

Oilfields (Regulation And Development) Amendment Bill, 2024 -Passed.

माननीय सभापति : आइटम नंबर ? 19, तेल क्षेत्र (विनियमन तथा विकास) संशोधन विधेयक, 2024.

माननीय मंत्री जी ।

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI):

Madam, with your permission, I rise to move:

?That the Bill further to amend the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration.?

Madam, in the year 2014, when the hon. Prime Minister assumed responsibility, between then and now, we have moved from being the 11th or the 10th largest economy in the world to being the fifth largest economy. We are, very shortly, going to be the fourth-largest economy, and if the assessment of the International Monetary Fund is to be believed, we will be the third-largest economy by 2027. The economic growth and the size of GDP, as my friends on all sides of the House will agree, are heavily dependent on the utilisation of energy. In fact, when you look at any economy and its energy consumption, a reasonably good indicator of economic performance comes from the utilisation of energy. Today, we are currently consuming 5.5 million barrels of crude oil in a day.

When I had the privilege of being associated with this Ministry three and a half years ago, we were consuming five million barrels of crude oil in a day. If we continue to grow at 6.5 to seven per cent rate of growth, it is only a matter of time that we will be consuming about six and a half or seven million barrels of crude oil in a day. Our journey to become a Viksit Bharat by 2047 or to become a US \$ 30 to 40 trillion economy by 2040 or thereabout, we will require large amounts of energy in all forms.

Today, we are in the happy situation of saying that out of the 3.5 million square kilometre of sedimentary basin that we have, one million square kilometres of that was a no-go area. In

other words, no prospecting could be done there. As a result, our import dependence both in terms of crude oil and natural gas was on the rise. Today, I am very happy to share with this House that 76 per cent of all the prospecting and exploration that is being done in our sedimentary basin is being done in areas which have been freed up after 2014.

In fact, in our trade, we often call the years between 2006 and 2016 the 'dull decade' as very little work was done. Oil and gas sector is heavily capital-intensive sector, which has long gestation period and any decision that you take today or the Government of the day takes today will begin to show results only five or even seven years later. I am very happy to inform the House what measures the Government has undertaken in this regard, and I shall list a few of them.

In 2016, we moved from production sharing arrangements to revenue sharing arrangements. In 2014, out of the 3.5 million square kilometre of sedimentary basin, the area exploited was only six per cent. We have to take that to 15 per cent. In spite of our efforts, we have only been able to raise it from six per cent to 10 per cent. But that is a major jump. Therefore, in the time to come, we will have to do more and that is the starting point of my presentation on why this piece of legislation passed by the Rajya Sabha is coming before this august House today.

India's hydrocarbon resource potential is immense. We have something like 42 billion tonnes of oil and oil equivalent of gas which remains to be tapped. This is by any yardstick a very resource rich Bharat. But prospecting and looking for oil and gas is an expensive business. Any well, which is dug on shore costs something like three to four million dollars per well, which under today's exchange rate come to Rs.33 to 35 crore. If the drilling is offshore, the cost is even higher. It comes to 100 million dollars.

Now, all the resources that we have at our disposal ? the private sector, the State, oil marketing companies and the Government ? we do not have resources in the exploration and

production sector. Let me give you the case of Guyana. They dug 16 wells and they did not find oil and gas. It is not that in 17th well they found or they struck gold as it were. I am very confident that with the efforts that we are making now and with the ecosystem which will come into being as a result of the legislation, which is before this august House today, we will find many Guyanas in the Andaman Sea. Our requirements are not only for our domestic consumption, we are also a producer. We are not only an importer but also an exporter. India is today occupying a very important place in the global energy market on all fronts. We moved in 2016 from a production sharing to a revenue sharing agreement.

In 2018, the Government reformed policies to promote coal bed, methane and enhanced oil and gas recovery methods. We also allowed CBM operations by coal miners. In 2022, we opened up 99 per cent of the no-go areas. As I mentioned, out of the 3.5 million square kilometres, one million square kilometres of area, which was a no-go area, has been opened up.

Madam, I am very happy to inform this House, through you, that when we had the 9th round of open acreage licensing policy, 38 per cent of the bids, which were received, were part of this one million square kilometres of no-go area.

The exploration and production (E&P) industry is blind without seismic data. To reduce the fear of investment becoming a sunk cost on account of no prospective discovery, we gave impetus to the acquisition of quality geological and geoscientific data by launching various programmes such as the National Seismic Programme, Airborne Gravity and Geomagnetic Survey, Exclusive Economic Zone Survey, setting up of the National Data Repository and Hydrocarbon Resources. I am very happy to inform you that the Government has approved the acquisition of additional 2D seismic data of 20,000 LKM on land and 30,000 LKM in offshore. There are various other activities which we have undertaken to make the Indian market and Indian exploration space more attractive. I am confident that companies like Exxon, BP,

Chevron, Total, and E&I, which have left India, are not only showing interest in coming back; many of them have already started partnering with our OMCs, as in the rejuvenation of the Bombay High seismic survey by a Brazilian company, Petrobras, with Oil India in the Andaman Sea and so on and so forth.

We have already increased the explored area, as I mentioned, from six per cent to 10 per cent of the sedimentary basin, but we are very confident that with the steps in hand, we will take it to 15 per cent of the sedimentary basin. In addition, the Bombay High basin through exploratory efforts has more than doubled between 2014-24 as compared to 2004-14. We are also re-engaging with international oil and gas giants to fully help us and jointly explore our E&P. We have successfully awarded 144 blocks to a competitive bidding process covering 2.5 lakh square kilometres and secured a commitment investment of USD 3.37 billion under OALP from rounds one to eight. Of these, 131 blocks are under active exploration, and some discoveries have been made.

Madam, I will fast forward. Why are we bringing this Bill? It is for a number of reasons. We used to have an original law which was enacted in 1948. It was a common law to cover both mining, quarrying, and petroleum leases or mineral oil. Then in 1957, a separate law for the mines and mineral sector was enacted, namely the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. While the parent legislation was rechristened the Oil Fields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948, all the terminologies within the Act continue to remain the same, and we are seeking to change that today. We are also introducing a single permit system for all types of mineral oil exploration, be it exploration, development, or production of conventional oil and gas or unconventional hydrocarbons like shale gas, shale oil, tight oil, or tight gas.

The Bill also seeks to clarify the meaning of the term mineral oils, particularly in its modern context, so as to promote exploration and production of new fuel options like shale gas, shale oil, coal bed methane, natural gas, and gas hydrates. The Bill also seeks to facilitate

the development of comprehensive energy projects and new technologies such as Carbon Capture Utilization and Sequestration (CCUS), green hydrogen, etc., all of which will help us achieve net zero status by 2070. The Bill proposes a new framework for sharing of resources and infrastructure between different operators to improve the viability of oil blocks. The Oil Bill also aims to resolve one of the biggest grievances of global oil companies interested in investing in India by providing stability in operations, both in terms of tenure of the lease and conditions. It is my firm belief, based on my experience for the last three and a half years, that stability and predictability for a foreign investor, where large amounts of investment are required in the infrastructure sector, are absolutely crucial, and this Bill seeks to do that.

We also propose to substitute an acrimonious mode of dispute resolution with fast and efficient alternate dispute resolution mechanisms which will ensure disputes can be resolved in a timely, fair and cost-effective manner. There were also some punitive provisions such as a fine of Rs. 1,000, which made the provisions almost meaningless. We are substituting that by Rs. 25 lakh and up to Rs. 10 lakh per day for continuing infraction. In summary, the Bill will add to 'Ease of doing business' and make India an attractive destination.

Madam, I want to conclude by a brief outlining to say what the Bill does not do and will not do because I know that many of my dear friends and Members in the Opposition will take the floor. The Bill does not alter the rights of States. For on-land areas, the States will continue to give petroleum leases and receive royalties as before. This is the situation now and that is the situation, which will continue. The Bill does not alter the existing level-playing field, and it offers no preference to either private or public sector. In fact, I heard some comments originally, but when I spoke in the Rajya Sabha when the Bill was passed there, I think that point has not been repeated because it is amply clear within the text of the legislation and otherwise.

Removal of criminal punishment would encourage infractions. This is a civil and commercial legislation. Criminal matters will continue to be tried under the relevant criminal laws, and to deter infractions we have increased the penalties and provided for their expeditious adjudication.

The Bill grants no exemption from the need for compliance with environmental standards. Additionally, our contracts mandate it and also provide for site restoration. The Bill also provides for decarbonisation and development of comprehensive energy projects.

In so far as the fate of existing contracts is concerned, the existing leases and licences will continue to be valid for their respective tenure subject to terms and conditions governing the grant of such leases and licences as provided in the savings clause of the Bill.

I hope that this will reassure my colleagues from different parts of the House that there is no change in the rights of the States. They will continue to enjoy these rights and there is no attempt or even thinking of curtailing those rights.

Madam, with these words, I will conclude my presentation. I look forward to the participation of my colleagues in the House. It would be a privilege and honour for me to respond to those observations. I thank you, Madam.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Motion moved:

?That the Bill further to amend the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration.?

SHRI MANISH TEWARI (CHANDIGARH): Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson. I rise to speak on the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill, 2024.

Before I commence my submissions, on a lighter note, I would like to say that it was good to hear the reply to the Bill even before the discussion had commenced. Therefore, this seems to be a new precedent in the House that even before a discussion on the Bill

commences, you have the Minister pre-empting and trying to offer justifications, which he could have very much offered at the end of this discussion.

Now, from the Statement of Objects and Reasons of this Bill, with your permission, Madam Chairperson, I would like to read out a line or two. It says in para two that: 'The said Act, which provides for a very different global energy context'. Therefore, the rationale for amending this Bill, according to the Statement of Objects and Reasons is that the global context has changed.

I do not think that anybody can have a quibble with it because the global context changes on an everyday basis, especially when you have mercurial people in office in some parts of the world. However, I would like to point out that India's quest for energy security and India's path towards facing and confronting these challenges has been a continuum now going back almost five decades.

India weathered the first oil shock in 1973 when overnight from \$3 a barrel, the price of crude oil rose to \$12 a barrel.

India weathered the second oil shock when the Iranian revolution took place, when there was again a spike in the price of oil. India weathered a third oil shock in 1991, when the first Gulf War commenced. I would, therefore, very humbly like to point out to my colleagues on the Treasury Benches that history did not start in 2014. History started much earlier. I think there is a need to be cognizant if you want to rise above partisan politics and really make this into a discussion about India's energy security rather than a 'he said, she said' point scoring, which unfortunately is what commenced this debate. What is the global context today, Madam Chairperson? The global context today is that you have an ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine. You have a conflict between Israel, Hamas, Houthis, Hezbollah, and by extension, certain other sovereign western hemisphere states. Then you have the continuing rise of China since 2013, which has not been a too peaceful rise and it has implications both for

India's national security and by extension, energy security, which is a subset of that larger, overarching, constructive national security. Therefore, our vulnerabilities remain.

The three choke points, which actually are the Achilles heel of the global energy trade, the Straits of Bab-el-Mandab, the Straits of Hormuz, and the Straits of Malacca, still continue to be the existential dilemma for all energy importing and energy consuming countries. Unfortunately, and this is not to apportion blame on anybody, but globally also and through collective efforts, we have not really been able to find a solution, a reasonable, sustainable solution to these existential security dilemmas, which have an impact on the largest energy consuming nations in Asia, be it India, be it China, be it South Korea, or be it Japan. That continues to be a continuous Achilles heel.

Of course, we have had some windfalls over the last couple of years. The Russia-Ukraine war, in a certain sense of the word, was a crude oil windfall for India and not only for India, for China, for Turkey, for various countries, even in the European Union, which while supporting the sanctions against Russia, actually round-tripped their energy needs. Therefore, it is very interesting that India's oil imports from Russia in 2021 were 4.54 million tons and in 2023, it increased to 88.92 million tons. We bought crude oil worth USD 49 billion from Russia. I am not saying that there is anything wrong with it. Every country acts in its own best national interest and therefore, if we were getting access to cheaper crude oil and we availed of that opportunity, I am not going to have a quibble with the Government on that. All that I am going to point out is that these windfalls do not happen every day and we need to be prepared. We need to be future-ready, which unfortunately we are not. I will point out as to what the factual situation is, despite the claims which the hon. Minister has made.

In the year 2014-15, our production of crude and natural gas was 37.461 million metric tonnes. Our import in 2014-15 was 189.432 million metric tonnes of crude oil. The average price of crude was about USD 84.20 per barrel.

In 2023-24, our crude oil production has actually declined to 29.4 million metric tonnes. Our crude oil import has actually risen to 243.3 million metric tonnes. The average price of the Indian basket of crude oil as on the 10th of March 2025, stands at USD 70.65 to a barrel, which is almost about USD 10 less than what it was. ? (*Interruptions*) Madam, you will have to give me some time because this is an important subject connected with India's energy security. There are not many people in this House. Therefore, under these circumstances, allow me to complete. I will need about seven to ten minutes more. I request your indulgence. The average price was about almost USD 9 or USD 10 less than what it was in 2014. The unfortunate situation today is that in the year 2023-24, we imported 87.8 per cent of our crude oil and natural gas needs. The figure could be almost as high as 90 per cent today. It raises a very legitimate question as to what really has this Government been doing over the past 10 years in attempting to bring down this import dependency on oil and natural gas.

Let me come to Mumbai High. The Mumbai High crude oil and natural gas oil field, at its peak, was producing 4,76,000 barrels per day. What is its production now? It is 1,34,000 barrels per day. Notwithstanding the collaboration with Chevron, with ExxonMobil and the large oil majors which Mr. Hardeep Puri referred to in his introduction to the Bill, the fact is that the Mumbai High collaboration has not boosted oil production. ? (*Interruptions*) Minister, you will get a chance to reply. We never interrupted you, heard you very peacefully. So, when you get a chance to reply, we will be here to hear you.

Similar is the case with shale oil and gas. According to estimates, there is 96 trillion cubic feet of gas and one billion barrel of shale oil in Cambay, Krishna-Godavari and the Kaveri Basin. What has the Government done in the past 10 years to tap the potential of shale oil? Why is there no explanation for what has been done over the past 10 years? This Bill is not coming as if this Government was sworn in yesterday. This Government has been in office for 11 years now. So, I would like to ask what has this Government done with regard to trying to

explore shale oil and gas, which incidentally has made America almost self-sufficient insofar as their oil and gas needs are concerned?

The hon. Minister, Mr. Pralhad Joshi, to whom I had the honour of asking a question in the morning, which he chose to duck, but well, that's his prerogative, had said that 100 million tonnes of coal gasification and liquefaction would be achieved by 2030 by investing Rs. 4 lakh crore. I would like to ask, where we are in 2025. You have a target for 2030. Where are we with regard to coal gasification and liquefaction? How much of this target has really been achieved?

So, what you require in addition to a law is actually a roadmap to make India energy sufficient, which unfortunately is completely missing. I would like to end by making just two or three suggestions. There is a need to think out of the box. The Minister was absolutely correct. Oil exploration and gas exploration cost a lot of money. That money unfortunately is not readily available in the amounts and volumes that it is required. I am not suggesting that you go back to the wildcatting days of the Wild West. But what is the Government planning to do to encourage independent oil explorers? After all, there is a whole community around the world of independent oil explorers. Does your Bill have anything that incentivises these independent oil explorers in addition to of course the oil majors whom you are wanting that they come in? If they do, that would be more than welcome.

Similarly, there is an International Energy Forum in Riyadh. The Minister is aware of it given his long years in India's diplomatic service. That forum was essentially created to facilitate a consumer-producer dialogue. How much of a role is India proactively playing in this forum in order to ensure that there is a dialogue between consumers and producers, especially given the fact that we import 90 per cent or 87.8 per cent of our oil needs as of 2023-24? Therefore, the reality is this. The Indian economy even today is hydrocarbon dependent. Out of that hydrocarbon dependency, 55 per cent of it is still coal. It is not even oil and gas.

Therefore, I would like to request the Government that you need to come out with a proper strategy which takes into account hydrocarbons, intermediates and renewables in a holistic manner so that you have a roadmap to energy self-sufficiency by 2050 or by 2060. Insofar as your Bill is concerned, Mr. Minister, it makes minor changes here and there. It is more of a technical Bill. What is really missing is a vision. What is really missing is a roadmap. As I started by saying, you are not a Government which was sworn in yesterday. You are a Government which is 11 years old. You need to account for what have you done over the past 11 years.

Thank you.

SHRI DILIP SAIKIA (DARRANG-UDALGURI): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I stand here for supporting the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill, 2024 which was tabled by hon. Minister Shri Hardeep Singh Puri ji under the leadership of hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji.

I belong to an oil and natural gas producing State of our beloved motherland. You all know that the first refinery, or you can say Asia's first refinery, and one of the oldest refineries was established in 1901 in Digboi. Thereafter, in 1974, we started another refinery. It is in Bongaigaon which is known as Bongaigaon Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited. Thereafter, in 1993 we started the third one, that is, Numaligarh Refinery Limited. So, I belong to that rich, oil and natural gas producing State, and not as said by some Members of the House, day before yesterday that you are from the State of *?lahe lahe?*. We are not representing the State of *?Lahe Lahe?*. We are representing the strong and vibrant economy of India, which is a major contributory State in the oil and natural gas sector.

Madam Chairperson, I heard our learned Member of Parliament, Manish ji, who represents the Congress Party. He said that it is not the year of 2014. Yes. All the people of India, all the Members of Parliament, and the world knows that it is not the history of 2014. If you go back,

you will find that it is the history of 1901 in India, when Congress Party was not there in India and when BJP was not there in India. The journey started from 1901. ? (*Interruptions*)

DR. MOHAMMAD JAWED (KISHANGANJ): The Congress Party was there. ? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI DILIP SAIKIA : I am not talking about this Congress. This Congress is a dynastic Congress. This is not the Gandhi's Congress.

Madam Chairperson, I want to talk about the history of oil and natural gas. Why has this Bill come for consideration and passing? First of all, the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill, 2024 will surely enhance the investors' confidence in India's oil and gas sector. The Bill aims to boost investment in India's oil and gas sector by providing stable lease terms enabling arbitration and streamlining operations, thereby, addressing longstanding industrial demands for policy stability and regulatory clarity. The Bill also creates a more investor-friendly environment by addressing the longstanding concerns about policy stability.

I want to quote what happened before 2014. Before 2014, Bharat's crude oil import dependence was 1,42,962 billion dollars. Our friends from the Opposition Bench should listen to what was the dependence and what was the amount. In 2013-14, due to the policy paralysis of the UPA Government, it was 1,42,962 billion dollars. But in 2021-22, under the dynamic leadership of Narendra Modi ji, what was the dependence? Bharat's crude oil import dependence decreased to 62,248 billion dollars from 1,42,962 billion dollars. That is the success story of our Government led by Narendra Modi ji.

Madam Chairperson, as regards the success story, I want to inform the House about the position of our country in world oilfield sector and natural gas sector. Madam Chairperson, you know, and we all know, that India is Asia's second-largest refinery capacity country amounting to 256 MMTPA with 22 oil refineries. India is the third largest oil consumer amounting to 233 MMTPA in the financial year 2024.

Madam Chairperson, India is the fourth largest LNG importer, that is 31 MMTPA. So, under the leadership of Narendra Modi Ji, Oil and Natural Gas sector became one of the India's most contributory factors in our country's GDP. Presently, we have 263 projects which are under implementation. The total cost of the projects is Rs. 5,35,779 crore.

What are those sectors? The sectors are refinery, pipeline, exploration and production, petrochemicals, city gas distribution, infrastructure and other issues and marketing also.

Madam, I feel proud, feel good that under the leadership of Narendra Modi Ji, Paradip ? Numaligarh Crude Oil Pipeline (PNCOP) and Crude Oil Import Terminal (COIT) has been almost complete. On September, 2025, the project will be commissioned. The project cost is Rs. 11,407 crore. That is the longest pipeline. ? (व्यवधान) मैडम, हमें थोड़ा बोलना है। कृपया, हमें थोड़ा समय दीजिए। गौरव दा भी असम से हैं। हमें सबको सुनाना है कि देश में क्या हो रहा है? ? (व्यवधान) देश के विकास में पेट्रोलियम और नेचुरल गैस सेक्टर की एक बहुत बड़ी भूमिका है। इस भूमिका को सब लोगों को जानना चाहिए।

मैडम, प्रधानमंत्री जी ने हमारे असम को एक बहुत बड़ा गिफ्ट दिया है। यह दूसरा है, असम बायो-रिफाइनरी। It is a first of its kind of refinery. यह इस देश में पहली ऐसी रिफाइनरी है, जो बायो-रिफाइनरी है। यह असम बायो-रिफाइनरी है। किससे बनेगा, बैबू से बनेगा, बैबू से इथेनॉल का प्रोडक्शन होगा। इसकी प्रोजेक्ट कॉस्ट 4,200 करोड़ रुपये की है। माननीय मोदी जी ने असम को उपहार दिया है। अभी बिहू आने वाला है। बिहू के पहले यह उपहार माननीय नरेन्द्र मोदी जी ने असमवासियों को दिया है। बायोफ्यूल प्रोडक्शन, जून 2025 में इसका कंप्लीशन होगा। तुरन्त बिहू के बाद होगा, लेकिन हम कपड़ा बिहू के पहले खरीदते हैं, बिहू पर पहनते हैं, लेकिन उपहार पहले आ जायेगा और हमारे पास आ गया है। इसकी फिजिकल प्रोग्रेस 99 परसेंट हो गई है। केवल एक परसेंट का टेक्निकल काम बाकी है, वह भी कंप्लीट हो जायेगा, जिसके बाद असम को पहली असम बायो-रिफाइनरी मिलने वाली है और कमीशन भी होने वाली है।

महोदया, मेरे ऐसे कुछ विषय हैं, जिन्हें मैं इस सदन के सामने लाना उचित समझता हूँ। माननीय प्रधानमंत्री जी के नेतृत्व में और हमारे माननीय मंत्री श्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी जी के नेतृत्व में इस भारत के, aggressive economic growth is swelling its energy demand which is predicted to nearly double to 1123 million tons of oil. India has significantly increased the production of crude oil since independence. India also

produces about 37 BCM of natural gas. Our ethanol procurement has increased. It was only 38 crore litres in 2014. And what is its present volume? It has increased from 38 crore litres in 2014 to 720 crore litres in 2024. That shows the difference between UPA and NDA. The picture says something. मनीश तिवारी जी बाहर चले गए हैं। इनका स्वभाव है कि ये अपनी बात कहने के बाद बाहर चले जाते हैं। यह मालूम नहीं है कि इनका स्वभाव कब ठीक होगा? अपॉजिशन के डिप्टी लीडर को भी उनके स्वभाव को ठीक करना चाहिए। उनमें सुनने का धैर्य नहीं है। कोई बात नहीं, जिसकी जैसी करनी है, वैसी भरनी है।

महोदया, मैं एक और तथ्य बताना चाहता हूँ। In the past, during the UPA regime, the exploration activities were not supported through proactive Government action. No acreage was licensed, Madam Chairperson, from 2004 to 2014. They have raised the question on the deceleration of the exploration process. The exploration process and the increasing dependence on inputs related to food and oil were heightened during their period, not ours.

Definitely we are an importing country in terms of food and oil and natural gas. We are importing. हम इम्पोर्ट बढ़ा रहे हैं। इस देश में हम क्लीन एनर्जी, ग्रीन एनर्जी, जीरो कार्बन पालिसी के लिए काम कर रहे हैं। यह नरेन्द्र मोदी जी का ही नेतृत्व है कि from 2015 onwards, our Government led by Modi ji has brought several policy norms like permitting unconventional hydrocarbon operations and levy of reduced royalties to promote exploration and production of hydrocarbons in our country. The first Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy has been started by Shri Narendra Modi ji and it is in action.

Madam Chairperson, if we go through the achievement, we can see that production of gas under the non-nominal fields has shown an increase during the last few years and its share has increased to almost 30 per cent of gross production despite the coupling with international markets as has been mentioned by Manish ji. पूरे विश्व में कॉप्लिंग इंटरनेशनल मार्केट्स में हुई। But under the dynamic policy and the stand of Narendra Modi ji, our gas prices have remained almost stable during the last few years. Domestically, petrol and diesel prices have come down by about 15 per cent and 10 per cent respectively.

15.00 hrs

The NDA-led State Governments have reduced the prices of petrol and diesel, but some Congress-ruled as well as the other Opposition Parties-ruled States have not reduced the prices of petrol and diesel. अपोज़िशन हमेशा गरीब की बात करता है। लेकिन गरीब के लिए उन्होंने पेट्रोल डीज़ल में अपनी कस्टम ड्यूटी कम नहीं की है। अगर कम किया है तो भारत में हमारी एनडीए की सरकार ने किया है।

Madam, I am concluding now. During the same period, India has been one of the very few major economies in the world where the prices of petrol and diesel have come down.

पूरी दुनिया में भारत एक ऐसा देश है, जहां पेट्रोल और डीज़ल के दाम कम हो गए हैं। The prices of petrol and diesel have also been increased in the neighbouring countries by more than 10-13 per cent. लेकिन हमारे देश में पेट्रोल और डीज़ल प्राइसिस में 10 से 13 पर्सेंट की कमी आई है। माननीय मंत्री श्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी जी इस महत्वपूर्ण विधेयक को ले कर आए हैं, मैं इसका पूरा सपोर्ट करता हूँ। इस देश के आर्थिक विकास में यह बिल एक माइलस्टोन के नाते काम करेगा, ऐसी उम्मीद रखते हुए मैं माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी एवं माननीय मंत्री जी को धन्यवाद करते हुए अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूँ।

माननीय सभापति : मैं माननीय सदस्यों से आग्रह कर रही हूँ कि अपने विषय को मात्र तीन मिनट के अंदर समाप्त करने का प्रयास करें।

श्री रमाशंकर राजभर जी।

श्री रमाशंकर राजभर (सलेमपुर) : महोदया, सबसे पहले तो कल होलिका दहन है और परसों होली है। होली और होलिका दहन की सदन के सभी साथियों, आपको और कर्मचारियों को बधाई देता हूँ। हालांकि हम सांसदों की होली तो खराब हो गई। बड़ी आशा थी कि इस बजट में सांसद निधि को बढ़ाया जाएगा। महोदया, वर्ष 2011 में जीएसटी लागू नहीं थी, यूपीए सरकार ने सांसद निधि को पांच करोड़ रुपये किया था। लेकिन 25 वर्ष हो गए और अब जीएसटी भी लगने लगी है, लेकिन सांसद निधि इस होली में नहीं बढ़ी है। महोदया, अभी हमारे साथी कह रहे थे कि बहुत अच्छा विकास हो रहा है। एक चीज़ मैं बताना चाहता हूँ, असम को रिफाइनरी मिली। महोदया, एक उद्धरण करना चाहता हूँ, गुजरात स्टेट पेट्रोलियम कॉर्पोरेशन को ओएनजीसी ने जो ब्लॉक दिया था, आज सेंट्रल गवर्मेंट के पास है। जीएसपीसी रिपोर्ट में कहा गया कि गुजरात गवर्मेंट ने केजी-बेसिन में 63 ब्लॉक लिए और 19 हजार करोड़ रुपये खर्च किए और

कहा गया कि यहां दूध और पानी की तरह से पेट्रोलियम पदार्थ निकलेंगे। लेकिन हुआ क्या? मैं अपनी बात नहीं कह रहा हूँ, बल्कि जीएसपीसी की बात कर रहा हूँ कि 19 हजार करोड़ रुपये गलत तरीके से खर्च हुए और जो अन्वेषण तेल का हुआ, उसमें इतना नुकसान हो गया और मिला कुछ नहीं।

महोदया, यह अच्छी बात है कि अगर खनन पट्टा से परेशानी हो रही है तो पेट्रोलियम पट्टे का नाम रखा जाए। उसकी व्यापकता बढ़ाई जाए, यह भी अच्छी बात है। लेकिन यह जो संशोधन है, वह केवल कॉर्पोरेट जगत के लाभ के लिए न हो, यह मेरी शंका है।

वर्ष 2023-24 में ओएनजीसी ने करीब 40 हजार करोड़ रुपये का मुनाफा कमाया था। जब पब्लिक सेक्टर कंपनियां मुनाफा कमा रही हैं तो उसमें दिक्कत क्या है? वे अपना मुनाफा कमाएं। आप 25 लाख रुपये जुर्माना के लिए परिवर्तन कर रहे हैं। आपराधिक सजा हटा दी जाए और 25 लाख जुर्माना हो जाए। मैं सरकार और मंत्री जी से कहना चाहता हूँ कि जुर्माना और मुकदमा होते रहता है। जुर्माना का कभी रिटर्न नहीं लिया जाता है। इसका भी आप ध्यान रखिए। कृषि पर व्यापक प्रभाव पड़ रहा है। तेल का दाम कम होने का नाम नहीं ले रहा है। हमें पूरे देश के लिए विश्व के साथ प्रतियोगिता करनी होगी। विश्व में जितनी भी तेल कंपनियाँ हैं, हम उन पर न निर्भर होकर अपने आप पर निर्भर बनें। आप यह भी बताएं कि हमारे जो सामाजिक सरोकार के कार्य हैं, जो सोशल मूवमेंट के काम हैं, उनमें इन कंपनियों का क्या योगदान है?

महोदया, आज भी हमारे देश की बहुत सी ऐसी आबादी है, जो गैस सिलेंडर नहीं खरीद सकती है। वह सड़क के किनारे रहती है। वह झुग्गी-झोपड़ियों में जीवन बिताती है। आज मिट्टी का तेल बंद हो गया। मिट्टी के तेल से गरीब आदमी स्टोव पर खाना बनाता था। आज भी ऐसे आदिवासी इलाके हैं, जहां इलेक्ट्रिफिकेशन नहीं हुआ है, वहां मिट्टी के तेल का उपयोग होता है। आज उसका भी नाश हो गया।

महोदया, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से केवल यही कहना चाहता हूँ कि हमारी जो पेट्रोलियम कंपनियाँ हैं, सीएसआर फंड जो सोशल जस्टिस के लिए जाता है, उसमें भेद कर रही हैं। सभी दल के सांसदों के इलाके में काम नहीं कर रही हैं। हम चिट्ठी लिखते रह गए, लेकिन किसी कंपनी ने नहीं सुना। मंत्री जी, आप भेदभाव मत कीजिए। हम सभी सांसद हैं। आपसे मैं यही कहूंगा। अब मेरा समय समाप्त हो गया। बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL (JAYNAGAR): Madam Chairperson, on behalf of All India Trinamool Congress, I rise to speak on the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill, 2024.

Madam, our economic growth depends on trade as well as import/export policies. The trend of our country is that we are importing heavily, and still, our country is heavily dependent on foreign countries for importing crude oil. The hon. Minister, Shri Hardeep Singh Puri ji is trying his level best to make our country self-sufficient. But I would like to know from the hon. Minister what the plan of this Ministry is to make our country self-sufficient in the field of oil sector.

Madam, our country is undergoing a severe crisis due to skyrocketing fuel prices. I would also like to know from the hon. Minister how we give relief to the poor people as they are heavily burdened due to high fuel prices.

Madam, now, I come to the Bill. The most worrying part of the Bill is that it opens the door for private companies to dominate oil fields, allowing big corporations to extract mineral oil with very little Government control. The newly added Section 4A says that no one can carry operations without a valid lease, but it does not give the State enough power to strictly control or monitor exploration activities. This means, the control of natural resources will shift from the Government to private companies, reducing the States' direct authority over oil production. This goes against the principle of national sovereignty and could lead to corporate exploitation of resources.

Madam, another major concern is the amendment to Section 6 which now promotes not only extraction but also long-term exploration of oil fields. Even worse, the Central Government has been given the power to extend the lease period indefinitely, allowing oil companies to exploit these fields for decades without any strict environmental checks. This is a direct violation of India's commitment to fight climate change under the Paris Agreement and other global environmental treaties. If the Government continues to allow unchecked exploration, it will have severe long-term impact on the environment and public resources.

Now, I come to Section 5 which gives the Central Government full authority to grant, extend or renew petroleum leases without seeking approval from the State Government.

HON. CHAIRPERSON : Please conclude.

SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL : Kindly allow me to finish my speech.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please complete it in one minute.

SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL : Thank you, Madam.

Additionally, the newly introduced Section 4A prevents the State Governments from issuing exploration licence, handing over complete control of oil exploration to the Central Government. These moves are unconstitutional, and they directly violate the federal structure of our country.

Then, the Bill also introduces a provision for utilization of leases across States, meaning if an oil or gas reservoir extends across two or more States, the Central Government can club them under a single lease agreement. This will allow big corporate companies to extract resources from multiple States under one license, increasing their profits while reducing the revenue that individual States would otherwise receive.

Additionally, the Bill does not include any clear rules for environmental protection, labour rights or local development, proving that the biggest beneficiary of this Bill is not the public but large companies.

Another major flaw is there in Section 6A which plays the responsibility of decommissioning and restoring the site entirely on private companies. However, the Bill does not ensure any strict State supervision, which means companies could easily abandon damaged sites without proper restoration, causing serious environmental damage like, soil erosion, groundwater pollution, deforestation, etc.

What the Bill encourages is the use of carbon capture utilization and storage, which will allow prolonged fossil fuel exploration going completely against India's climate change.
(Interruptions) The Bill also makes no mention of protecting the rights of indigenous, tribal or local communities who live in oil rich regions like Assam, Gujarat, Jharkhand. The large scale of oil exploration in these States has resulted in forced displacement, land grabbing and destruction of biodiversity.

Section 9 is highly unfair towards small and medium scale oil operators. The Bill imposes a fixed penalty of Rs.25 lakh for violating Section 4A or Section 6A, along with an additional fine of Rs.10 lakh per day for continuing non-compliance, allowing oil corporation to dominate the oil sector.(Interruptions)

The major concern is the amendment to Section 5, which now allows the Central Government to make new rules, extend petroleum leases and do renewal of licences. The Bill also completely contradicts India's climate goals. While India has committed to achieving net zero carbon emission by 2070, the Bill promotes longer lease periods, automatic renewals without environmental reassessment and carbon capture utilization and storage, which will only increase fossil fuel exploration.(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, Shri D. M. Kathir Anand.

SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL : Madam, just allow me a minute to speak about my constituency.(Interruptions)

Ashok Nagar oil field was discovered in 2018 by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation. This is the first oil field in West Bengal and west India. This is known as Jagdishpur-Haldia-Dhamra Natural Gas Pipeline project. I would like to know one thing from the hon. Minister.
(Interruptions)

SHRI D. M. KATHIR ANAND (VELLORE): Thank you, Chairperson Madam. Today, I stand before you to address the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill, 2024.

This Bill is a timely and transformative measure to modernize our regulatory framework for oil and gas exploration. However, while we embrace progress, we must remain mindful of the regional and ecological impacts of resource extraction. It broadens the definition of mineral oils to include naturally occurring hydrocarbons such as coal bed methane, shale gas, and shale oil. This expansion aligns with global best practices and encourages innovation in previously untapped areas. The Bill replaces the outdated mining lease with a more comprehensive petroleum lease, ensuring that our regulations reflect the evolving nature of the industry. The Bill also empowers the Central Government to make rules on critical matters like environmental protection, emission reduction, and the conservation of mineral oils. Additionally, it decriminalizes certain provisions of the Act, replacing criminal penalties with an adjudication mechanism to foster a business-friendly environment. These changes represent a paradigm shift towards sustainable and efficient resource management.

However, alongside these merits, we must address the pressing issues of tungsten hydrocarbon mining in Tamil Nadu. The biodiversity-rich Melur region of Madurai, a proposed site for tungsten mining, is facing significant opposition from local communities and environmental activists. This region, home to rare flora and fauna, has been declared a biodiversity heritage site, and any mining activity here could result in irreparable ecological damage. Similarly, hydrocarbon mining projects proposed in Gulf of Mannar, a biodiversity hotspot, pose a severe risk to fragile ecosystems, marine life, and the livelihoods of our coastal communities. The lack of prior consultation with the Tamil Nadu Government before initiating these projects has raised valid concerns.

In this context, I must commend the vital role played by our Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, Shri MK Stalin, in addressing these issues. His proactive leadership and unwavering

commitment to protecting the State's natural heritage and the livelihoods of its people have been exemplary. Our CM, Stalin Sir, has consistently voiced his opposition to these projects, emphasizing the ecological and socio-economic risks involved. He wrote to the Prime Minister, urging the Central Government to halt these initiatives and reconsider their impact on Tamil Nadu's fragile ecosystem. His efforts have also included passing a unanimous resolution in the Tamil Nadu State Assembly and engaging with local communities to address their concerns.

To ensure equitable and transparent decision-making, I have some suggestions for the Ministry. For a mandatory State consensus, a legal framework should be established that requires explicit no-objection certificate from the State Government before initiating mining exploration projects. This would guarantee that States have a decisive role in approving projects that impact their regions. This is a very important suggestion I want to give to the Ministry. For a transparent process, we must make all project details, including environmental impact assessments and community feedback, accessible to the State authorities and the public. We should strengthen environmental safeguards by redefining project boundaries to exclude biodiversity-rich areas and implement strict environmental regulations to prevent ecological damage. Community engagement should involve actively involving local communities in the decision-making process to address their concerns and protect their livelihoods. For independent oversight, we should establish an independent regulatory body to oversee mining projects, ensuring compliance with environmental and social norms with State participation.

Chairperson Madam and hon. Members, this Bill and the issues it encompasses remind us that our path to progress must be both inclusive and responsible. While we harness the potential of our natural resources to drive economic growth, we must also safeguard the environment and empower the communities that depend on it. Let us therefore strive to build a future where development and sustainability go hand in hand.

I urge upon the Union Minister to consider the above-mentioned considerations and join me in advocating for an industrial development approach that is fair, transparent, and forward-thinking.

Thank you.

***m10 SHRI KRISHNA PRASAD TENNETI (BAPATLA):** Madam, thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the debate over Oilfields (Regulations and Development) Amendment Bill, 2024. I stand to support this Bill and offer my opinions and suggestions on this crucial piece of legislation.

As we move on the path of development, our energy needs are bound to grow. However, this increase will have to be met from our own enhanced production instead of imports. India's oil import dependency in the April-September period of this year has touched 88.2 per cent up from 87.8 per cent in 2023-2024. This is a concerning figure and is alone enough to exemplify the need for this Bill which will help us achieve 'Urja Atmanirbharta' or energy self-reliance.

I was listening to the hon. Petroleum Minister's Address in the Rajya Sabha and he highlighted how in the past decade, the NDA Government has endeavoured to encourage exploration of petroleum and natural gas. Under the visionary leadership of our hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi ji, India has established itself on the global stage with exports of petroleum products rising from \$60.84 billion in 2014 to \$84.96 billion in 2023 showing the tremendous growth that the NDA Government has managed to achieve over the past decade.

According to the International Energy Agency's (IEA) World Energy Outlook 2022, India's energy consumption will double by 2040. As per the IEA, India's energy demand is expected to grow at about three per cent per annum till 2040 compared to the global growth rate of only one per cent. The Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has also highlighted in its World Oil Outlook 2022, that India will have the highest energy demand rising from 18.6 million barrels per day to 37.7 million barrels per day. This increase in petroleum

demand is fuelled by the growing economic activity and increasing 'ease of doing business', contributing to the hon. PM's vision of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikaas, Sabka Vishwaas'.

India has been the largest exporter of petroleum products in Asia for the year 2020-2021 which is a testament to the unwavering vision of the Government for promoting business. India is also the fourth-largest refiner, another feather in the cap that we all should be proud of. The Government has also allowed 100 per cent FDI *via* the automatic route for private companies in refining as well as LNG regasification infrastructure, which will promote investment in the capital-intensive sector leading to inclusive growth.

I would like to draw the attention of the House to another pertinent and equally important indicator. India ranks 22nd in the world in terms of proven crude oil reserves. However, the reserve/production ratio is 16:1. This means that given the current level of production and no new reserves being accreted, the present reserves will also last approximately for 16 years. It essentially indicates that all of the reserves will be depleted within our lifetimes if corrective action is not taken. However, addition of reserves is a dynamic process and this is the chance for India to shine.

To this end, the Bill makes a landmark change by introducing a Petroleum Lease in place of a Mining Lease. The mining sector is governed by the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 and as such there should be a transparent and seamless procedure in the petroleum and hydrocarbon exploration sector to encourage prospecting and operations thereafter. It is pertinent to point out that petroleum exploration differs fundamentally from mining activities in both their methods and impact. Due to the existing nomenclature, confusion often arises delaying petroleum exploration operations for the need of irrelevant permits and licences. With the new petroleum lease, prospecting, exploration, and exploitation will be enhanced, increasing our reserve and production ratio and providing us all with a safe and secure future.

A business requires stability and a coherent policy environment ? one that encourages investment and also compensates in case of loss. This is particularly relevant in the case of the petroleum sector where the capital investment is intensive. The Bill offers the lease on predictable and transparent terms as well as provides for compensation in case of suspension, revocation, or cancellation of the lease. This provision will create a relaxed regulatory environment and put India among global leaders in the sector.

As I conclude my speech, I would like to reiterate that Andhra Pradesh is the youngest State in the country having undergone bifurcation 10 years ago. It is imperative that Andhra's development is hastened now, not only to recoup the losses incurred in the past five years under the last Government but also to establish the vision of Viksit Bharat and Viksit Andhra Pradesh under the combined leadership of Shri Narendra Modi ji at the Centre and Shri Nara Chandrababu Naidu in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

Thank you.

***m11 श्री कौशलेन्द्र कुमार (नालंदा) :** महोदया, आपने मुझे तेल क्षेत्र (विनियमन तथा विकास) संशोधन विधेयक, 2024 पर बोलने का अवसर दिया, उसके लिए मैं आपको बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद देता हूं। मैं जनता दल (यू) की तरफ से इस बिल का समर्थन करता हूं।

आज विश्व की अर्थव्यवस्था तेल पर ही निर्भर करती है। तेल उत्पादक देशों की पॉलिसी है कि कच्चे तेल के भाव में उतार-चढ़ाव का खेल खेला जाता है, जिसमें भारत जैसे विकासशील देशों की अर्थव्यवस्था पर इसका सीधा असर पड़ता है। देश में महंगाई की सबसे बड़ी वजह तेल का बढ़ता रेट है। भारत अपनी खपत का करीब 80 से 85 प्रतिशत कच्चा तेल आयात करता है, यानी हम कच्चे तेल के आयात पर निर्भर हैं। अमेरिका के दबाव के कारण पिछले कुछ वर्षों से देश के कच्चे तेल के आयात पर असर दिखाई दिया है।

मैं माननीय मंत्री जी और देश के प्रधानमंत्री जी को बधाई देना चाहता हूं कि यह काफी महत्वपूर्ण बिल है। देश में कच्चे तेल का भरपूर भंडारण है, किंतु महंगी टेक्नोलॉजी होने के कारण देश में उत्पादन में कोई उल्लेखनीय वृद्धि नहीं हो सकी है। मंत्री जी काफी अध्ययन कर रहे हैं और उन्होंने इस देश के विकास के लिए तेल में आत्मनिर्भरता हासिल करने के लिए सही निर्णय लिया है। मैं इसके लिए मंत्री जी को बधाई देता हूं। इस कानून के बनने से तेल क्षेत्र में दोहन

के लिए विदेशी निवेश बढ़ेगा, तेल और गैस का उत्पादन बढ़ेगा, आयात कम होगा और विदेशी मुद्रा की भी बचत होगी। देश में उत्पादन बढ़ाने से तेल और गैस सस्ती होगी। देश तेल और गैस क्षेत्र में आत्मनिर्भर बनने की स्थिति में आएगा तथा देश में विकास की रफ्तार तेज होगी।

महोदया, एक रिपोर्ट के अनुसार वर्तमान में देश में कच्चे तेल की खपत करीब 5.4 मिलियन बैरल प्रतिदिन है, जो कि अगले पांच वर्षों में बढ़कर 7 मिलियन बीपीडी होने का अनुमान है। एक डेटा के अनुसार देश में करीब 651.8 मिलियन टन कच्चे तेल का भंडारण है और करीब 1,138.6 बिलियन क्यूबिक मीटर प्राकृतिक गैस का भंडारण है। अतः ऊर्जा क्षेत्र में आत्मनिर्भरता प्राप्त करने के लिए दोहन और उत्पादन बढ़ाना ही होगा।

महोदया, कानून बनाने के बाद तेल क्षेत्र में दोहन और उत्पादन करने वाली देशी और विदेशी कंपनियों को निवेश करना और सरल हो जाएगा। तेल खनिज क्षेत्रों को पट्टे पर दिया जाएगा, राजस्व के नियमन में सुधार कर प्रोत्साहित करने वाला बनाया गया है। पट्टे पर देने से राज्यों की भूमिका को बरकरार रखा गया है। तेल को राष्ट्रीय संपत्ति का दर्जा दिया जा रहा है। तेल क्षेत्र के विवाद के हल के लिए मध्यस्थता की भी व्यवस्था की गई है। इसमें सरकारी हस्तक्षेप समाप्त होगा। इन सब सुधारों से निवेशकों को नीतिगत स्थिरता मिलेगी और कारोबार करने में आसानी होगी। आशा है कि नये कानून से देश के तेल क्षेत्र में निवेश बढ़ेगा, खोज और उत्पादन बढ़ेगा, देश में विकास की रफ्तार और तेज होगी। पेट्रोल, डीजल और घरेलू गैस की कीमतों में गिरावट और स्थिरता आयेगी। इससे राज्यों के राजस्व में बढ़ोत्तरी होगी। केन्द्र सरकार की कच्चे तेल के आयात पर विदेशी मुद्रा कम खर्च होगी। इससे देश में रोजगार के अवसर पैदा होंगे और युवाओं को रोजगार मिलेगा। ? (व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी का आभार व्यक्त करना चाहता हूँ कि एथेनॉल मिश्रण की व्यवस्था लागू की गयी और इसका परिणाम हुआ कि आज मेरा बिहार एथेनॉल के उत्पादन में पूरे देश में अग्रणी राज्य बन गया है। देश में पहली एथेनॉल पॉलिसी बिहार राज्य में बनी और मैं मानता हूँ कि भारत सरकार की 20 प्रतिशत तक एथेनॉल मिश्रण की व्यवस्था में बिहार में उत्पादित एथेनॉल का सबसे बड़ा हिस्सा होगा। मैं मंत्री जी को बधाई देता हूँ। बिहार में करीब 15 फैक्ट्रीज में एथेनॉल का उत्पादन चल रहा है और करीब 56.50 करोड़ लीटर एथेनॉल का उत्पादन हो रहा है तथा 47 नये एथेनॉल प्लान्ट की मंजूरी दी जा चुकी है।

***m12 श्री रविंद्र दत्ताराम वायकर (मुम्बई उत्तर-पश्चिम) :** धन्यवाद, सभापति महोदया। मुझे ऑयलफील्ड्स (रेगुलेशन एंड डेवलपमेंट) अमेंडमेंट बिल, 2024 पर अपने विचार रखने का अवसर मिला है। यह विधेयक देश की ऊर्जा सुरक्षा, आर्थिक प्रगति और आत्मनिर्भरता के दृष्टिकोण से अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण है। तेल और गैस क्षेत्र का महत्व

किसी भी देश के विकास और अर्थव्यवस्था में अति प्रमुख है। आज भारत विश्व का चौथा सबसे बड़ा रिफाइनर बन चुका है। वर्ष 2014 में हमारी रिफाइनिंग क्षमता 215.07 मिलियन मीट्रिक टन प्रति वर्ष थी, जो अब 256.8 मिलियन मीट्रिक टन प्रति वर्ष तक पहुंच गई है। तेल और गैस की बढ़ती मांग और सरकार की दूरदर्शिता में भारत की तेजी से बढ़ती अर्थव्यवस्था के कारण ऊर्जा की मांग लगातार बढ़ रही है। अनुमान है कि यह मांग दोगुनी होकर 1,123 मिलियन टन तेल समतुल्य तक पहुंच जाएगी। यह देश के विकास की कहानी बयां करती है। स्वतंत्रता के बाद से भारत ने कच्चे तेल के उत्पादन में भी उल्लेखनीय वृद्धि की है। यह मात्र 0.26 मिलियन टन से बढ़कर 30 मिलियन टन हो गया है, जो 10,000 प्रतिशत से भी अधिक की वृद्धि को दर्शाता है।

एथेनॉल उत्पादन में क्रांतिकारी बदलाव आए हैं। सरकार ने जैव ईंधन के माध्यम से ऊर्जा की उपलब्धता बढ़ाने के लिए कदम उठाए हैं। वर्ष 2014 में, जहां एथेनॉल की खरीद मात्र 38 करोड़ लीटर थी, वहीं वर्ष 2024 में यह 720 करोड़ लीटर तक पहुंच गई है। इसका सीधा परिणाम यह हुआ कि लगभग एक लाख करोड़ रुपये की विदेशी मुद्रा की बचत हुई और 180 लाख मीट्रिक टन कच्चे तेल का आयात प्रतिस्थापित हुआ। भारत की हरित और प्रौद्योगिकी क्रांति भविष्य की दिशा के लिए मार्गदर्शन करती है। राष्ट्रीय हरित हाइड्रोजन मिशन भारत को ग्रीन हाइड्रोजन उत्पादन और निर्यात का वैश्विक केंद्र बनाने का लक्ष्य रखता है। इसमें 8 लाख करोड़ का निवेश और 6 लाख नौकरियों का सृजन होगा। वर्ष 2030 तक 5 मिलियन मीट्रिक टन ग्रीन हाइड्रोजन का उत्पादन अनुमानित है और एक लाख करोड़ के जीवाश्म ईंधन आयात में कमी होगी। इलेक्ट्रिक व्हिकल चार्जिंग इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर अच्छी तरह से हमारे यहां बन चुका है।

सभापति महोदया, खनिज तेल की परिभाषा का विस्तार किया गया है। खनिज तेल में प्राकृतिक हाइड्रोकार्बन, कोल बेड मीथेन और शेल गैस तेल को शामिल किया गया है। इसमें कोयला, लिग्नाइट और हीलियम शामिल नहीं होंगे। मुझे प्रधानमंत्री मोदी जी के नेतृत्व में ऊर्जा सुरक्षा और अंतर्राष्ट्रीय संबंधों की जो भूमिका है, उसके बारे में दो बातें करनी हैं। साल 2021-22 में रूस से भारत का कच्चा तेल आयात मात्र 1% था, जो 2023 में बढ़कर 20% हो गया। यह ऊर्जा जरूरतों को पूरा करने के लिए एक रणनीतिक और किफायती विकल्प प्रदान करता है। इसके अलावा, ओपेक देशों जैसे सऊदी अरब और यूएई के साथ भी मोदी सरकार ने ऊर्जा साझेदारी को मजबूत किया है। सऊदी अरब, जो भारत का दूसरा सबसे बड़ा तेल आपूर्तिकर्ता है, ने पिछले साल लगभग 38 मिलियन टन कच्चा तेल भारत को निर्यात किया।

प्रधानमंत्री मोदी की "ईस्टर्न पॉलिसी" और "अंतरराष्ट्रीय ऊर्जा गठबंधन" जैसी पहल ने भारत को भू-राजनीतिक तनावों के बावजूद ऊर्जा आपूर्ति बनाए रखने में मदद की। भारत ने 2022 में अपनी ऊर्जा जरूरतों का 85% आयात किया, लेकिन प्रधानमंत्री मोदी जी की नीतियों के कारण वैश्विक बाजारों में कीमतों के बढ़ने के बावजूद घरेलू कीमतों को स्थिर रखा गया।

मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार का ध्यान पेट्रोल और डीजल में बढ़ते मिलावट के मामलों की ओर आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ। मिलावट करने वाले पेट्रोल पंप मालिकों के खिलाफ सख्त कार्रवाई की जाए। दोषी पेट्रोल पंपों के लाइसेंस तुरंत रद्द किए जाएं। पेट्रोल पंपों की नियमित और पारदर्शी जांच के लिए एक ठोस तंत्र विकसित किया जाए। दोषियों के खिलाफ कठोर दंड और आपराधिक मुकदमे दर्ज किए जाएं।

सिलेंडर ब्लास्ट की घटनाओं में भी बढ़ोतरी देखी जा रही है, जो आम जनता के जीवन के लिए बड़ा खतरा बन चुकी हैं। मैं सरकार से आग्रह करता हूँ कि सिलेंडर की गुणवत्ता जांचने के लिए सख्त मानक लागू किए जाएं। पुराने और खराब सिलेंडरों को तुरंत बाजार से हटाया जाए। सिलेंडर से जुड़े सुरक्षा मानकों के बारे में जागरूकता अभियान चलाया जाए। सिलेंडर वितरण और रिफिलिंग केंद्रों पर नियमित निरीक्षण सुनिश्चित किया जाए। सिलेंडर फटने के मामलों में दोषी अधिकारियों और कंपनियों पर कड़ी कार्रवाई हो।

सभापति महोदया, मैं एक बेहद महत्वपूर्ण और ज्वलंत समस्या की ओर ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ। यह समस्या है मुंबई में पाइपड गैस कनेक्शन की अनुपलब्धता, जिसके कारण मुंबई के लाखों नागरिक अब भी रसोई गैस सिलेंडरों पर निर्भर हैं। यह बहुत चिंता का विषय है कि लाखों लोग पाइपड गैस कनेक्शन के लिए तीन साल से अधिक समय से आवेदन कर चुके हैं, लेकिन आज तक उन्हें यह सुविधा नहीं मिली है।

मुंबई जैसे घनी आबादी वाले शहर में, जहां ऊंची इमारतें तेजी से बन रही हैं, गैस सिलेंडरों का इस्तेमाल सुरक्षा के लिए एक बड़ा खतरा बन सकता है। पाइपड गैस कनेक्शन न केवल अधिक सुरक्षित हैं, बल्कि यह पर्यावरण के अनुकूल भी हैं। हरित ऊर्जा की ओर बढ़ने की दिशा में, मुंबई को जल्द से जल्द पाइपड गैस नेटवर्क से जोड़ना बेहद जरूरी है। यह कदम न केवल गैस वितरण में सुधार करेगा, बल्कि हमारे शहर को स्वच्छ ऊर्जा की दिशा में भी ले जाएगा।

मैं सरकार से अनुरोध करता हूँ कि तीन साल से अधिक समय से पाइपड गैस कनेक्शन के लिए प्रतीक्षा कर रहे आवेदनों को प्राथमिकता के आधार पर पूरा किया जाए। पाइपड गैस नेटवर्क के विस्तार के लिए ठोस योजना बनाई जाए, ताकि अधिक से अधिक घरों को यह सुविधा मिले। ऊंची इमारतों और हाउसिंग सोसाइटियों में सिलेंडरों के

उपयोग को चरणबद्ध तरीके से कम करने के लिए कदम उठाए जाएं। यह मुद्दा केवल एक सुविधा का नहीं है। यह मुंबई के नागरिकों की सुरक्षा, पर्यावरण की रक्षा, और उनकी जीवनशैली को बेहतर बनाने का सवाल है। मैं सरकार से अपील करता हूँ कि इस समस्या का समाधान शीघ्र किया जाए।

इस विधेयक का समर्थन करते हुए, मैं सरकार को बधाई देता हूँ और आशा करता हूँ कि यह कानून भारत को ऊर्जा आत्मनिर्भरता की दिशा में और आगे ले जाएगा। धन्यवाद।

DR. GUMMA THANUJA RANI (ARAKU): Madam, thank you for giving me the opportunity to participate in the discussion on the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill, 2024.

A major highlight of the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill, 2024, is the expansion of the definition of "mineral oils." This includes hydrocarbons such as shale gas and coal bed methane, alongside crude oil and natural gas.

The expanded definition of "mineral oils" could encourage rapid exploitation of unconventional resources like shale gas, leading to resource depletion and ecological imbalances.

The Bill proposes a forward-looking measure to permit renewable energy projects like solar and wind power within oilfields. This provision represents a commendable effort to integrate sustainability into the energy sector.

The Bill grants extensive authority to the Central Government for rule-making and dispute adjudication. Although the Bill introduces alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms, the absence of clear timelines and procedural guidelines could lead to prolonged disputes, deterring investment in the sector. A well-defined framework is essential to prevent delays in oilfield operations and instil investor confidence.

The Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill, 2024 represents a progressive step in addressing India's energy challenges. However, integrating clear regulatory

boundaries, strengthening environmental safeguards, and promoting local community benefits are critical for its effective implementation.

I would urge the Central Government to consider these recommendations to make the Bill more robust and inclusive.

With this, the YSR Congress Party supports the Bill.

SHRI E. T. MOHAMMED BASHEER (MALAPPURAM): Madam, thank you very much. With regard to this Bill, we all know that India and the whole world is facing a lot of issues like oilfield-related matters. This is an era of different global energy contexts. There are many aspects connected with energy access, energy security and energy affordability. There is an urgent need for increasing the domestic production of oil and gas to meet the rising demand of energy. We have to reduce our import dependency. India needs a strong legislation in this regard. I feel that this legislation has a proper consideration for these aspects.

Coming to certain concerns, there are environmental concerns which have to be addressed. Similarly, air pollution is connected with this industry. Water usage and contamination is also a matter of concern. Similarly, there is a concern regarding health. The communities living around that area are undergoing health hazards. That also is an important thing to be addressed. There is land conflict between companies and local communities. Those kinds of things will have to be addressed. There is displacement of communities because new industries are coming. All these aspects will have to be given due consideration. Legal complaints ? which is important thing ? have also be addressed. I think that proper care has not been taken in this regard. Greenhouse gas emission is a very important subject. When we are making such a legislation, such reforms, we have to give due consideration to those kinds of things also. Then, coming to community involvement, when industry is coming, we must have a cordial relation with the community living around that industry. That part also should be given proper consideration.

I would like to point out two important things. When we are designing to enhance exploration and production, we should not forget the fact that we require a sustainable and significant growth in domestic production, particularly in oil and natural gas. That is a very important thing. When we are making a legislation, we must give due care to this thing also.

Our slogan 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' should not be confined to just a slogan. It should not be a lip exercise. We must give it due consideration. We must have all kinds of investments. But at the same time, as far as indigenous industries are concerned, we must do the maximum possible for their sustainability. When we are opening our doors for foreign direct investment, we must keep this thing in our mind. That also is a very, very important subject which I would like to point out.

Similarly, we must have legislations. When we are making this legislation, the social aspect of the legislation also may be taken into consideration. I appeal to the Government to have a serious thinking about that. It is not only a matter of production. At the same time, you should go along with the other social aspects also. In the industries, we must have foreign investment. At the same time, life of the Indian industries is also an important thing. Big companies are coming to catch the things. We should not do those kinds of things. We must improve the wealth of our nation. These are the submissions which I want to make.

Thank you very much.

ADV. GOWAAL KAGADA PADAVI (NANDURBAR): Thank you for the opportunity, Madam. I just want to ask the Government because the Minister concerned has given a very guilty-conscience reply. I think that the shields are up. The Bill defines mineral oils as any naturally occurring hydrocarbons, whether in natural gas, liquid, viscous, or liquid, or solid form, or a combination of these. It includes various resources such as crude oil, natural gas, and petroleum. However, it explicitly excludes coal, lignite, and helium associated with petroleum. Kindly give a reply to that.

The Bill, I feel, definitely encourages private investment to boost domestic petroleum production and mineral oils. I think that the Bill is trying to decriminalise. By decriminalising, you are trying to replace the imprisonment provisions, the penalty provisions. You are replacing them with fines. I think that there is some kind of a protection to the private entities. Definitely, I feel that the Government is trying to protect its most favoured businessman. Or, what is it? The Government should give a clarification regarding that. There is a certain objection regarding the State rights. The Minister concerned gave a reply even before the discussion on the Bill. But I would still raise that issue because the Indian States have the authority to tax mining activities. This Bill seeks to undermine the States' rights. On July 25, the Supreme Court Bench of nine Judges ruled that the States have the exclusive right to tax mining activities and collect royalties from mining leaseholders based on Entry 50 of the State List in the Indian Constitution. However, by redefining the Oilfields Act to provide petroleum leases instead of mining leases and restricting it to mineral oils rather than minerals, one could argue that the law would fall under Entry 53 of the Union List, which allows Parliament to regulate oilfields, mineral oil resources and petroleum products.

The potential environmental impact of privatising the industry definitely can be raised in this issue. The public companies like Oil and Natural Gas Corporation and Indian Oil Corporation should be prioritised instead. The Bill grants private players more discretion in their operations by removing criminal penalties and altering contracts. The day before yesterday itself, the Indian Oil Corporation's shares fell by 2.52 per cent. That itself says that there is some kind of an unrest in the public companies. And the Minister should give a clarification regarding that.

I sense that this kind of a rapid shift would definitely undermine the Public Sector Undertakings' role. I just want to cite an example. During the Deepwater Horizon oil spill of 2010 -- where the whole same process was centralised -- the local Governments, especially in

Louisiana, felt that they were sidelined during the crisis. This is what the Government also should study, I feel.

I want to give certain examples regarding Mumbai offshore and Rajasthan basins. There were recommendations by the NITI Aayog in 2018 and the Oil Ministry's 2021 proposal for a stake sale in aging fields like the Mumbai High Basin and Bassein Oil Fields that had been shelved. Why has the Government not prioritised modernisation and technological upgrades for these fields?

The Union Government's decision to open 27,154 square kilometres of the Wadge Bank off Kanyakumari for oil exploration under the 2016 Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy threatens one of the India's most biodiverse marine regions. Why is the Government prioritising fossil fuel profits over the lives of thousands of fisherfolk and the environment?

I do not want to speak anything else. But I just want to give a few suggestions regarding this Bill. To strengthen this Bill, the Government can actually provide a detailed framework for carbon footprint tracking and mandatory carbon offset programmes to mitigate climate change. India is the third-largest oil importer and we have to try to increase the domestic production. That is all I want to request the Government.

श्री जगदम्बिका पाल (डुमरियागंज) : सभापति महोदया, आपने मुझे बोलने का मौका दिया, इसके लिए मैं आपका अत्यन्त आभारी हूँ। माननीय मंत्री जी के द्वारा जो दी ऑयलफील्ड्स (रेगुलेशन एंड डेवलपमेंट) अमेंडमेंट बिल, 2024 लाया गया है, उसके संबंध में उन्होंने आज विस्तार से अपनी बातें रखी हैं। इसके बाद इस बिल में निश्चित रूप से संशोधन लाने का जो मकसद है, वह स्पष्ट हो गया है कि यह अमेंडमेंट बिल केवल संशोधन मात्र का बिल नहीं है। यह अमेंडमेंट भारत की ऊर्जा सुरक्षा, आत्मनिर्भरता और पूरे वैश्विक नेतृत्व को सशक्त करने की दिशा में एक क्रांतिकारी कदम है, जिसके लिए मैं माननीय मंत्री जी को बधाई भी देना चाहता हूँ।

सभापति महोदया, मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि इस ऑयलफील्ड्स (रेगुलेशन एंड डेवलपमेंट) अमेंडमेंट बिल, 2024 पर, जिस पर पूरे सदन के सभी सदस्य चर्चा कर रहे हैं, आखिर इसमें संशोधन लाने की जरूरत क्यों पड़ी? यह स्पष्ट है कि सन् 1948 का जो प्रिंसिपल एक्ट है, उस प्रिंसिपल एक्ट में बदलाव लाने की क्यों जरूरत पड़ी है? आखिर

1948 के इस एक्ट को लाने का क्या कारण था? सन् 1948 का जो प्रिंसिपल एक्ट है, उसमें केवल माइनिंग लीज की अवधारणा थी। तब तक हम क्रूड ऑयल और प्राकृतिक गैस को केवल माइनिंग लीज में रखते थे। उसके कारण जो तमाम चीजें थीं, चाहे हाइड्रोजन की बात हो, मीथेन गैस की बात हो, शैल गैस की बात हो, जिसके लिए माननीय मंत्री जी ने भी अभी कहा है, चाहे कोल बेड मीथेन की बात हो, टाइट गैस की बात हो या हाइड्रोजन उत्पादन की बात हो, ये सारी चीजें अलग-अलग थीं।

अगर आज 1948 के उस प्रिंसिपल एक्ट में अमेंडमेंट करके माननीय मंत्री जी इन माइन्स को, जो अभी तक माइनिंग लीज कहलाती थी, उस माइनिंग लीज को पेट्रोलियम लीज में बदलने का संशोधन लेकर आए हैं तो यह निश्चित तौर से अपने-आप में एक ऐतिहासिक कदम है। पूरे विश्व में चाहे एफडीआई हो या दुनिया का कोई भी व्यक्ति हो, वह क्यों निवेश करेगा? अगर शैल गैस में हो कोल बेड मिथेन में हो, टाइट गैस में हो या हाइड्रोजन में हो, उसके लिए कोई न कोई रेगुलेटरी बॉडी होनी चाहिए।

वर्ष 1948 से अभी तक अनसर्टेटी थी, रेगुलेटरीज की कोई सर्टेटी नहीं थी। जब एक सर्टेटी नहीं होगी, स्पष्टता का अभाव होगा तो निश्चित तौर से निवेश करने वालों के सामने एक अनिश्चितता बनी रहेगी। वे निश्चित नहीं होंगे क्योंकि निवेश करने का तात्पर्य होता है। आज जब हम इस परिभाषा को बदल रहे हैं तो अब इस परिभाषा में केवल यह माइनिंग नहीं रहेगी बल्कि माइनिंग के बाद जब पेट्रोलियम लीज होगा तो इसमें कम से कम कर सैक्टर्स जोड़े जाएंगे - पहला एक्सप्लोरेशन, दूसरा प्रोडक्शन, तीसरा रिफाइनिंग और फिनिशिंग एवं चौथा ट्रांसपोर्टेशन। जब हम चारों सैक्टर्स को जोड़ेंगे तो निश्चित तौर से एक लांग टर्म स्टेबल पॉलिसी होगी, जो नवीन और तकनीकी चीजों को बढ़ावा देगी, जो पूंजी निवेश को भी प्रोत्साहित करेगा। वर्ष 1948 में क्या था? खनन के पट्टे का जो पैरामीटर था, वर्ष 1948 में जो कानून था, वह स्पष्ट ही नहीं था। किसी कंपनी के पास कितनी अवधि के लिए होगा, कितने भौगोलिक क्षेत्र में, कितने डेमोग्राफी में उसको एक्सप्लोर करना है, इसका भी अधिकार नहीं था। कोई भी अनिश्चितता के कारण निवेश करने से डरता था।

जो नए कानून बन रहे हैं, पूरी दुनिया में जो नए डेवलपमेंट हो रहे हैं, रिसर्च हो रहे हैं, उस कानून में केवल तेल और गैस उत्पादन के लिए था लेकिन आज जब वैश्विक स्तर पर हम उन्नतशील तकनीक, नई टेक्नोलॉजीज की बात करते हैं, उसका कोई उल्लेख नहीं था। आज यह अपने-आप में एक ट्रांसफॉर्म हो रहा है। यह अमेंडमेंट नहीं हो रहा है, बल्कि पूरी दुनिया में जैसे आज हम रिन्यूएबल एनर्जी में थर्ड हैं, मैं उस पर विस्तार से कहूंगा, लेकिन मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि आज पूरी दुनिया में इस बिल के आने के बाद से शायद जो एनर्जी सेक्टर है, उन्होंने शुरू में कहा कि हम फिफ्थ

लार्जैस्ट इकोनामी हैं, हम फोर्थ लार्जैस्ट इकोनामी बनेंगे और थर्ड होंगे, तो निश्चित तौर से उस दिशा में एनर्जी का कंजम्पशन होगा। अभी बहुत समय नहीं है, फिर भी मैं कहना चाहता हूँ। ? (व्यवधान) अभी दो मिनट ही हुए हैं, जबकि पांच मिनट की बात हुई थी।

मैडम, मैं कहना चाहता हूँ, आप मेरी बात सुन लीजिए। कूड ऑयल और नेचुरल गैस के प्रोडक्शन के बारे में कहा गया है। आप यूपीए के समय को देख लीजिए। During UPA Rule 2004-2014, domestic crude oil production remained stagnant at around 34 MMT. Instead of increasing production in, Congress-led India energy dependence grew making us more reliant on imports. इंपोर्ट पर डिपेंडेंसी थी। Even in natural gas, they failed miserably despite the huge potential of KG2D6 basin. India's Government production collapsed under Congress's corrupt and inefficient policies. जो केजी बेसिन स्कैम हुआ था, वह उस समय का बहुत बड़ा करप्शन था। कांग्रेस रिजिम में बेसिन स्कैम के बारे में कहा गया था कि the biggest betrayal of the Indian energy sector. यह मैं नहीं कह रहा हूँ, बल्कि यह सी एंड एजी की रिपोर्ट थी। सी एंड एज की रिपोर्ट ने एक्सपोज किया था कि how the Government allowed undue benefit to the companies leading to massive losses for the nation. ? (व्यवधान) उसके लिए कौन जिम्मेदार है? ये कहते हैं कि एनर्जी सिक्योरिटी की बात है। आपको याद होगा कि वर्ष 2014 तक लोगों को गैस के सिलेंडर्स ब्लैक में लेने पड़ते थे। पुलिस थाने के सामने लाइन लगाकर गैस के सिलेंडर्स बांटे जाते थे और उसके बाद भी गैस नहीं मिलती थी। लोगों को लाठियां खानी पड़ती थी लेकिन आज नरेंद्र मोदी जी ने 11 करोड़ गैस सिलेंडर्स प्रधानमंत्री उज्ज्वला योजना के तहत दिए हैं। यह एनर्जी सिक्योरिटी है।

आप पेट्रोलियम की बात कर रहे हैं। आप साउथ-ईस्ट एशिया की बात करिए। अगर इंडिया में पेट्रोल 94 रुपए प्रति लीटर है और डीजल 87 रुपए प्रति लीटर है तो नेपाल में पेट्रोल 103 रुपए प्रति लीटर है और डीजल 156 रुपए प्रति लीटर है। बांग्लादेश में पेट्रोल 106 रुपए प्रति लीटर है और डीजल 105 रुपए प्रति लीटर है, पाकिस्तान में पेट्रोल 255 रुपए प्रति लीटर है और डीजल 258 रुपए रुपए प्रति लीटर है, श्रीलंका में पेट्रोल 309 रुपए प्रति लीटर है और डीजल 317 रुपए प्रति लीटर है। ? (व्यवधान)

माननीय सभापति : कृपया आप अपनी बात कम्प्लीट कीजिए।

श्री जगदम्बिका पाल : मैडम, मैं यह बात उनकी जानकारी में दे रहा हूँ कि आज भारत में तेल का दाम सबसे कम है। इसलिए कि भारत में एक स्थिर सरकार है, नरेन्द्र मोदी जी के नेतृत्व में एक मजबूत सरकार है। इसलिए मुझे अपनी

बात कह लेने दीजिए। उनका कोई विजन नहीं था। आज मोदी जी का स्पष्ट विजन है।? (व्यवधान)

माननीय सभापति : कृपया आप अपनी बात कम्प्लीट कीजिए। माननीय मंत्री जी को बोलना है।

श्री जगदम्बिका पाल : रिफाइनिंग में हमारी क्षमता 249 मिलियन टन पर ईयर थी, उसको बढ़ा कर 450 मिलियन टन पर ईयर तक ले जाने का लक्ष्य है।? (व्यवधान) Mr. Jai Prakash, try to listen me. आज चाइना की ऊर्जा नीति है ? घरेलू उत्पादन और कोयला उत्पादन। भारत सौर ऊर्जा, पवन ऊर्जा, हाइड्रोजन और एलएनजी के क्षेत्र में भी आगे है। आज हम सस्टेनेबल एनर्जी मॉडल अपना रहे हैं। जापान, दक्षिण कोरिया ऊर्जा आपूर्ति में विदेशों पर निर्भर हैं, लेकिन भारत अपनी घरेलू क्षमता को बढ़ा कर आत्मनिर्भर भारत बनने जा रहा है। इस प्रकार के वे अमेंडमेंट्स लेकर आए हैं।? (व्यवधान)

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI : Madam, I would like to start by thanking you and, through you, all the hon. Members who have taken the floor. I can say with all sincerity that it always immensely pleases a Minister when a discussion of this kind starts to become information sharing, with some good ideas coming forth, and it begins to take the shape of a seminar rather than a discussion on partisan lines. Therefore, I want to start by thanking all the hon. Members, and I will begin with the last of my colleagues and friends who have spoken, Shri Jagdambika Pal ji. Adv. Gowaal Kagada Padavi ji, Shri E. T. Mohammed Basheer ji, Dr. Gumma Thanuja Rani ji, Shri Ravindra Dattaram Waikar ji, Shri Krishna Prasad Tenneti ji, Shrimati Pratima Mondal ji, Shri Ramashankar Rajbhar ji, Shri D. M. Kathir Anand ji, Shri Dilip Saikia ji and my colleague and friend, Shri Manish Tewari, who led the discussion.

Madam, due to the shortage of time and in the interest of efficiency, I would suggest that I club some of the points made and respond accordingly. The first issue raised is our long-term strategy for energy security. I can say that our long-term strategy for energy security revolves around the trilemma of availability, affordability, and sustainability. So far, we have navigated all three?availability, affordability and sustainability?very successfully under the hon. Prime Minister's bold, upfront and decisive leadership.

Let me give an example. Regarding availability, we have not hesitated, as one hon. Member mentioned, to import from wherever we have to import. He mentioned about a windfall and that problems can arise. I want to apprise him of the ground reality. We used to import from 27 countries. Today, we are importing from 39 countries, and recently, we are even buying from a 40th country. We will buy from wherever we have to import.

My common refrain to my counterparts in other countries is that if you have oil in your backyard and can deliver it to my port of importation at a reasonable price, we will buy it from you. We do not distinguish between the sources of supply. Our companies ? I am referring only to the public sector companies though the private sector is perhaps more or less equally efficient ? will issue a tender at the point of importation for a particular grade of crude at a specific location, whether it be Vishakhapatnam or any other point. Whoever wins the tender can supply us. The supply logistics, the fleet, etc., are up to the supplier. We are very clear on that.

During the last few years that I have been the Minister, and there has been turmoil in the market. There was an economic lockdown, and the price of a barrel of crude fell to 19.56 dollars. It then shot up to 128 dollars a barrel. Today, when we look at prices, we are all within a range. I would like to tell my friend, Shri Manish Tewari that there is more oil in the world coming onto the global market, particularly from the Western Hemisphere. Let me give you the example of Brazil. It used to produce three million barrels a day.

16.00 hrs

They are bringing up another 140,000 barrels a day. There are countries like Guyana, Suriname, Canada, and U.S which are bringing up another 1.6 million barrels. U.S. is the world's largest producer. It produces 13 million barrels a day. There is no shortage of supply. Therefore, if we are a large consumer, which we are as India ? we are one of the largest consumers ? we can leverage that market consumption cart to diversify, and buy from the

cheapest source. I have, therefore, no doubt in my mind that we will be able to navigate this trilemma in the years to come with equal success under Prime Minister Modi's leadership.

Now, I come to affordability. I would have thought that some of my friends across the Opposition Benches would have talked about the price of energy, very few of them did so, because the honest God's truth is India is the only country in the world where over the last three-year reference period, the price of petrol and diesel has actually come down.?
(Interruptions) I will give you the answer, have the patience to listen to it. We have brought down the price of petrol and diesel because the Prime Minister reduced the Central Excise on two occasions, November 21st and May 22nd, whereas they, the Congress-ruled States, have been increasing their VAT. They have also been increasing milk prices. So, let us have a serious discussion, and whenever you are in a meet for a serious discussion, I will sit for you.

Now, I come to prices in the neighbourhood. Prices in the neighbourhood are, at least, 15 per cent to 25 per cent higher than in India. Equally, prices in Western Europe and the United States are much higher than in India. It is only in India that prices have come down.

Now, we come to what is our overall strategy. Our overall strategy is to increase domestic exploration and production, but also to increase our clean energy. When Mr. Modi assumed responsibility, the biofuel blending at the Centre, which was aimed at 5 per cent for 10 States and Union Territories ? I was part of that effort ? only came down to 1.4 per cent in total. We had a target of 10 per cent biofuel blending till 2022. In November, we did it five months in advance. We had a target of 20 per cent biofuel blending up to 2030. We have done it six years in advance. We have already achieved 20 per cent blending, 19.6 per cent in the last one month.

Now, I come to some very interesting points raised. A CSR issue has been raised by my colleague from the Samajwadi Party. I am so happy that he raised it. They come to me, and I tell them CSR, according to the law, is an expenditure on corporate social responsibility, which

has to be incurred by the companies out of the two per cent of profits that they make, and there is a threshold for that. So, it is a very interesting situation. The hon. Members come to me and tell me कि यह सीएसआर दिलवा दीजिए । Then, they sit in the House, and say that there should be no discrimination and differentiation. I now have an answer to give them. Since they do not want any differentiation, they do not want us to reply, please deal with the companies directly. That is my answer to them. They cannot have it both ways. They come to me in my chamber and say that do it, and then they turn around in the House and say, there should be no differentiation. मेरा आपको तब भी आंसर यही होता और अभी भी यही है कि कंपनी डिस्सीजन लेती है, कंपनी का बोर्ड डिस्सीजन लेता है, क्योंकि यह कंपनी के प्रॉफिट से आता है । So, let us not play these little games with each other.

Several things have been said about our federal structure. Madam, one of the hon. Members from Tamil Nadu has raised a very important point. He raised a point about environmental damage. He also said that a letter had been written by the hon. Chief Minister. I have seen some reference to that, and I would like to point out the following. A block is offered as an offshore deepwater block in the country's territorial waters, which is outside the jurisdiction of the State Government. It is a very large area, sometimes 10,000 square kilometres. Now, when you ultimately go to prospect there, when you go to do the drilling, and wherever the drilling takes place, permissions will have to be sought. The permission-granting authority is the State Government. I have had a few examples myself. The hon. Member from the Trinamool Congress spoke, and referred to one such case. I want to share with the House my experience of what happened in the Ashok Nagar discovery in West Bengal.

What happened is that the ONGC had incurred an expenditure of about Rs. 1,000 crore. I think, they had dug something like 99 wells. ? (*Interruptions*) The matter came up in Parliament, and ultimately, I am very happy that on 24th February 2025, this permission has been given by the West Bengal Government. ? (*Interruptions*)

माननीय सभापति : माननीय बेनीवाल जी, आप बैठ जाइए ।? (व्यवधान)

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI: Madam, I have listened the debate for two hours, and I think, I owe it to my colleagues to give them an answer to what they have said. ? (*Interruptions*) Hon. Member, I am not yielding; I have to give a reply, and I am winding up very quickly. ? (*Interruptions*)

Madam, I am seeking your understanding. ? (*Interruptions*) I know how to respond to these things but I will choose to confine myself here. I will respond to the hon. Member separately later. ? (*Interruptions*) But the point here is that our overall strategy is very clear. ? (*Interruptions*) We need availability, affordability and sustainability. ? (*Interruptions*) Number two, we will also go down to ensure sustainability, not only in biofuels, compressed biogas, and green hydrogen, but we are making massive progress in all these areas, including newer technologies and encouraging startups. ? (*Interruptions*) So, I think we have a holistic approach in all that. I want to once again thank all the hon. Members for participating in the debate. I now commend that the Bill be adopted by this House.

माननीय सभापति: प्रश्न यह है:

‘कि तेल क्षेत्र (विनियमन तथा विकास) अधिनियम, 1948 का और संशोधन करने वाले विधेयक, राज्य सभा द्वारा यथापारित, पर विचार किया जाए ।?’

प्रस्ताव स्वीकृत हुआ

माननीय सभापति : अब सभा विधेयक पर खंडवार विचार करेगी ।

CLAUSE 2 Amendment of section 3.

माननीय सभापति : माननीय मंत्री जी, संशोधन संख्या 3 और 4 प्रस्तुत कीजिए ।

Amendments made:

Page 2, line 12,-

for ?2024?

substitute ?2025?. (3)

Page 2, line 18,-

for ?2024?

substitute ?2025?. (4)

(Shri Hardeep Singh Puri)

माननीय सभापति : प्रश्न यह है:

?कि खंड 2, यथा संशोधित, विधेयक का अंग बने।?

प्रस्ताव स्वीकृत हुआ।

खंड 2, यथा संशोधित, विधेयक में जोड़ दिया गया।

खंड 3 विधेयक में जोड़ दिया गया।

CLAUSE 4 Insertion of new section 4A.

माननीय सभापति : माननीय मंत्री जी, संशोधन संख्या 5 प्रस्तुत कीजिए।

Amendment made:

Page 2, line 38,-

for ?2024?

substitute ?2025?. (5)

(Shri Hardeep Singh Puri)

माननीय सभापति : प्रश्न यह है:

?कि खंड 4, यथा संशोधित, विधेयक का अंग बने।?

प्रस्ताव स्वीकृत हुआ।

खंड 4, यथा संशोधित, विधेयक में जोड़ दिया गया।

खंड 5 से 11 विधेयक में जोड़ दिए गए।

CLAUSE 12**Insertion of new section 13A.**

माननीय सभापति : माननीय मंत्री जी, अब आप संशोधन संख्या 6 प्रस्तुत कीजिए।

Amendment made:

Page 6, line 4,-

for ?2024?

substitute ?2025?. (6)

(Shri Hardeep Singh Puri)

माननीय सभापति : प्रश्न यह है:

?कि खंड 12, यथा संशोधित, विधेयक का अंग बने।?

प्रस्ताव स्वीकृत हुआ।

खंड 12, यथा संशोधित, विधेयक में जोड़ दिया गया।

CLAUSE 1**Short title and commencement.**

माननीय सभापति : माननीय मंत्री जी, अब आप संशोधन संख्या 2 प्रस्तुत कीजिए।

Amendment made:

Page 1, line 4,-

for ?2024?

substitute ?2025?. (2)

(Shri Hardeep Singh Puri)

माननीय सभापति : प्रश्न यह है:

?कि खंड 1, यथा संशोधित, विधेयक का अंग बने।?

प्रस्ताव स्वीकृत हुआ ।

खंड 1, यथा संशोधित, विधेयक में जोड़ दिया गया ।

ENACTING FORMULA

माननीय सभापति : माननीय मंत्री जी, अब आप संशोधन संख्या 1 प्रस्तुत कीजिए ।

Amendment made:

Page 1, line 1,-

for ?Seventy-fifth?

substitute ?Seventy-sixth?. (1)

(Shri Hardeep Singh Puri)

माननीय सभापति : प्रश्न यह है:

?कि अधिनियमन सूत्र, यथा संशोधित, विधेयक का अंग बने ।?

प्रस्ताव स्वीकृत हुआ ।

अधिनियमन सूत्र, यथा संशोधित, विधेयक में जोड़ दिया गया ।

विधेयक का पूरा नाम विधेयक में जोड़ दिया गया ।

माननीय सभापति : अब माननीय मंत्री जी प्रस्ताव करें कि विधेयक को यथा संशोधित पारित किया जाए ।

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI: I beg to move:

?That the Bill, as amended, be passed?.

माननीय सभापति : प्रश्न यह है:

?कि विधेयक, यथा संशोधित, पारित किया जाए ।?

प्रस्ताव स्वीकृत हुआ ।

माननीय सभापति : अब शून्य काल ।

? (व्यवधान)