

make available some funds through his power corporation for the state projects so that the State Government could start the construction of these projects.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request the hon. Member to submit the proposals of micro/mini/small projects to Central Government through their corporation so that we could help them in providing assistance from Power Financial Corporation.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the required balance between hydel power and thermal power in the matter of power generation in the country is not being maintained. The raw materials such as coal, etc. for generation of Thermal Power have been depleting fast in the country as their deposits are available in a limited quantity. I am very grateful to the hon. Minister that a number of schemes have been cleared by the Central Electrification Authority. I want reply on very specific point as to whether funds would be made available for the projects which have been cleared by Central Electrification Authority in Eight Five Year Plan keeping the population and backwardness of Uttar Pradesh in view?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the projects cleared by Central Electricity Authority, L.H.P.C...

[*English*]

MR SPEAKER: This is not relevant to the question.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA: We have coal and cement for this Thermal Power Station: This is a relevant question.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I want relevancy to the question. It is not relevant to the question.

You can put a separate question.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA: This is a very important question.

MR. SPEAKER: I am not questioning the importance of it. I am only questioning the relevancy of it.

Karnal Refinery Project

*352. **SHRI G. BHOOPATHY:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the economic viability of the proposed Karnal Refinery Project is established;

(b) if so, what further steps are being taken to set up this Refinery; and

(c) if not what is the present position about this Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMADUTT): (a) to (c). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

Karnal Refinery Project

(a) to (c). The Karnal Refinery Project was initially approved by the Government in September, 1984 as an Indian Oil Corporation Project. However, pursuant to Government's decision in March, 1987 to implement this project as a joint venture by IOC with M/s Tata Chemicals, a detailed Project Report was submitted by the Joint Venture partners in May, 1988. The DPR was examined by the Government and the joint venture partners were requested to incorporate material relating to evaluation of different processing schemes, some detailed engineering etc. essential to arrive at

a realising cost estimate and time frame for project implementation. A final view on the economic viability of the project would be possible only after the revised DPR is available.

[*Translation*]

SHRI G. BHOOPATHY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have gone through the statement given by the hon. Minister. It makes it evident that the Central Government does not give much importance to the economic viability or the availability of raw material if the project proves to be profitable. It approves the project in order to win favour of the people, but failing to achieve it, they take away the project. A coach factory was to be established in Andhra Pradesh but later on it was cancelled. I would like to know about the measures being taken by the Central Government to set up projects in the areas where raw material is available and economic viability of the project is good.

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT: It is the foremost duty of a popular Government to keep the people satisfied. Our Government also tries to do the same. So far as the availability of raw-material is concerned, in order to make a refinery profitable, it is essential to see whether the products of the refinery are consumed in the same area. Petroleum products and diesel are in high demand in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Western parts of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. So it is essential that the refinery is established in Karnal. Pipe-line has already been laid up to Mathura and it can be further extended upto Karnal via Choksi for the supply of crude oil. The decision has been taken on the merits of the case.

SHRI G. BHOOPATHY: Action was taken in the year 1987 to implement the project and I would like to know the extent of cost escalation during the period 1984 to 1987. If the Government claims to stand for socialism, why did it give away the project to the Tatas.

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT: Socialism does not mean that they won't go in for joint ventures. As per my information, even in Russia, joint ventures are being established and there it is not causing any problem. Though the Government had originally taken a decision about it but due to the lack of adequate resources, it was tried in the joint sector, the project has not been transferred over to the Tatas. IOC and Tata Chemical Limited have equal shares in it. In fact, it was done to collect money through issue of shares to the public. The Government agreed for the joint venture. At first, the Government had decided to set up the refinery in the public sector but later on decided to have it in the joint sector. We have also got the detailed project report prepared. The Government have also decided take maximum assistance from the Government of Russia in setting up this refinery. The Government of Russia have offered some proposals on which the Government of India has been discussing with them, and a high-level technical team from India will be leaving for Moscow shortly. Our Government wants clarification on certain points and have also sought a detailed report about the project. Only then the Government of India would approve the project. In the mean time, the Government have acquired 2000 acres of land for the project and the work of soil investigation has been completed and above all, the permission of the department of Environment which is the most difficult job, has also been obtained. Besides, the State Government has been contacted to discuss with them about the infrastructure, roads water and power supply.

[*English*]

Amendment to Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867

354. **SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU:**
SHRI SHANTILAL PATEL:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to amend the