taken elsewhere. In a particular place, people who can manipulate things

[Shri S. Kandappan]

and who can manage things by greasing the palm of the officials, and particularly the well-to-do farmers are able to get fertilisers but the poor helpless farmer who should really be helped is not able to get it. This kind of anomaly should be removed and it can be removed only when Government take into consideration the very serious aspect of distribution of fertilisers.

I understand that at Nangal, the fertiliser corporation people themselves have got a sort of distribution arrangement, and they even supply the know-how to the farmers; they have a sort of cell to test the soil and thus help the farmers to know what kind of fertiliser should be used, when and in how much quantity. All this technical know-how is supplied to the farmer along with the fertiliser. I am told that that distribution system has been quite effective and the farmers are very much happy about it.

I think that some such distribution system should be evolved throughout the country.

I would even suggest that it is high time that Government may consider whether they can themselves create some corporation or association to look after this distribution work along with giving guidance to the farmers in regard to the technical know-how regarding what type of fertiliser should be used and at what time and on which soil.

In conclusion, I would like to quote a small passage from *The Hindu* dated the 17th, from its editorial. This paper is a very conservative paper and it never goes against Government and it is very much in support of Government. When that paper writes something about the fertiliser policy of Government, I think that it is a matter for serious concern for Government.

"Whatever the historicity of the high cost of Indian fertiliser factories, everyone will join the Committee"—
that is, the Estimates Committee—

"in asking why the Indian price of nutrients should be Rs. 2,343 per metric tonne when Pakistan sells them at Rs. 729 and Japan at Rs. 1,257. One will also share the Committee's

surprise over differences in price of the same raw material in different units".

This has already been referred to Shri Tapuriah also raised the question of the Central Pool earning a profit. I do not know what explanation Government will give for that. I do not know whether they have changed that policy of earning a profit and they will just have that organisation to help the farmers. I would plead with Government that it is very high time that the whole fertiliser policy was re-oriented in the interests of the farmer and not in the interest of anybody else.

श्री चन्निका प्रसाद (बलिया) : सभापति महोदय, मैं पेट्रोलियम और रसायन मंत्रालय की मांगों का समर्थन करता हूँ। गोरखपुर के खाद कारखाने में भी उत्पादन प्रारम्भ हो गया है, इस के लिए मैं मंत्री महोदय के प्रति आभार प्रकट करता हूँ। जब हम इस मंत्रालय के सम्बन्ध में विचार करते हैं, तो हमें इस के भूतपूर्व मंत्री श्री केशवदेव मालवीय, की याद आती है। उन के कार्य-काल में उन्हीं की प्रेरणा से हमारे देश में तेल भंडार खोज निकाला गया और पब्लिक सेक्टर की बुनियाद पड़ी। तेल के क्षेत्र में पब्लिक सेक्टर के आने से विदेशी मुद्रा का हमारा खर्चा बचा।

उधर के माननीय सदस्य पब्लिक सेक्टर की आलोचना करते हुए कहते हैं कि उस का काम दक्षता के साथ नहीं होता है, उस में कम उत्पादन होता है, कास्ट अधिक पड़ती है और सामान भी ठीक तैयार नहीं किया जाता है। मेरी राय इस से भिन्न है। हमारे देश में पब्लिक सेक्टर के कारखाने जिस प्रकार से काम कर रहे हैं, उस के लिए उधर के माननीय सदस्य भी जवाब देह हैं। मैं आप को अपने यहां का एक उदाहरण देना चाहता हूँ। पहले बलिया में फर्टिलाइजर का कारखाना लगाने का निश्चय किया गया था, लेकिन कम्पनिस्टों और सोशलिस्टों ने चीप पापुलेरिटी हासिल करने के लिए उस का विरोध किया और कहा कि

वहां पर फर्टिलाइजर का कारखाना नहीं लगाया जाना चाहिए, क्यों कि वहां पर जमीन कम है और इस लिए इस से किसानों का नुकसान होगा बाद में वह कारखाना गोरखपुर में लगाया गया। आज वही लोग हमारे यहां के किसानों और अन्य लोगों को यह कर भड़काते हैं कि हमारे क्षेत्र में कोई उद्योग नहीं है।

इतना ही नहीं, जब कोई कारखाना लग जाता है, तो ये लोग उस में मजदूरों की हड़ताल करवाते हैं। देश की प्रगति और विकास के लिए और उस की राष्ट्रीय बढ़ाने के लिए अधिक उत्पादन करना आवश्यक है। आज देश की मान-मर्यादा के लिए, देश को मजबूत बनाने के लिए आठ घंटे प्रति-दिन से भी अधिक काम करना चाहिए। लेकिन विरोधी दल के लोग यह नहीं कहते कि कारखानों में मजदूर आठ घंटे भी काम करें। वे तो वहां स्ट्राइक करा के काम में रुकावट डालते हैं।

इस के अतिरिक्त पब्लिक सेक्टर के उपक्रमों में कुछ ऐसे कर्मचारी आ जाते हैं, जो पब्लिक सेक्टर का विरोध करते हैं और उस को असफल बनाने का प्रयत्न करते हैं। इस स्थिति में उत्पादन का कास्ट बढ़ेगा ही। हमारे विरोधी भाइयों ने पंचवर्षीय योजनाओं में भी सहयोग नहीं दिया। जब तक हम सब मिल कर पब्लिक सेक्टर को चलाने का प्रयत्न नहीं करेंगे, तब तक वह सफल नहीं हो सकता है।

हम देखते हैं कि साइट आदि देने के संबंध में इंडियन आयल के विरुद्ध पक्षपात किया जाता है। उस के काम्पिटीशन में जो विदेशी कम्पनियां हैं, उन को अच्छे साइट दिये जाते हैं, लेकिन इंडियन आयल की कमी भी मौके पर अच्छे साइट नहीं दिये जाते हैं। आज आवश्यकता इस बात की है कि इन विदेशी कम्पनियों का राष्ट्रीयकरण किया जाये। लड़ाई के वक्त इन कम्पनियों के द्वारा यह धमकी दी जाती है कि अगर उन का माल नहीं खरीदा गया, तो वे तेल देना बन्द कर देंगी। उन पर यह विश्वास नहीं किया जा सकता है कि वे संकट के समय

अपना काम सुचारु रूप से करती रहेंगी। मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि इंडियन आयल हमारे पब्लिक सेक्टर का एक बहुत बड़ा और महत्वपूर्ण अंग है और हर हालत में हमें उस की रक्षा करनी चाहिए।

गोरखपुर आदि जिन स्थानों पर पब्लिक सेक्टर के कारखाने लगाए जाते हैं, वहां पर जिन किसानों की जमीनें ली जाती हैं, उन्हें उन कारखानों में नौकरी देने के सम्बन्ध में प्रायर्टी दी जानी चाहिए। जहां तक गोरखपुर के कारखाने का सम्बन्ध है, वहां के लोगों को यह आश्वासन दिया गया था कि जिन किसानों की जमीनें ली जायेंगी, उन को उस कारखाने में नौकरी दी जायेगी, लेकिन ऐसा नहीं किया गया। इस के परिणामस्वरूप लोगों ने अपनी मांगों के समर्थन में आन्दोलन किया, उन पर गोलियां चलीं और कई लोग घायल हुए। इस लिए सरकार को यह नीति बना लेनी चाहिए कि जहां भी पब्लिक सेक्टर का कोई कारखाना लगे, उस में पहले वहां के किसानों और अन्य लोगों को नौकरी दी जाये और उस के बाद बाहर के लोगों को स्थान दिया जाये।

हमारे देश में बिजली कुछ शहरों और कस्बों तक पहुँची है। सत्तर फ्रीसदी देहातों में बिजली नहीं है। बरसात, अन्धेरे में और शादी ब्याह के अवसर पर कैरोसीन आयल ही हमारे काम आना है। लेकिन हमारे किसानों और गरीब हरिजनों आदि को कैरोसीन आयल के लिए लाइन में खड़ा रहना पड़ता है। इस लिए कैरोसीन आयल के ठीक डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन की तरफ सरकार को ध्यान देना चाहिए। इस सम्बन्ध में सार्वजनिक कार्यकर्ताओं की क्षेत्रीय समितियां बनाई जानी चाहिए, जो कैरोसीन आयल के समुचित वितरण की व्यवस्था करें।

पूर्वी उत्तर प्रदेश और बिहार के पश्चिमी भाग में, आरा और छपरा आदि में, शूगर मिल्ज होने के कारण, और जहां शूगर मिल्ज नहीं हैं, वहां भी, मोलैसिज काफी उपलब्ध होते हैं। इस लिए वहां पर केमिकल इंडस्ट्रीज लगाई जा

[श्री चन्द्रिका प्रसाद]

सकती हैं। चूंकि हमारे यहां कोई इंडस्ट्रीज नहीं है, इस लिए इन क्षेत्रों में, जहां मोलैसिज मिलते हैं, वहां केमिकल इंडस्ट्रीज लगाने की व्यवस्था की जाये।

मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान इस बात की ओर आकृष्ट करना चाहता हूँ कि किसानों को खाद पर्याप्त मात्रा में नहीं मिलता है और साथ ही मंहगा मिलता है। एक समिति के द्वारा इस बात पर विचार करना चाहिए कि खाद का उत्पादन अधिक हो, उस के वितरण की उचित व्यवस्था हो और वह किसानों को कम से कम दामों पर उपलब्ध किया जाये। उस की सवसिडी बन्द कर दी गई है। मैं मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान इस ओर विशेष रूप से दिलाना चाहता हूँ।

अन्त में मैं फिर कहना चाहता हूँ कि उत्तर प्रदेश के पूर्वी जिलों में केमिकल इंडस्ट्रीज के लिए काफी रामैटीरियल और दूसरी सहायित्वें मौजूद हैं। इस लिए उस क्षेत्र में अधिक से अधिक केमिकल इंडस्ट्रीज लगाने की तरफ ध्यान दिया जाये।

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Minister.

SHRI A. SREEDHARAN (Badagara) : Sir, I want to seek certain clarifications from the Minister before he begins his speech so that he might give his clarifications in his speech if he has no objection. I would not take more than two minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is almost a speech then.

SHRI A SREEDHARAN : The clarification that I would like to have through you is that—

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have not got my permission.

SHRI A. SREEDHARAN : I am seeking your permission.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Would the Minister like to make some clarifications after the speech is over ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI ASOKA MEHTA) : I do not know what he wants. How can I say ?

SHRI A. SREEDHARAN : It is something concerning his portfolio. I am not going to ask anything about the landing on the moon.

SHRI ASOKA MEHTA : 16 hon. Members have already spoken at length. Now, I will be trying to meet some of the arguments they have put forward. It is not possible for me to clarify further any point that any Member might bring up.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am very sorry I am not able to allow the hon. Member any time now.

SHRI A. SREEDHARAN : I know why the Government is shutting out its mind. The Minister knows what I am going to ask and that is why he says like that. I know about the Fertilisers and Chemicals (Travancore) Ltd., and I know it is being done with the connivance of the Ministry. I did not get an opportunity and that is why I wanted to seek a clarification.

AN HON. MEMBER : What is this Sir ?

SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH (Pali) : That way, many Members were affected. It is not fair. So many of the Members who have not spoken might wish to seek some clarification or the other. Will you give them all a chance ? (Interruption).

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Minister.

SHRI ASOKA MEHTA : Sir, I am grateful to the 16 hon. Members for the valuable light that they have thrown on the working of our Ministry and for the constructive comments and criticisms that they have offered. A large number of

points have been raised during the discussion. It will not be possible for me in the limited time at my disposal to answer all those points. However, I shall be happy to clear up some of those points later on either through personal discussions or through correspondence. I propose to confine myself to certain basic criticisms that were offered and these criticisms were made by a large number of Members.

The two main criticisms are we have no oil policy and we have no fertiliser policy. This is basic; the rest of it deals with certain incidental points here and there to which I shall reply if I have the time. On both these basic points, either the hon. members are misinformed or my ministry has failed to communicate to the hon. members what are our policies. Anyway, I am deeply grateful to the House for providing us with an opportunity, which is coming after two or three years,—because this Ministry's Demands were not discussed in the past,—to clarify and re-state the policies that we have been following.

As far as our oil policy is concerned, we are most anxious to be self-sufficient in as many directions as possible. We would like to be self-sufficient as far as production of crude is concerned. But no country in the world can say in advance that it will necessarily be self-sufficient. Oil resources in the world are very unequally distributed. Half a dozen countries in the world produce the bulk of oil supplies. An overwhelming majority of nations are dependent on crude imports. While I agree that everything possible should be done to push ahead with our programme of oil exploration and oil production, we should not proceed on the assumption that we will necessarily be self-sufficient, because our oil requirements will keep on growing and we may or may not be able to find all the oil need. But with respect to self-sufficiency as far as our refining capacity is concerned, on that score, Government's record can stand scrutiny.

We would also like to see that marketing of these oil products is effectively, efficiently and economically organised. In all these things, while we have a certain proportion of the private sector, mostly owned and operated by foreign oil companies, our broad policy is,—whether my good friend, Mr. Tapuriáh, likes it or not—that we would like to push forward in exploring,

refining and marketing through the public sector. I am sorry the hon. member from the DMK who spoke just now is not here. He hoped that IOC will be able to compete with the private oil companies in the near future. Today, I may say, the IOC is the biggest oil distributing company in India. In the past 5 or 7 years, the rate at which it has built up its business is something to which there is no parallel in this country. In distribution, we are pushing ahead with the development of the Indian Oil Corporation. In refining, there are three refineries which are being run by the IOC. Another refinery is under construction and we hope that the fifth refinery will soon be taken up for construction. Here also we are moving ahead to see that the public sector grows and we become self-reliant. I shall revert to refining and marketing a little later.

I would like to say something about the exploration programme. It is said that we have spent a lot of money, but have not achieved adequate results. We have spent something like Rs. 200 crores on the ONGC and we have established 130 million tons of reserves which will be produced. I think these figures are comparable to similar figures anywhere in the world. The performance of ONGC has improved remarkably in the past 12 months.

SHRI S. KANDAPPAN : Do not be so sweeping.

SHRI ASOKA MEHTA : That is why I would like the hon. Member to know the facts. The trouble is, very often hon. Members talk about facts which are twelve months or twenty-four months out-of-date. Today the facts are that the ONGC's drilling performance in 1967-68 has set an all time record. Next year's target is 40 per cent higher than what we have done during this year. I would like to know from any hon. Member belonging to any section of the House, if we say that our 1968-69 performance would be 40 per cent over the record performance we have put in in 1967-68 is not that something for which we should pat the ONGC on its back. I would like to take this opportunity to put on record my appreciation of the work that has been done by the Chairman of the ONGC with the wonderful team of young men that he has brought together—the planning and development team and those in the control room.

SHRI S. KANDAPPAN : Even the drilling time taken by ONGC is very much higher than the time taken by the Oil India Limited.

SHRI ASOKA MEHTA : May I point out that the drilling time....(*Interruption*). I know the facts. The drilling time taken today is lower than the drilling time taken in the Soviet Union. While it is the business of the Opposition to criticise us, where our boys are doing wonderful work at least give them a pat. My hon. friend thinks what is needed is to give them a higher salary. He pleaded to give them more salaries, but at least give them a pat on the back, appreciate the work that they are doing before you come forward with a demand for higher salary.

SHRI S. KANDAPPAN : I was referring to the salary of geologists.

SHRI ASOKA MEHTA : Geologists are boys working in the ONGC. These geologists and other young men working there will give wonderful results if you appreciate when they do good work and not go about cavilling and criticising when there is no basis for it. When there is basis for it, I welcome such criticism.

As far as exploration is concerned we are well geared in exploration. Let us realise that as far as our land area is concerned it is not as productive as some other parts of the world are. I believe we have drilled far more wells than Iran has drilled, but we are producing only a fraction of the oil that Iran is producing. This all depends on how productive certain wells are. Our wells are not very productive. Therefore we have to do a lot of work.

While we are pushing ahead with this programme of work, there are a number of difficulties that I want this honourable House to understand. Firstly, we do not have enough resources. Look at the Budget. How many crores are you giving to ONGC? Shri Tapuria was talking about the achievement. You must talk of the results in comparison to the resources made available. There is the chronic difficulty about foreign exchange. In this Ministry the problem of foreign exchange becomes very acute because oil and chemicals are industries where technology is moving very fast. The

life span of technology in the chemical industry is six to seven years. Within six to seven years the whole process becomes obsolete. We take six to seven years to set up a plant. By the time the plant is set up, the whole enterprise becomes obsolete. Because of difficulties in foreign exchange I am not able to go and plug foreign exchange. It is possible that the same difficulty is there in the private sector also. I do not cavil on that. When all these difficulties are got over and a project is pushed through the whole thing becomes obsolete. Our instruments are obsolete. Our equipment are obsolete. Our scientists have to work with antiquated equipment. We are not able to get the most up-to-date equipment. We cannot produce sophisticated equipment over-night in the country. Therefore, we have to work with greater discipline, greater dedication and put in greater purposeful effort. When we take into account all these difficulties, the work that is being done is creditable and I am convinced that the ONGC boys should move forward.

Even then my feeling is that we will not become self-sufficient if we confine ourselves only to exploration on the land. It is possible we may have better results off-shore. Some hon. Members—I think again it was Shri Kandappan—said that there were off-shore areas which seemed to be bubbling with oil. I do not know. If we strike oil there we will strike it in very large quantities. It is also quite possible that we may not strike oil at all. Nobody can say in advance whether there will be oil or not.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA (Delhi Sadar) : Why don't you decide it once for all?

SHRI ASOKA MEHTA : Will you given me time to explain? I am not answering your point. I am dealing with his point. I will come to your point in a minute.

I want to make it clear that India cannot be sure in advance if there is all that oil. If we strike oil, it will be good; but it is equally on the cards that there is no oil.

Now, there are various practices. There are certain practices which the

ONGC will be able to develop of its own. There are other practices where we will be able to do it with a certain amount of technical assistance provided by the Soviet Union. But the most productive areas, with possibility and potentiality, are in deeper waters. As far as deep sea exploration is concerned, it is technologically very difficult. Exploration is difficult, but production is even more difficult. It requires very sophisticated technology to dig a deep well in the sea and foreign exchange in dollars is necessary for that. Unfortunately we have not the dollars that we require. We have neither the technicians nor even the equipment. Even the Soviet Union had to buy the equipments from the western countries because they cannot produce all these equipment.

SHRI RANJIT SINGH (Khalilabad) : That is news.

SHRI ASOKA MEHTA : That is a fact. Facts may be news to him but, unfortunately, facts remain facts.

We must realise that no country, not even a technologically advanced country, can say "I will not borrow technology from another country". I am surprised that in the chemical and oil industry anyone can become chauvinistic, as far as technology is concerned. Now, we have not got the resources to go out and buy technology. I invited a very able team from the Soviet Union to advise me on this matter of the functioning of the ONGC. One of the things that team said was, and I am very grateful to them for the fine work they have done, that we have to send 200 people abroad to Western and East European countries, including Soviet Union, to get further training. Technology is changing so fast that it is no use saying we know everything.

SHRI RANJIT SINGH : Cut down the Ministers going abroad and divert that money for training technicians.

SHRI ASOKA MEHTA : As Minister I have never gone abroad, I can assure you. Either the hon. Members want me to give an explanation to what they have said or they want to offer further comments on me. If they want to offer personal comments, I am willing to sit down

and listen. I have not gone abroad. I have been working for the last few years and I have gone abroad only when there was absolutely essential work which took me abroad.

Therefore, as I was pointing out, as far as oil exploration in deep sea is concerned, very large investments are needed, and these investments have to be exclusively in foreign exchange. The technical competence needed and the equipment needed are available only with a limited number of countries. Therefore, the Government is considering whether we should negotiate with these people or we should wait for some time and see whether some other method can be devised. Until this particular problem is decided by the Government, there is nothing further that I can do. All I can say is, in exploration work, as far as my Ministry is concerned, we are pushing ahead in as purposeful a manner as is possible.

श्री कंबरलाल गुप्त : इसके बारे में बताइये कि अमरीका की फर्म ने आपको आकर दिया हुआ है कि सारा खर्चा वह करेंगे और अगर तेल मिल जाता है तब उसके बाद पार्टनरशिप शुरू होगी, उसमें फारेन एक्सचेंज का भी कोई सवाल नहीं है, लेकिन आपकी सरकार पिछले दस महीने से यह नहीं तय कर पा रही है कि उसको दिया जायेगा न दिया जाये। अगर रशिया के पास टैकनालाजी नहीं है तो अमरीका से क्यों नहीं लेते हैं, इसमें आपको क्या क्षम आती है :

SHRI ASOKA MEHTA : Firstly, it has not taken ten months. This matter is under consideration for the last two months or so. Surely, the Government is entitled to look at the pros and cons before coming to a decision.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA : What are those pros and cons, we want to know.

SHRI ASOKA MEHTA : How should the profits be split, what would be the implications of this kind of an agreement and so on. Surely, it is not for me to tell everything until the Government

[Shri Asoka Mehta]

takes a decision. At no time the Parliament asks a Cabinet Minister to give reasons as to what are the pros and cons which the government are considering, until a decision is taken. After a decision is taken, I shall give you all that information. Before that, it is not possible for me to place the pros and cons before the House. The matter is under consideration now and a decision will be taken.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA :
When are you going to finalise it ?

SHRI ASOKA MEHTA : I cannot answer it. That is a Cabinet decision.

As far as the refineries are concerned, the IOC is operating a refining capacity of 6.7 million tonnes. This refining capacity, with only marginal additions, will be able to refine 9 to 10 million tonnes in the next three or four years and the cost will come down. My hon. friend, Shri Tapuriah, compared the cost of the private sector refineries with that of the public sector refineries. He did not take into account the time period. It requires a certain time within which these refineries are able to produce their optimum. Given the time, I can assure Shri Tapuriah and other critics here, the refineries with marginal investments here and there will be able to refine 9 to 10 million tonnes.

There has been a constant demand for refineries at various places. Now let me explain the logic that governs the setting up of our refining capacity. We want to have refining capacity nearer the market. A question was raised that some of the private sector refineries have some extra capacity. We cannot use them because there is no demand in that area. If and when the demand in that area grows and if we find that it is economic to have refining made by those private sector refineries, we will not rule them out. But our present attitude is that we try to establish refining capacity wherever the demand goes up. That is why we are setting up one at Madras and another at Haldia. The only new refinery that we propose to set up in the next three or four years is somewhere in the northwest.

It is not possible to have another refinery in Assam. There are already two

refineries there. My hon. friend, Shri Hem Barua, after having spoken, has preferred to go to Kutch and is not here, but in his absence I would like to point out that we would like to expand the Gauhati refinery but we have no desire to set up more refineries there. A refinery is not a toy that it should be set up everywhere. A refinery must be large sized. Even today we are losing Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 1½ crores because the products which are produced in Assam do not find a market there and they have to be sold elsewhere at a loss to the IOC. We cannot, for the purpose of satisfying certain local aspirations which are legitimate, set up refineries at places where by producing end-products we will have to lose heavily in selling them because the cost of transport of crude is much less than the cost of transport of refined products.

As far as the private sector refineries are concerned, we have certain agreements with them. We want to honour those agreements. We cannot talk of nationalising them or of throttling them. We want to honour those agreements but, at the same time, these agreements need to be revised or renegotiated because they were made about 14 or 15 years back and in certain matters they need to be renegotiated and we hope that in the near future wherever necessary that will be done. I would say that in the refinery policy there is this mixed approach, but the public sector will keep growing and the legitimate rights of the private sector will be protected provided they are also willing from time to time, to renegotiate the agreements to bring them in conformity with the changed situation.

We recently invited a Soviet team to look into our refineries also and I am grateful to Mr. Tatorov and his very able team for the help that they have given us in looking into the working of our refineries.

Shri Tapuriah pointed out that in exploration we have been following a dog-in-the-manger policy and that we are not inviting others to come in. May I again respectfully point out that that is not so. The British were here; the Americans were here; the Rumanians were here; the

Yugoslavs were here and the French were here.

SHRI RANJIT SINGH : Arabs ?

SHRI ASOKA MEHTA : The Arabs were not here. The Arabs do not go in for exploration ; they allow their country to be explored.

All these people have been here but they were not able to strike oil and they went away. Shrimati Gopalan sees imperialism and all kinds of things everywhere. I hope the Yugoslavs, the French, the Rumanians—all of them—are not also to be deemed imperialists ; that is why they did not find any oil ! Therefore it is not that we have not invited some of these people. We have, but it is a very tough job and; I think, we have got to do it by ourselves. It is no use saying that \$ 1.8 or 1.4 billion was spent and they are not coming here.

Side by side I would like to point out again that in the oil industry it is no use talking of big profits, imperialism and all that because the oil industry is such that it is a gamble ; it is a big risk. If you succeed, you gain a big amount of money and if you fail, you lose all your money. In Iran we have invested, say, Rs. X crores. I went to Iran. We had struck oil on a commercial basis. We will be getting a million tonnes of oil from Iran from one structure alone. I do not know how much oil we will get out of all structures. Nobody said, that I was a robber or an exploiter, that I was going to take away so much money from Iran, because in oil industry, if you strike oil, you will make money and, if you do not strike oil, you write off all the losses. So, here also, the argument seems to be that people should come and invest money but, if they are lucky enough to strike oil, they must not be allowed to make any profit. I am afraid, the oil industry does not operate on this basis. It is time we recognise the logic on which various things operate. Therefore, in those areas, if it is necessary, we will have to invite them. If they succeed, we will also make money, I think, four times what we invest, which we are not making today. It is possible if we strike oil, next time, the Agreement will be even more to our advantage. I am sure,

some hon. Members will get up and say, why did not I enter into a similar Agreement earlier ? Probably, they will charge my distinguished officer, Mr. Nayak, of all kinds of wrong doings.

When you enter into an Agreement before oil is struck, you have got to concede terms which you can improve upon when you strike oil later on. These are normal business deals which, I am sure, the distinguished House knows. Unfortunately, we are being subjected to all kinds of criticisms including those by businessmen belonging to Swatantra Party.

SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH : About Iran, we do not know the figures, how much oil we will get, how much money has been spent, what are the terms. This is the reply we are getting.

SHRI ASOKA MEHTA : In Iran, we have got about 5 to 6 structures. We have so far drilled only 3 or 4 structures. Still 2 more structure are to be drilled. He should wait till I am able to find out what the position will be by the end of the year. Should I give what these officers give me from day to day what is invested and what is the out-turn in the factories ? Surely, that is not possible. I do not propose to give half-baked figures and later on be asked for all kinds of explanation. As soon as I have firm information, I shall place it before the House. I do not propose to give half-baked figures here. I have got to consult my partners also there. I cannot make announcements here without consulting my four other partners there. Therefore, whatever has to be said will be said at an appropriate time. I have noted and I can assure him that we will satisfy him at an appropriate time.

The next thing is about fertilisers. I agree in the field of fertilisers, we have not been able to move forward according to our targets. Why did that happen ? Partly because the public sector was not able to move forward very fast and the private sector did not come forward. If you look at the figures, you will see, in the private sector, the fertiliser production just did not start at all. It was the non-starter. Now, we have a very big programme. Everybody wants us to be self-sufficient in fertiliser. By 1975, we have to build up a capacity of 5 million tonnes of fertilisers

[Shri Asoka Mehta]

which means an investment of Rs. 1400 crores. So far, we have invested about Rs. 250 crores only. You can envisage the very large investment that is still to be made. Of these Rs. 1400 crores, Rs. 400 crores will be in foreign exchange. I want to know from the honourable House: Is it possible for us in the public sector to find all this amount of Rs. 1000 crores or Rs. 1100 crores during the next four to five years for fertiliser alone? Where will the amount of Rs. 400 crores in foreign exchange come from? Why have I to plead for allowing some private concerns also to come in so that they bring in rupee resources as well as foreign exchange? Because the amounts involved are large, Rs. 1000 crores to 1100 crores. An amount of Rs. 200 crores will be needed for pesticides industry. We have decided that, out of Rs. 1400 crores, an amount of Rs. 800 crores will be spent in the public sector. So, a major portion of the outlay will be in the public sector. If I have to have plants involving an outlay of Rs. 800 crores in the next four or five years, you please realise that the managerial capacity will not come up overnight, the technical difficulties will come up and all that. Would the honourable House be justified in asking why this is going wrong, why that is going wrong and all that? You must know, anywhere in the world, a modern chemical plant, requires a couple of years before it gives you full production. I have with me about 5 plants today under my Ministry. Two are very old, two are very new and one is somewhere in between. The two new plants will be able to give good results. As far as Nangal is concerned, as my friend said, it has been doing very well. The two old plants, Sindri and FACT, are both in the process of being reorganised and modernised and I can assure the House that this year our performance will be good and, by 1971-72, we shall give you every tonne of fertiliser that is needed and we will not be importing anything from outside. But it takes four to five years from the date we start. It takes about two to three years to build up a factory. It takes one year to get land.

It took me three years to get the land in Gorakhpur, and in the case of Barauni, it has taken me more than a year to get

the land; one whole year has been wasted. I know the difficulties in getting land for a public sector factory. The hon. members very often throw the blame on us. Somebody got up and said—I think, it was the Communist Member, Mr. Sharma—what kind of public sector is this, they are not willing to give all the money that the kisan is asking for. After all, there are rules and regulations which determine the acquisition of land. We try to follow the rules and regulations and there, we are bogged down, we are frustrated, we are being compelled to pay more and all kinds of delays take place. Does the hon. House take the slightest interest in this thing? When I am asked to give a schedule as to when I will do this, how can I give any schedule when I do not know when I will get the land, power and water. These are things which are not under my control. Given these things, I can assure the House that in 30 to 36 months, a plant will be set up... (Interruptions) Will he let me continue in my own way?

Secondly, it is said that the price charged are very high. I am surprised, the prices quoted here show a real mix-up. In one case, the naphtha content is taken into account and the price is given; and in the other case, the price of urea is given. May I point out that it is no use comparing unlikes. If we compare likes with likes, our fertiliser prices compare favourably with those in other countries. It is not correct to say that the fertiliser prices in this country are higher than those in other countries. It is interesting to note, for instance, that the price of urea of the farmer in India, Rs. 840 during 1967, compares favourably to the price to the farmer in West Germany, Rs. 895, and in France, Rs. 880. The price of Ammonium Sulphate in the country, Rs. 495, also compares closely with the price in France, Rs. 480. Similarly, the price of Calcium Ammonium Nitrate, Rs. 535, in India is close to the price in France, Rs. 520. Even these price, I hope, will come down as soon as we are able to use modern technology. The plants that we have set up are not based on the most upto-date technology, but the new plants that are coming up, whether in the private sector or in the public sector, are

large plants with modern technology. Of course, they require a very large investment but large investments of say Rs. 60 crores will also give Rs. 50 crores worth of output. The capital-output ratio is very high; but the initial investment is also very high. I can assure the House that the price is something which we are concerned about, but I want the House to appreciate this also that we need Rs. 800 crores for investment in the public sector. Somewhere the money has also to be found. If everything is going to be given on no-profit-no-loss basis, please tell me from where the resources are to come for exploration in oil, for building up refining capacity and for developing fertilisers. Therefore.... (Interruption).

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN (Wandiwash) : How do you answer the criticism of the Estimates Committee ?

SHRI ASOKA MEHTA : I have pointed out that the figures that have been given do not compare likes with likes. I have tried to give the figures where the likes are compared with likes. There is no Bible or Gospel that I am depending on ; I am depending upon the facts that I know.

It is argued that we have no policy about fertiliser because sometimes we talk of naphtha and sometimes of something else. I have made the policy very clear. 70 per cent of fertiliser produced will be based on naphtha. Today, the world over, the production is based on naphtha. Then, out of the remaining 30 per cent, about half of it will be based on coal or lignite, about one-fourth of it will be based on liquid ammonia and a very small fraction will be on electrolytic basis.

As far as coal is concerned, a question was asked about Korba. We are looking into this. The Fertiliser Corporation of India has drawn up a very detailed project report and it is being considered. One has to consider the economics of it. May I point out, Sir, that recently the Polish Government showed interest in setting up a fertiliser plant. Poland, as you know, Sir, is a country with very large resources of coal and with a very highly developed coal industry. Yet it has not the slightest interest in setting up a coal-based fertiliser

plant. Look at the number of fertiliser plants set up in the entire world which are based on coal. Not many. We believe that the Korba coal-based plant may have economic advantages. We are looking into it very carefully, but we cannot say anything till that study is over.

Why do we talk of liquid ammonia ? It is because there is going to be a world shortage of naphtha. We are criticised that we are exporting naphtha to-day. We are bound to export something to-day. If you have a surplus of jute, you export jute. Sometimes you are deficit in jute. In any industrial development, nobody can say that we will have self-sufficiency every day. Sir, we are exporting naphtha to-day but our requirements of naphtha are going to grow and naphtha-based plants are likely to be the cheapest, with the exception of plants based on liquid ammonia. Why do we talk about ammonia ? Why talk about it sometimes in the context that we get a sure supply of sulphur and of sulphur we require large quantities and sulphur prices fluctuate in the world market. There may be a shortage of sulphur in the world market.

Secondly, Sir, it may be possible for us, in some of these countries, may be Iran, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia, that we join with them in developing liquid ammonia there and they join with us in developing fertilisers here. Are we opposed to this kind of economic co-operation between friendly countries, both upstream and downstream forms of co-operation in all these things ? Some of my friends here seem to think that when the very word 'liquid ammonia' is uttered, you commit treachery. I do not understand that, Sir. Everything has to be judged on the merits and the economics of it and I am willing to satisfy the most severest critic whether on the most detailed economic study the thing is right or wrong. Even there, as I said, we propose that 70% of our future production of fertiliser will be based on naphtha. This has to be related to factors such as the refinery capacity, the production pattern of petroleum products, etc.

We have got certain rock phosphates in our country and we are developing pyrites and reducing sulphur from it. All these things are time-consuming. In these

[Shri Asoka Mehta]

things the technology has to be obtained. Now take production of sulphur from pyrites. Very few countries have got that. We had to run to Sweden, Norway and Finland to find out how sulphur could be produced from pyrites. Some of the technologies are untried. The equipment has to be obtained again with foreign credit which is not easily available.

Under these difficulties this task is being done. In the case of fertiliser also recently I had an expert team partly drawn from the TVA, the American public sector organization and Indian experts and I am again grateful to that team for the valuable report they have given us. May I point out that in fertiliser we have a very clear-out policy. Our policy is that we want to be self-sufficient and I am confident that we will be self-sufficient by 1971-72. By 1975 we have to built up a capacity of a minimum 5 million tonnes and production of 4.2 million tonnes. In order to do this, very large investments are needed including foreign exchange. In order to do all these things we must have a flexible policy.

While the bulk of this new development will be in the public sector, we have to provide accommodation for the private sector also. My hon. friend, Mrs. Gopalan talked that everything could be done in India. After all the P & D Division has been set up—Planning & Development. We have spent Rs. 2 crores there. I am proud of the 600 or 500 very fine engineers that we have got. We assembled them, not Mrs. Gopalan. Surely, we have tremendous pride and tremendous enthusiasm in their working. Here again, let us realise the difficulties. We have to go to the USAID for expanding Trombay. For Trombay expansion Rs. 40-50 crores are needed. When we go to them, they also want to do certain engineering and designing.

The French and the Polish Government are coming here to negotiate with us for setting up a fertiliser plant. The Polish Government also say that they want to do some engineering and designing themselves. All these matters have to be negotiated. Where we are dependant upon foreign exchange on credits from outside, I cannot all the time satisfy the last demand of my own engineers, I have got to strike a

balance somewhere. Because if I satisfy all these demands, which I would very much like to, then give me free foreign exchange and I will not want anything to be done by anybody else. But where I have depend upon one-third of the requirements from outside, where I have to obtain credit, pay them interests charges, and buy equipments from them sometimes at a rate higher than in the world market I have to make certain concessions in engineering and in design. But what is important is that we have confidence in the organisation that has been set up by us and we want it to go ahead. I would give my right arm to see that the Planning and Development Division progresses fast enough. I would give my whole body to see that this fertiliser project moves forward fast enough. One has to strike a compromise somewhere. And I was surprised that when a compromise is struck, all kinds of insidious charges are made. Therefore, Sir, it is not true to say that we have no policy on fertilisers. I have tried to explain and expound the policy.

When we come to petro-chemicals, here again the charge is that we have been slow. I agree we have been slow, but where are the resources? A petro-chemical complex can be set up only when a certain amount of combined, coordinated investment is made. Rs. 200 crores have to be found. Look at the budget position of the last two or three years. Were we in a position to embark upon a project costing Rs. 200 crores? If Rs. 200 crores have to be spent should we spend it on irrigation, power or fertiliser? All these have to be considered. So far as petro-chemicals is concerned, when I was in the Planning Commission, I myself agreed to it that it must take a back seat. We are now pushing ahead with it as I have said repeatedly and one complex will come up and we have reached a stage where we are in a position to enter into contracts and start execution. I would like to go ahead because Rs. 200 crores investment in petro-chemicals will yield production which will ultimately increase our national income by Rs. 500 crores. Rs. 200 crores investment in petro-chemical industry can increase the revenues of the Central and State Governments and the local bodies

by about Rs. 125 or Rs. 150 crores a year. I know this investment would trigger the development in India, but one has to weigh things. When limited resources are there one has to weigh sometimes competing claims. For petro-chemical, in every State there is clamour for it. I hope we will be able to set up one complex immediately. The real dispersal of employment and opportunities is in the fabricating form. Producing a big thing is not very labour-intensive. I hope this fabricating aspect will be distributed in various parts of the country. In Madras we have set up a training institute and I hope from the training institute there will be many people who will be able to become entrepreneurs as well as find employment in this country.

I would like to say a few words as far as the drug industry is concerned. The drug industry is also rapidly developing and their techniques change very fast. Here we have now reached a stage where our production is about Rs. 180 crores per year and by 1971-72, I can assure the House that our production will be Rs. 250 crores as has been targeted. Out of this Rs. 180 crores, only about 10 to 12 per cent is the imported content. We are today importing very limited number of finished drugs and some ingredients. The total import bill is about Rs. 20 to 25 crores. Of this we will also export Rs. 4 crores worth of our products. I hope we are going to push out with our exports and our imports will also come down. I would like to point out that the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited, the IDPL has three plants at Rishikesh, Hyderabad and Madras and it has now been geared to move forward. I acknowledge the criticism made that it has not been possible to meet all the demands. Here we are in a difficulty in respect of some of these public sector plants. They have been set up in the past without having undertaken a proper market survey. All this has since been corrected. Market surveys are being made. Production is being re-routed and reoriented in terms of the nature of the requirements of the market. That also is being criticised. I read some articles written by some distinguished people in the newspapers asking why we should set up such market organisations. I am convinced that we must set up marketing organisation as research and marketing are

the two limbs that must ultimately determine the pattern of production. The most important person in the plant is not the man who produces; the most important man in the plant is the one who is going to say what the market requirements are going to be and what further research has to be done as far as drugs are concerned.

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR (Jhansi): Is it not a fact that high prices of production come in the way?

SHRI ASOKA MEHTA: So far as surgical instruments are concerned the hon. Member knows it better than I do, that the surgical instruments that are produced in the country are not wanted, are not required. Our surgeons are not in the habit of using them.

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: They are more costly than what we can get from outside.

SHRI ASOKA MEHTA: The point is this.

What they can outside are very inferior instruments which they are not willing to use at all. If the hon. Member wants, I am willing to sit down with her and explain the position to her.

SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH: It was due to bad planning.

SHRI ASOKA MEHTA: I have said that it was done without market surveys. That is being corrected now. I can show a number of private sector plants also which were set up without market surveys being made.

SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH: He only wants to correct it now.

SHRI ASOKA MEHTA: That is being corrected. Adequate market surveys have been carried out, and the export potential is being tapped. I can assure the House that in the next two years, the IDPL will be a very profitable venture.

SHRI D. C. SHARMA (Gurdaspur): Let him look into the working of the factory at Rishikesh.

SHRI ASOKA MEHTA : Today, I have got 14 public sector plants under me. Out of these 14, six are under construction, and eight have been constructed. Of these, six are already making money and they are making good money, and some are being expanded from their own internal resources. I would like to assure the House that I am most anxious to see that these organisations move forward in the most economic, efficient and profitable manner.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA : But what about the Patents Act? Is the hon. Minister going to change it?

SHRI ASOKA MEHTA : The Patents Act is not within my jurisdiction. My colleague the Minister of Industrial Development is dealing with it.

SHRI D. C. SHARMA : What about the Rishikesh factory? Why should he not look after that properly? It is not doing well.

SHRI ASOKA MEHTA : The Rishikesh factory is doing well. I am willing to invite Shri D. C. Sharma to Rishikesh and satisfy him.

SHRI D. C. SHARMA : I would go to Rishikesh to see rather Mahesh Yogi than to see this antibiotic factory which is doing so badly.

SHRI ASOKA MEHTA : I am sorry to find that about the Rishikesh factory again something is being said to the effect that it is doing so badly. I would like the hon. Member to come and see things for himself and then if he says that it is doing badly, I would accept it.

SHRI D. C. SHARMA : Why should he not reply to my question?

SHRI ASOKA MEHTA : What is his question?

SHRI D. C. SHARMA : He does not even send replies to the questions sent by the Committee on Petitions.

SHRI ASOKA MEHTA : The Committee on Petitions is talking about the employment of certain people.

I would like to point out that if we want these plants to function properly and efficiently, we must allow the management to organise employment, promotions and all that, and we should not interfere. I am clear in my mind that these corporations must be allowed to run on their own. Even in regard to the labour relations, I shall judge them by the results that they produce at the end of the year. It is not for me to go and ask them every day why there is strike or why such and such a thing is happening. I hope they are adult managements and I shall judge them as adult managements at the end of the year by the production that they have achieved, by the quality of the production and the profits that they have made and by the public image that they have built up. I do not propose to interfere in the day-to-day work.

I would beg of the House to realise that during the last twelve months, this Ministry has tried to gear up the various corporations that are under it, and I am very grateful to the large number of persons working in different capacities in these organisations for the splendid response that they have given.

I would just make one last point and I have done. May I respectfully beg of the House not to bring in the names of officers here and condemn them? My secretary Mr. Nayak is one of the ablest officers. I am here to answer every charge that is made against any of my corporations. It is not proper that the name of an officer should be brought in here. If there is anything wrong, it will be my responsibility. It is not fair to bring in the officers' names. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI A. SREEDHARAN : We are not here by his courtesy. We have been elected by the people. It is not for him to dictate what we should say here or should not say here.

AN. HON. MEMBER : We have every right to expose corrupt officers.

SHRI ASOKA MEHTA : I have not said they should not make any criticisms that they want. I am answerable. But the poor officer is not present here to defend himself. All kinds of charges being

made against officers will not enable one to achieve the results that we desire. Therefore, I respectfully and humbly tell the hon. Members.....

SHRI A. S. SAIGAL (Bilaspur) : On a point of order.

अभी मन्त्री महोदय ने कहा है कि जो आफिसर्ज यहाँ नहीं हैं उनका नाम नहीं लिया जाना चाहिए। यह बिल्कुल वाजिब बात है। मैं भी कहूँगा कि आफिसर्ज का नाम हम बीच में न लायें। उनके बारे में हम चाहें तो मन्त्री महोदय को चिट्ठी लिख सकते हैं और मिनिस्टर से जवाब माँग सकते हैं। लेकिन मेम्बरज को आफिसर्ज के बारे में नाम लेकर कुछ नहीं कहना चाहिये। वे अपने आप को डिफेन्ड नहीं कर सकते हैं।

श्री कंवर लाल गुप्त : कांग्रेस के ही सदस्य ने उनका नाम बीच में लाया था।

SHRI ASOKA MEHTA : My hon. friend, Shri Verma, brought in the name of a very senior officer of my Ministry. But I would like to go on record as saying that these charges are absolutely baseless. Shri Nayak, Secretary of my Ministry, is one of the ablest and the most dedicated officers we can find. If we expect them to do the kind of work we want them to do, this practice must be desisted from.

The hon. Member made certain charges. Some of these things are under investigation by the Central Vigilance Commissioner. If Shri Nayak is found guilty, we will punish him. But until the inquiry is completed and the conclusions are available, I do not know how one can rush to certain conclusions.

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN : How can he praise him when the inquiry is on ?

SHRI ASOKA MEHTA : Because of two things. Firstly Shri Nayak is not involved in it. I know that. After all, I do not sit in my office without looking into things. Secondly, I have seen Shri Nayak's work in every direction and I am satisfied that he is on of the ablest officers.

Then again charges were made about the Hindustan Antibiotics. May I again point out that the whole charge is completely baseless. If the hon. Member had taken the trouble to contact me, I would have given him all the material. Before making serious allegations against officers before charging T. T. Krishnamachari and Sons with being privy and taking advantage of certain facilities there, before making these charges against one's own colleagues, the Minister in charge could have been contacted and the necessary information obtained. If he is still not satisfied, by all means let him do what he likes. But I would once again beg of you that before any charges are levelled against officers, facts might be ascertained from the Minister. Let the Ministers be criticised; let them be kicked about, if you want. But do not blame officers by name.

SHRI RANGA (Srikakulam) : I am in general agreement with what my hon. friend, Shri Asoka Mehta, has said that we should not unnecessarily drag in the names of officers in the course of our debate and make charges without first ascertaining and satisfying ourselves that there is something wrong. That is the correct approach. But when he was praising Shri Nayak—I do not happen to know Shri Nayak—he himself said that there is an inquiry pending....

SHRI ASOKA MEHTA : Not against Shri Nayak. Then hon. Member knows the whole thing. It is about the laying of pipelines, whether these should have been laid so near to the coal-fields. This matter is under inquiry and has been referred to the Central Vigilance Commissioner. Because of lack of time, I had to squeeze many things to which Shri Verma referred.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA : So there is nothing against Shri Nayak.

SHRI C. M. KEDARIA (Mandvi) : I wanted to speak. But I was not given a chance. I want only to seek a piece of information.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am on my legs. The Minister has already replied.

It is a very unhealthy practice to drag in the names of officers who are not pre-

[Mr. Chairman]

sent in the House. I quite agree that it should not be done.

Now, with the permission of the House, I shall put all the cut motions together to the vote of the House.

All the cut motions were put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the fourth column of the order paper, be granted to the President, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1969, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against Demands Nos. 70, 71 and 124 relating to the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals".

The motion was adopted.

[The motions for 'Demands for Grants which were adopted by the Lok Sabha, are reproduced below—Ed.]

Demand No. 70—Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 24,03,000 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, 1969, in respect of Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals'."

Demand No. 71—Other Revenue Expenditure of the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 71,06,000 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, 1969, in respect of 'Other Revenue Expenditure of the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals'."

Demand No. 124—Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 15,14,27,000 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, 1969, in respect of 'Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals'."

15.20 hrs.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up discussion and voting on Demand Nos. 91 to 95, 135 and 136 relating to the Department of Communications for which 3 hours have been allotted.

Hon. Members present in the House who are desirous of moving their cut motions may send slips to the Table within 15 minutes indicating the serial number of the cut motions they would like to move.

Demand No. 91—Department of Communications.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 11,63,000 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, 1969, in respect of 'Department of Communications'."

Demand No. 93—Overseas Communications Service.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,29,52,000 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, 1969, in respect of 'Overseas Communications Service'."

Demand No. 93—Posts and Telegraphs (Working Expenses).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,71,56,54,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to