

IRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a World Assembly for Peace was held at Budapest from May 13th to 16th, at which representatives of 54 countries and several international organisations signed an Appeal calling of solidarity with the people of Bangla Desh and condemning the atrocities of the Pakistan military regime;

(b) whether the signatories to the Appeal include a large number of prominent public men, eminent scientists, parliamentarians, artists, etc.; and

(c) if so, whether Government have considered inviting some of them to visit the border areas of India to see things for themselves?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH):**

(a) and (b). Yes, Sir. At the Assembly of the World Peace Council held in Budapest from May 13-16, 1971, such an Appeal was signed by delegates from 57 countries and various organisations and by individuals; these included many eminent personalities.

(c) The matter is under consideration.

**SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPA:** In view of the fact that such a statement was signed by delegations of 54 countries including very prominent personalities, I would like to know from the Government whether early decision would be taken in this matter to invite some of them to visit India.

**SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH:** I have already said this in my main reply that this matter is being considered and we will try to finalise it as quickly as possible.

**SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPA:** I would like to know why there is delay: What are the reasons for it? I would like to know whether they have approached the World Peace Council to send some of those prominent men to visit India.

**SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH:** I have already said that this matter is being considered and decision will be taken as early as possible.

**DR. MAHIPATRAY MEHTA:** Were there any Arab countries therein among the signatories?

**SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH:** There were delegation from a large number of countries. There were more than 70 or 80 of them. They were private delegations; they were not representing the Government of the country.

**DR. RANEN SEN:** Among these emissaries there were many important individuals from Arab countries. He will find this if he sees those signatures. Would the Government try to contact those personalities who had signed in that document to come to India to visit the Border States and see the situation with their own eyes?

**SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH:** There were 3 or 4 individuals from Syria, so far as I can make out, who signed this appeal. Regarding the other part, I have already replied to that.

#### **Conversion of O. & N. G. C. into an Integrated oil Company**

**\*773. PROF. MADU DANDAVATE:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a letter/memorandum from the Oil and Natural Gas Commission Employees Mazdoor Sabha demanding that Oil and Natural Gas Commission be converted into an integrated oil company with exploration, production, refining and marketing functions in respect of crude and natural gas produced by it;

(b) if so, whether Government have considered this suggestion; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to amend the Oil and Natural Gas Commission Act 1959 to make the provisions under which these functions could be undertaken and remove obstacles?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH):** (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table.

(c) No, Sir.

#### *Statement*

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In context of the vast scope for further expansion of activities for discovery of oil and

gas in India. It is considered that the ONGC should be maintained as an organisation solely devoted to these activities, and unfettered with functions of a purely commercial nature relating to refining and sale of petroleum products. The Commission has a special responsibility in the matter of exploring and exploiting, in the quickest possible time, the hydro-carbon potentialities of the country. This responsibility has further become significant in view of the increasing demand for crude oil in the country and the steep rise in prices of imported crude oil. The fact that the Commission has no commercial operation like refining and marketing to cushion and absorb its exploration losses ought not to put it at a disadvantage because it is Government's responsibility, under ONGC Act, 1959, to find the necessary resources for the Commission's activities.

(c) No, Sir.

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:** Is it true that a memorandum was submitted and there was a lot of discussion regarding the suggestion that has already been made and some expert advice has also been put forward before Government, but in spite of that no concrete steps are being taken ?

**THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI):** Government has considered this matter many times and have come to the conclusion that the ONGC has got a very big responsibility of survey and exploration of oil in this country and therefore it should not be burdened with the work being done by Oil India. But as far as the workers' demand is concerned, that is always being taken into consideration. That is why their Ex-gratia Payment was raised from 5 per cent to 10 per cent over four years.

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:** As for the first part, no specific answer is forthcoming.

**SHRI P. C. SETHI:** I said that as far as the ONGC is concerned, it should mainly be responsible for exploring and exploiting and hydrocarbon potentialities of the country. From that point of view, the refining and marketing part of the crude oil will have to be left with Indian Oil Corporation. ONGC should devote itself more to survey, exploration and exploitation work.

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:** It is

true that expert opinion on this has not been taken into account by Government?

**SHRI P. C. SETHI:** Mostly this is a matter of administration. As far as the workers are concerned, we are taking their demand into consideration. They raised the demand from this point of view that Indian Oil people are getting about 18 per cent bonus while ONGC people are getting only 10 per cent.

**SHRI RAJA KULKARNI:** In view of the low profitability of ONGC when another organisation like Oil India working nearby in Assam has a profitability, is there any proposal under consideration to split up ONGC into regional organisations?

**SHRI P. C. SETHI:** Not at the moment.

#### **Drinking Water Supply in Urban and Rural Areas**

\*774. **SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE:** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) the present percentage of India's urban and rural population that has no facilities for the supply of drinking water;

(b) whether there was any improvement in the position during the Gandhi Centenary Year, and if so, to what extent; and

(c) the time target, if any, for provision of drinking water facilities for all the citizens of India?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA):** (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### *Statement*

(a) According to available estimates about 25% of urban population based on 1961 census has yet to be provided with piped water supply facilities.

In rural areas there is still 23% of population (1961 census) in scarcity and difficult areas which needs the facilities for protected drinking water supply.