

[شری عبدالغنی ڈار]

چاہے وہ پاکستان نے زبردستی اُس پر قبضہ کیا ہو -

لیکن ہماری سرکار سارے کاشمیر کی سرکار ہے - وہ کیوں اس بات میں ناکام رہی کہ ہماری جو اُپج تھی وہ بجائے بڑھنے کے کم ہو گئی۔ کیا اسلئے کہ آپ صادق صاحب کو پریشان کر رہے ہیں - پہلے شیخ کو چلتا کیا پھر بخشی کو چلتا کیا اب صادق کو چلتا کر کے قاسم کو لا رہے ہیں اور پھر قاسم کو چلتا کر کے قاسم کو لوگے -]

श्री क० सि० मधुकर : सभापति महोदय, मैं केवल एक प्रश्न पूछना चाहता हूँ। मंत्री महोदय ने अपने जवाब में यह नहीं बताया कि रांची में जो रिसर्च स्टेशन है उसकी ज़मीन आधे से अधिक बेकार पड़ी हुई है, काम में नहीं आ रही है। उस के लिये आप क्या करने जा रहे हैं और करने जा रहे हैं या नहीं करने जा रहे हैं ?

श्री राम सेवक : श्रीमन्, श्री महाराज सिंह भारती जी ने जो बात रखी है कि सिल्क का प्रोडक्शन बढ़ाया जाये, देश में मलबरी के जो पेड़ हैं उन की लकड़ी का इस्तेमाल सिल्क के कोड़े पालने के लिये होना चाहिये, उसी सिलसिले में यह बिल यहां पर लाया गया है और इस को काश्मीर में लागू किया जा रहा है। काश्मीर में सिल्क की जो प्रोडक्शन कम हो गई है, उस के बढ़ाये जाने के सिलसिले में हम राज्य सरकार से बातचीत कर रहे हैं और आशा है कि भविष्य में सिल्क का प्रोडक्शन वहां पर बढ़ेगा। सिल्क बोर्ड के द्वारा भिन्न भिन्न प्रान्तों में बराबर यह प्रयत्न किया जा रहा है कि सिल्क का प्रोडक्शन बढ़े।

जहां तक सिल्क की कीमत बढ़ने का प्रश्न है, चूंकि देश में और विदेशों में इस की खपत बढ़ी है, हिन्दुस्तान के भी बहुत से लोग इस को पहनने लगे हैं, इस लिये खपत बढ़ जाने

के कारण इस के दाम बढ़ गये हैं। इस के साथ ही यह हम चाहते हैं कि गरीब लोगों को रोजगार मिले, उन को ज्यादा पैसा मिले, उसी दृष्टि से हम ने सुझाव दिया है कि कोआपरेटिव सोमायटीज के जरिये उन की मदद की जाय, उन को अधिक रुपया सहायता के रूप में मिल सके।

जहां तक एक माननीय सदस्य ने सिल्क बोर्ड के दफ्तर को बम्बई से मैसूर में ले जाने का प्रश्न उठाया है, वहां से उस को हटाने की इस समय हमारे सामने कोई योजना नहीं है।

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

“That the Bill, as amended, be passed.”

The motion was adopted.

14.43 hrs.

PETROLEUM (AMENDMENT) BILL

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS, AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN): Sir I beg to move:

“That the Bill further to amend the Petroleum Act, 1934, be taken into consideration.”

Sir, the subject matter of the Amendment Bill falls mainly under Entry 53 of List I—Union List—of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, namely, Petroleum and Petroleum Products.

The Petroleum Act, 1934, as modified from time to time, like all other Acts promulgated in the thirties are based on the Acts prevalent in the United Kingdom at that time. The Act relates to the import, transport, storage, production, refining and blending of petroleum. The object of the Act and the Rules framed thereunder are to ensure safety from the fire hazards due to inflammable nature of petroleum.

The present Act is based on Foot-Pound-Second system in vogue until recently. The country has adopted Centimetre-Gramme-Second system properly known as Metric

system. It is therefore, essential to revise the references from the Foot Pound System to metric system. Accordingly, to illustrate, unit on capacity, gallon has been changed to litres [Section 6 Clause (a); Section 7 (i), Section 8(1) and (2), Section 9 (i) (b) 9(2) of the existing Act].

The temperature in fahrenheit scale has been changed to centigrade after necessary rounding of amendment. The nomenclature used in the Act for different grades of petroleum is not very satisfactory and it is considered desirable to rationalise and simplify the nomenclatures in accordance with the practice obtaining in other advanced countries.

Accordingly, the following changes have been made.

Existing nomenclature	As amended
Dangerous petroleum	Petroleum Class A
Non-dangerous petroleum	Petroleum Class B
Heavy petroleum	Petroleum Class C

Opportunity is also taken to enhance the penalty for violation of the provisions of the Act making provisions for charging fees other than licence fees as in the existing Act. to remove other minor lacunae observed in the administration of the Act and the Rules made thereunder.

Section 28 of the existing Act provides penalties for contravention of the provisions of the Act and Rules made thereunder. In the Bill penalty has been enhanced as it is too mild and thereby public safety is adversely affected. The majority of the fire accidents took place due to unauthorised storage of petroleum and in most cases they could be attributed to non-observance of the Safety Rules and Conditions laid in the Petroleum Rules. Fire and explosion in the case of some of the petroleum products are acute and their use is progressively increasing in the country. If the penalty for violation of the safety rules and conditions is too mild, the parties concerned are prone to give good care and attention to their observance.

Taking all these aspects into consideration this Section is proposed to be amended to enhance the penalty.

Section 4 (Rules for the Import, Transport and Storage of Petroleum) Clause (e) has been amended to insert "including the charging of fees for any services rendered" as there is no provision in the present Act to charge any fees except "Licence fees", so that provision could be made in the Rules for charging fees for various services, such as, scrutiny, examination and approval of proposals relating to design and/or layout of pipelines, pipeline installation, tank-vehicles and receptacles for petroleum, etc.

The Bill seeks to achieve the aforesaid objects. It is a very simple Bill. The references in the existing Act to gallons etc. will be changed to litres under metric system. The Bill is absolutely innocuous and non-controversial and I hope and trust that it will receive the approval of all the sections of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Petroleum Act, 1934, be taken into consideration."

SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA (Barh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, speaking on the Bill which has been presented to the House, I would certainly admit this, that the Hon. Minister has been looking after this Department with great earnestness and seriousness. But, unfortunately, the basic decisions which the Hon. Minister has taken, or the decisions which should have been taken, are not allowed to be taken by the Minister.

While introducing the Bill the Hon. Minister has said that the Bill is a simple one. Sir, the Bill is a simple one, but on the basis on which this Petroleum industry has been working, on that, I would like to raise certain serious objections. This Bill has given us an opportunity to go into the very question of the way the petroleum industry is being built up.

Sir, in Assam there was a big agitation for a very genuine demand of theirs for a second refinery. Assam requires to be handled on a different footing. The economic condition of Assam is such that they have got only one raw material and economically viable commodity, and that is petroleum. And, yet, the very genuine

[Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha]

demand of the Assamese people for a refinery has not been conceded.

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN (Wand-Wash) : Is she pleading the case for a second refinery in Assam ?

SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA : I am talking about Assam, and my hon. friend may talk about Gujarat. Certainly, I would talk about his State also, if there is any petroleum available in his State. I do not understand why at the mention of the name of Assam, the DMK Members should become so sensitive about it. Do they consider that Assam is not part of this country ? The demand for a refinery in Assam is very genuine, and yet when the Prime Minister went to Assam, thousands and thousands of people went to jail, and with one unanimous voice, they demanded a second refinery. I do not understand why this demand of Assam is not being conceded. The condition of Assam is such that almost all the raw materials from Assam, whether it be spices, or timber or hardboard or matchsticks etc. are purchased from there by people from outside. For instance, *tez patta* is being purchased for Rs. 7 to 8 per maund in Assam and it is being sold in the Calcutta market for about Rs. 150 a maund, and all that profit goes to different people and different parties and not to the people of Assam. I would, therefore, strongly submit that this decision cannot be delayed. By delaying this decision, we would be creating an explosive situation in Assam, politically and otherwise. This Bill relates also to the maintenance of law and order. I think it will be impossible for Government to control the sentiments of the people of Assam and they can never be controlled by the police or the military. After all, the sentiments of the people of Assam have to be understood, and all consideration and compassion has to be shown to appreciate their plight.

I was talking about *tez patta*. That is just one commodity and just one instance, which points to the need for the Assam people getting the benefit. This is one commodity where they can have certain benefits, and yet the question of royalty has also not been decided. A committee was formed probably under the chairman-

ship of Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao, and he devised a formula. I do not know what happened to that formula. Therefore, I strongly recommend that this situation should not be allowed to become more inflammable than petroleum itself. The hon. Minister has sought protection in regard to inflammable commodities. But what about the inflammable spirit of Assam? That has to be recognised, and the Prime Minister cannot really make a fool of everybody. Abraham Lincoln had said 'You can fool some people for all time and all people for some time, but you cannot fool all people for all time'. In the case of Assam, in the case of Telengana and in the case of other things, everywhere, the Prime Minister is trying to fool all the people all the time. I would submit that no longer should the people of Assam be cheated and deceived. I understand that the Prime Minister has promised them a second refinery privately, in their ears, but I would like to ask the Prime Minister whether she will publicly own this demand for a refinery and concede it.

I come to law and order also....

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Member should confine herself to the Bill proper.

SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA : Law and order concerns this Bill. (*Interruptions*). If my hon. friends want to be spokesmen for Government, let them go and sit there and let them not speak sitting here. They should be ashamed of this kind of behaviour on their part. They seem to be more loyal to Government than the Government themselves. Let the Government be allowed to speak for themselves, and let not my hon. friends speak for Government. Let them not try to become the stooges of the Prime Minister and the Treasury Benches.

This Bill relates to the maintenance of law and order also. There is a refinery and there is a fertiliser project in my constituency and in the neighbouring constituency. The hon. Minister had visited that area. I would like to know what has been done to maintain law and order in that area. Daylight murders are being committed on the so called notorious dolomite area, which the hon. Minister knows, and the hon. Minister also knows whose con-

stituency it is. Let me not mention the name of the gentleman whose constituency it is. He is a very important person of a particular party which is also a member of the United Front....

SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA (Begusarai): But she has been claiming that constituency herself.

SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA: I would like to submit that law and order is being disrupted there by certain forces. I would submit that law and order must be maintained there. The hon. Minister knows that the staff in the refineries and in the fertiliser factories have been complaining to him that they are not feeling safe and they are not sure of their security of life. The hon. Minister should come forward and say that such a thing will not be allowed to happen. I think they have complained to him continuously that the law and order position is bad in that area and that it is impossible for the staff to work there. I would like that the hon. Minister should look into this and try to strengthen the forces of law and order there so that the personnel of the refinery and the fertiliser factories which are close to each other may have a feeling of protection.

Then, I would suggest that there should be a sound personnel policy. Sir, I come from Bihar. There is the Barauni refinery and there is also the fertiliser project going on there. But the National Development Council and the National Integration Council which met at Srinagar had decided that almost all the class IV and class III jobs would be given to the local people. Still, there is a complaint; I think the hon. Minister knows that whenever he has visited that area, there have been demonstrations held against him and against his Ministry and to appeal to him.....

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN: May I submit that there was no demonstration staged against me?

SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA: I know that the hon. Minister is so generous and such a thorough gentleman, that probably the demonstrators were generous to him. But that does not

mean that they have no feelings. We should appreciate the strong feelings of the people of that area. Even for class IV and class III jobs, outside elements are taken. I do not deny that India is one. Outside elements have to be taken in the public sector projects. But it is the decision of the National Integration Council that employment opportunities should be given to the local people in the public sector projects in each State at least in regard to the lower posts. I hope the hon. Minister will look into this matter and evolve a sound personnel policy for all public sector undertakings in each State. This cry is going on that local employment is not available to the local people. In regard to class I and II posts, I do not deny that a competitive examination is a useful thing because merit should certainly be a very sound consideration for such appointments.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member should try to conclude now.

SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA: I am the first speaker from my party, and, therefore, please do not ring the bell all the time. I am the first speaker from my party, and, therefore, I must be allowed to have my time.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: But there are two names from the hon. Member's party.

SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA: We shall adjust the time between ourselves. On a Bill you cannot just go on ringing the Bell every two minutes. That is not generally done. I am speaking on behalf of my party. Therefore, please allow me to have my say.

SHRI NAMBIAR (Tiruchirapalli): Every party has some time allotted to it. Let the hon. Member speak within the time allowed.

SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA: My hon. friend is not going to get anything by being a spokesman of the Government here. So, let him keep quiet. (*Interruptions*).

My hon. friend Shri Yogendra Sharma may perhaps be getting what he has wanted

SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA : We are going to get something only by being in the Opposition.

SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA : He has got what he wanted in Kerala and he is going to get what he wanted in Bengal also, and so he may be very happy, and I do not mind it. So, I can quite appreciate his being a stooge of the Treasury Benches.

SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA : We are happy that she is in the Opposition.

SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA : We know why he wants to be on the side of Government, because he is getting everything that he had wanted. They are going to get a government in Bengal which he would never have dreamt of, and which is going to drive the Marxists away....

15 hrs.

SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA : I have every sympathy for your misfortune.

SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA : This is not my misfortune. You better settle among yourselves, the masses and you, what is the misfortune and to whom.

Therefore, I would like to submit that this matter of evolving a sound personnel policy and giving employment to the local people must be considered at the top level. It goes against the very spirit of the National Integration Council's recommendation that local people have still to seek employment in Class III and Class IV. For the whole of India you have to evolve a policy as to what you are going to do.

With these words, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak, but I have to submit again that you please do not go on ringing the bell every two minutes because it upsets our trend of thought.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You do not dictate to me what I should do. You have done enough.

SHRI JAIPAL SINGH (Khunti) : I wish to take only two minutes. (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can speak on that Bill tomorrow, but now we are taking up another subject, the Communal situation, on which the hon. Minister is making a statement.

15.02 hrs.

MOTION RE: STATEMENT ON COMMUNAL SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) : I beg to move:

"That the statement laid on the Table by the Minister of Home Affairs on the 3rd December, 1969 on communal situation in the country, be taken into consideration."

I laid a statement on the Table of the House on the 3rd December. I do not want to elaborate on that statement, but in order to facilitate the discussion, I have to make a statement on the incident that took place on the 2nd in Banaras. Some Members did make a demand for such a statement.

According to the information received from the State Government, a riot took place in Varanasi town in the afternoon of December 2, 1969. There had been a local dispute among two communities about the hours of worship, kirtan, etc. Units of the State police and Provincial Armed Constabulary had been posted there to maintain peace. Towards the afternoon when the two communities had congregated for worship, a mob of about 1,000 belonging to the minority community armed with spears, *ballam*, etc. indulged in heavy brick-batting, causing serious injuries to about a dozen police personnel and others as well. When the situation grew worse, the PAC opened fire to disperse the unlawful assembly. Three persons had succumbed to their injuries on account of the firing. Condition of one person injured in the riot is reported to be serious. All necessary measures have been taken to maintain peace. An order under section 144 Cr. P. C. has also been promulgated in certain parts of Varanasi. 32 persons have so far been arrested. There is no information about any other damage or incident, apart from the riot. The situation is now reported to be under control and the normal civic life has not been disrupted. The Additional District Magistrate has commenced an inquiry into the circumstances of the firing.