

जाए तो उस को बाहर भेजने के लिए हम वड़ी खुशी से तैयार रहेंगे।

#### Adoption of New Price Formula by OPEC

\*440. SHRI R. L. BHATIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has recently planned to adopt a new price formula for oil prices to go up and down with market forces and other factors;

(b) if so, the broad outlines of this formula; and

(c) its impact on India's imports and how far it will help India in cutting down its foreign exchange on oil imports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) According to press reports the OPEC decided at its meeting in Geneva in October, 1981 to adopt a unified pricing system with official price of Arabian Light crude oil, as the marker crude, at \$ 34/bbl. At the subsequent meeting at Abu Dhabi in the second week of December, 1981 the OPEC have while reportedly deciding to maintain the market price at \$34/bbl for Arabian Light Crude, agreed on certain changes in the differentials for other varieties. There is no information about any new price formula for oil prices to go up or down with market forces and other such factors.

(b) and (c). In view of (a) above the questions do not arise.

SHRI R. L. BHATIA: The hon. Minister in his statement has referred to a meeting of the OPEC countries in October. I am referring to a meeting which was held in Vienna in November 26th where the Saudi Arabian Oil Minister, Shri Ahmad Zaki Yamani, announced, while addressing

a seminar on this question of oil prices, that in future the prices of oil will be linked with the market factors and other factors. May I know from the hon. Minister if this is the thinking of the OPEC countries, according to the latest information which you have got? If the present system of linking the price to the market factor operates, or the new formula is adopted, what will be the effect on India's economy and the oil prices generally?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): What the hon. Member is referring to is an Expert Committee of OPEC, where the hon. Minister from Saudi Arabia has made a statement about the pricing strategy on a long term basis. The Committee which was formed was also known as the Long Term Strategy Committee. In terms of this Committee's Report, the following three elements were to be considered: An index reflecting the impact of inflation on international trade, an exchange adjustment combining 11 major currencies with dollar and a price increase adjustment based on GNP growth in OECD countries. As far as this long-term strategy is concerned, this is not being put into action. For the time being, we have got report of these two meetings which we have referred to in the main body of the answer. One was held in Geneva and the other was held in Abu Dhabi, where they have said that they would limit the price at \$ 34 with a variation of \$ 4, but later they have recommended a variation of \$ 1.60 to \$ 3 per barrel for Arabian crude oil till the end of 1982 and therefore, unless the price variations are known, it is difficult to say what would be the impact of these prices on the Indian economy.

SHRI R. L. BHATIA: Sir, Mr. Yamani also mentioned that a dialogue between North and South has to be seriously attempted and he also offered and desired that the OPEC countries would also participate in such talks and would like to create

contentions of a stable economic order in the Third World countries. In this respect, while taking into consideration this categorical statement by which he has tried to make an offer to the Third World countries, may I know from the hon. Minister if India has made any attempt to secure this help or the offer which the OPEC countries have given to the Third World countries to meet our energy crisis?

**SHRI P. C. SETHI:** As far as this position is concerned, India has been approaching many countries. Last year our Finance Minister visited Iran, then I visited Iraq in this connection and also Libya and many of our people have visited the other countries and we have requested them that as far as India is concerned, the pricing pattern and the loan pattern should be observed in view of the fact that we are the per capita consumers of crude oil which is among the least in the Third world compared to even Sri Lank and other countries. Therefore, we have requested that we should be given a different treatment and we should be given a loan assistance for some time.

**SHRI BHERAVADAN K. GADHAVI:** Sir, with the oil price hike in the international market, in our country also we have raised the prices of oil and also with the imported crude oil as well as the indigenous oil the prices have been equalised. Therefore, firstly I would like to know whether in case the price of crude oil goes down in the international market, the Government propose to provide oil to the farmers at a cheaper rate, and secondly, since we have equalised the prices of the imported as well as the indigenous crude oil and since in respect of those States which are consuming more of residual furnace oil there is no hike in the royalty. I would like to know whether the Government proposes to enhance the royalty to the oil producing States of India.

**SHRI P. C. SETHI:** Sir, as far as the prices are concerned, it is a pooled price between the price fixed by

the Government for the indigenous production which has been fixed at Rs. 1182/- now and the imported price of crude. This pooled price comes to round about Rs. 2000/- per tonne. That does not mean that this is the production price of the crude and if the crude increases in India, to that extent the price of Rs. 2000/- might get reduced, but whether the prices will get reduced or not it is difficult for me to say. It is for the Finance Minister to say.

**SHRI BHERAVADAN K. GADHAVI:** What about royalty?

**SHRI P. C. SETHI:** As far as royalty is concerned, I would like to say that this is under consideration.

TV Telecast to cover North Bengal

\*441. **SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that people of North Bengal, i.e. Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, Cooch-Bihar and West Dinapur are having television sets for the purpose of seeing the telecast from Bangladesh as well as India;

(b) whether the people of those areas are not able to see the telecast from India while they are able to see properly the telecast from Bangladesh and nearby areas;

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard and the reasons why they are not able to see the telecast from India; and

(d) the steps so far taken by Government so as to enable the people of North-Bengal to see the telecast from India?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI KUMUDBEN M. JOSHI):** (a) It is reported that in some parts of the border areas including North-Bengal, TV service from Bangladesh is being received.

(b) to (d). Districts of North Bengal are presently not getting any service from Doordarshan. Under the