

**श्री भूलक्ष्मण डागा :** क्या मंत्री महोदय बता सकते हैं कि अप्रैल साहित्य किसे कहते हैं और क्या उन्होंने उन किताबों को पढ़ा है ?

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** वे पन्द्रह की पन्द्रह किताबें मुझे भेज दीजिए । मैं बता दूंगा ।

**श्री सतपाल कपूर :** इसके लिए एक पार्लियामेंटरी कमेटी बनानी चाहिए, जो यह फैसला करे कि वह आबसीन लिट्रेचर है या नहीं ।

**श्री सुहृन्मव शक्ती कुरेशी :** जो 15 किताबें जब्त की गई हैं, हमारे आफिसर्स ने उन को पढ़ा है । वे काफी काबिल आदमी हैं । पढ़ने के बाद उन्होंने कहा कि उन में ऐसा कोई आबसीन बात नहीं है ।

**SHRI BISWANARAYAN SHASTRI :** May I know from the hon. Minister is there any machinery in the Railway Department to screen the books sold on these book stalls? Secondly, what is the language of the books which have been seized?

**SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI :** These books are in Hindi. Under the terms of the contract this is a condition that these book stalls will not sell obscene literature. As and when any complaint comes checks are made. In this matter the complaint was made by a member of the Book Stall Committee and fifteen books were seized. It was found they did not contain any obscenity.

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** ऐसी किताबें पढ़नी पड़ती हैं । अगर ऐसी किताबें न हों, तो सफर बड़ी मुश्किल से कटता है ।

**SHRI JAGANNATH RAO :** May I know if there is any ban on the sale of pornographic literature at these book stalls? Also if these fifteen books which have been seized were pornographic literature?

**SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI :** As I said, such literature is not allowed on the book-stalls.

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :** Is it true that because of the strange ideas of obscenity on the part of some of the authorities, the Russian author Alexander Solzhenitsyn's famous book *Gulag* was banned and was not allowed to be sold at some of the railway book-stalls?

**SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI :** I have no such information.

**MR. SPEAKER :** I think that is not relevant to the main question. I do not think he can mix his work with this question because that book cannot be within these fifteen books. I am sorry that would be doing injustice to the great author.

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :** Some people take truthful things as obscenity.

#### Shortage of Crude Oil

+

\*411. **SHRI NIHAR LASKAR :**

**SHRI P. A. SAMINATHAN :**

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is going to be an acute shortage of crude oil in the country in the coming months;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor, and

(c) what steps have been taken in advance to meet the shortage?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) :** (a) to (c). As a result of the steep increase in crude oil prices since October 1973 and further steep increases since January 1974, foreign exchange cost of crude imports to meet the demand of petroleum products in the country has enormously increased. The problem at present is not of availability of crude oil but of meeting the high foreign exchange cost of crude oil imports. Taking into account the foreign exchange availability position, the foreign exchange allocation for the import of crude oil during the current

financial year will be Rs. 858 crores. This will enable us to import about 13 million tonnes of crude oil during the financial year as against 14.07 million tonnes in the last financial year. Product import of about 3.1 million tonnes plus some speciality products, refinery chemicals etc. at a cost of Rs. 262 crores is also planned this year. Bilateral arrangements with Iraq and Iran for crude imports have been entered into in order to soften the impact of the crude oil prices.

Various measures have been taken to curb the consumption of petroleum products to match with the expected availability of crude oil and petroleum products both indigenous and imported. This is expected to meet the essential requirement.

Simultaneously, steps have been taken to augment the indigenous crude oil production in the immediate future and also to progressively increase the production level to 11.42 million tonnes by 1978-79.

**SHRI NIHAR LASKAR:** Whatever may be the reasons, during the current year we have a shortfall of product availability. May I know how we are going to meet the demands?

**SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN:** The only way to meet the requirements of the country is to tighten our belts. We have taken steps to bring about a reduction in the use of motor spirit. We have also imposed cuts, about 30 per cent cut on the consumption of kerosene oil. We have also written to the State Governments to exercise extreme economy in the use of fuel oil and diesel oil.

**SHRI NIHAR LASKAR:** Evidently the only alternative left is to go in in a very big way for indigenous production of crude oil in the country. There are certain very prospective areas mostly in the North-eastern region. May I know whether Government are concentrating on those areas or making good efforts in those areas?

**SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN:** Certainly as the hon. Member has very rightly pointed out, it is time that we intensify our efforts at finding more oil in the country. The Bombay High oil find is known to the whole country. We are now trying to dig more wells in the close vicinity of the well which has been proved successful in the Bombay High.

The hon. member would be glad to know that in the eastern region at a place known as Galeki we have found a very promising well and we can expect very good results from it. As the Chairman of ONGC has said in a statement, by the end of two years we will be able to increase the production of our indigenous crude by about 2 million tonnes. That will be of some help to us.

**SHRI NIHAR LASKAR:** In Tripura?

**SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN:** In Tripura, Lekwa and other areas drilling operations are in progress.

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:** In the context of what the hon. Minister has said just now, is it or is it not a fact that the American oil companies are wanting exploration concessions in areas nearer to Diego Garcia? If so, what are the details?

**SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN:** Certain areas along the coast of India were delineated and after reserving Bombay High for our own exploration, we have thrown open these areas on the continental shelf of India for exploration by any nation that is prepared to accept our terms. Some companies have already made offers and we are awaiting offers from some other countries who are showing interest.

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:** We wanted to know the details.

**SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN:** They have not asked for any special concession near Diego Garcia at all.

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:** They have not asked for any special concession

sear Diego Garcia. But they have asked for normal concessions. Which are the areas where the Americans want to do exploration nearer Diego Garcia? It is a very vital matter. The House debated the Diego Garcia issue because we are equally alarmed as the Government. We want to know whether the Americans are trying to build nests in the garb of exploration of oil near Diego Garcia.

MR. SPEAKER: He has replied.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: This is arising out of what he said. It is a very serious matter. The hon. Minister said they have not asked for any special concessions. I want to ask what are the normal concessions they have asked for.

SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN: It is an international tender. Any nation can tender.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: The hon. Minister stated that in order to meet the shortage of crude, one of the policies of Government is to augment production. In this context, what was the production of crude from the north-east region last year, what is the increase this year and what extent of increase Government contemplate by the end of this year?

SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN: I do not have the exact breakup with me at the moment. But it is increasing every year.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Will he kindly supply us the figures?

SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN: Certainly.

SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE: Will the hon. Minister tell us whether oil was found in Assam for the first time in India and whether refinery in Assam has now been closed for quite a long time? May I also know whether there was exploration in West Bengal and there was a particular prospect of finding oil in Baroda in my constituency? Why has that

been abandoned when there was a chance of getting oil at that point?

MR. SPEAKER: This is too general a question, not your constituency alone.

SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN: In West Bengal we drilled but we did not find anything very promising.

SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE: What about Assam?

SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN: We are exploring in Assam.

SHRIMATI ROZA DESHPANDE: In view of the acute shortage of kerosene oil, I would like to know whether Government are thinking of reducing the price of cooking gas LPG—which has, I think, no high cost value and which is being used not only by women in urban areas but also to some extent by women in rural areas also. I was told in the consultative committee for this Ministry that LPG is used by the higher class families only, which is not a fact. I would request the Minister to look into the matter and reduce the price of cooking gas, which can't some extent solve the problem.

SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN: The ministry is not thinking of it because there is not much scope for it. Now, that the hon. lady member has made the suggestion, we will have another look at it.

#### Allocation for Naphtha Cracker Project at Koyali

\*412. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL  
BHATIA:

SHRI D. D. DESAI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Petro-chemical Corporation has asked for a hundred