

333 D.G., 87-88—Min. of CHAITRA 19, 1909 (SAKA) D.G., 87-88—Min. of 334
 Petroleum and Natural Gas Petroleum and Natural Gas
 Demand for Grant, 1987-88 in respect of Ministry of Water Resources voted by
 Lok Sabha

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant on account voted by the House on 13th March, 1987		Amount of Demand for Grant voted by the House	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
Ministry of Water Resources					
76.	Ministry of Water Resources	43,13,00,000	2,30,00,000	2,15,42,00,000	11,50,00,000

15.50 hrs.

***DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—1987-88**
 —Contd.

Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take up discussion and voting on Demand No. 58 relating to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for which 5 hours have been allotted.

Hon. Members present in the House whose cut motions to the Demand for Grant have been circulated may, if they desire to move their cut motions, send slips to the Table within 15 minutes indicating the serial numbers of the cut motions they would like to move. Those cut motions only will be treated as moved.

A list showing the serial numbers of cut motions treated as moved will be put up on the Notice Board shortly. In case any Member finds any discrepancy in the list, he may kindly bring it to the notice of the Officer at the Table without delay.

Motion Moved :

“That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1988, in respect of the head of Demand entered in the second column thereof against Demand No. 58 relating to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.”

Demand for Grant, 1987-88 in respect of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas submitted to the vote of Lok Sabha

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant on account voted by the House on 13th March, 1987		Amount of Demand for Grant submitted to the vote of the House	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas					
58.	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas	98,00,000	1,94,51,00,000	4,91,00,000	2,41,32,00,000

* Moved with the recommendation of the President.

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY (Hindupur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a very important Demand—the Demand of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has been presided over by a very capable Minister, a man who is capable of understanding, whose hospitality is very very ennobling. I had an occasion to taste his hospitality once in Dehra Dun. I hope the petroleum and natural gas will improve well under his stewardship.

As far as this Demand is concerned, I said it is a very important Demand. In so many ways of life this Demand plays a very prominent part in moulding the life of the people of India as far as transport is concerned, either surface transport or water transport or aviation. This is very very important.

As far as irrigation is concerned, there are a number of irrigation wells in this country. For irrigation they depend only upon irrigation wells. The arrangement for giving electricity for all these wells is not there, I do not know how electricity can be given to all these wells. So, in such a case it is right to use the pumpsets driven by crude oil or diesel oil. So, it has got a way of affecting the lives of the people.

The other thing is, as far as cooking is concerned, this natural gas is playing a very prominent part in our kitchens. Moreover, this natural gas also can be used for preparation of electricity. So, in this way this Demand has got so much of importance.

As far as this Demand is concerned, the Government is spending huge sums of money. A huge sum of money is spent every year for import of oil. Even though the efforts have been made for the last 30 or 40 years to improve production of oil in this country, this country has failed to achieve self-sufficiency. Still we have to pay thousands of crores of rupees for import of crude oil from other countries. And I do not know how many years it will take to make this country self-sufficient to see that this country does not depend on other countries for import of oil and spend a very huge amount of our exchequer's money. The efforts that have been made to produce oil, *i.e.*, oil exploration, are not up to the mark because we are lagging behind. That is why,

because of the half-hearted efforts, probably there is not much sincerity in the efforts, that is why we are not able to make this country self-sufficient in oil. So, in spite of 30 to 40 years of oil exploration, both off-shore and on-shore, we are not able to achieve self-sufficiency. So, I request the Minister to see that in the next 3 or 4 years the dependence of our country for import of oil from foreign countries is reduced considerably so that we will save a lot of money for the exchequer.

As far as this oil exploration is concerned, this exploration is a very very difficult process. I do understand, oil has been explored onshore and off-shore. In respect of off-shore also the technology necessary is very very complicated. I had the opportunity of seeing exploration of oil in the Bay of Bengal near Andamans. The technique appears to be very very complicated. Advance scientific methods have to be utilised, modern machinery has to be utilised, and as far as Indian technology is concerned, our Research and Development has not been up to the mark. We are not able to develop or evolve a technology of our own, we are not able to build the machinery, rigs etc. that are needed for oil exploration or for survey. For all these things we are depending only upon foreign countries.

As far as our country is concerned, our research and development is very very poor. In the annual report of the Ministry, a very few sentences have been devoted at page 5, saying this is the development. Indigenisation is very very essential. Research and development has to be improved a lot. You have to spend a lot of money. A lot of attention is also to be given to the aspect of research and development and to see that the technique is developed. Modern scientific ways should be developed in our country so that indigenisation will come to us. I would request the Minister to tell us, how many years it will take for us to completely evolve a technology and a new machinery of our own. As far as the present technology that we are purchasing from the foreign countries is concerned, it is of common knowledge that foreign countries are not ready to give upgraded technology to us. They give only the technology which is out of date, obsolete, which is no longer in the run. We purchased some technology

from some foreign countries for seismic graphic survey, exploration for the production of oil or cleaning of oil in the refineries. I would like to know from the Minister in all these things whether the technology that we have purchased is up-to-date or obsolete? What are the countries that have sold the technologies to us and what amount has been spent on them? Is that technology obsolete or whether it is up-to-date and modern, I would like to know from the Minister. Have the machineries that are supplied to us been of modern variety and of very high quality? I would like the Minister to inform the House on these aspects.

15 56 hrs.

[SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN
in the Chair]

Even though we have purchased the technology from abroad, for a number of days, we are doing exploration for oil and still the production has not reached the targetted level at all. The figure shows that in 1985-86, 30.18 million tonnes of crude has been produced in this country. Last year, 1986-87, it was 30.34 million tonnes. That means, it is just only 0.16 million tonnes more. It is a very meagre margin. As far as gas is concerned, in 1985-86, we produced 3315 million cubic metres and in 1986-87, it is expected to be of 3700 million cubic metres. This increase is also very very marginal. In spite of spending so much money, in spite of having so many oil companies like ONGC, OIL and other companies, our production of oil is very meagre. There is not much of improvement. There is no appreciable improvement. What are the steps the Government is taking to improve the production of oil, I would like the Minister to tell the House. Why is a very meagre quantity of oil explored in the country? I would request the Minister to tell the House what are the steps that he is contemplating to improve the production of oil.

There are so many oil companies which are spending huge sums of money. Are these oil companies utilising the amount properly? There are oil companies like ONGC, Oil India Ltd., and the other companies which are wasting a lot of money

over the guest houses and over engagement of some labour, on employment and establishment. They are wasting huge sums of money. I would request the Minister to look into this matter and to see that the wastage is reduced. As it is impossible to completely eliminate it, at least, wastage should be reduced to a very very minimum degree so that the wastage becomes negligible.

We have been hearing in the newspapers that fire accidents have taken place in a number of oil wells. Gas is burning, oil is burning for 3 or 4 days continuously. Almost every year, at least, in 3 or 4 places, we have been hearing this kind of news. We are seeing oil wells catching fire. It is a very very dangerous thing because gaseous elements are involved in them. We have not gone into it properly. These oil companies must take due care to see that oil wells or gas are not destroyed due to fire accidents in the wells. In other cases, even pilferage of oil is also there. Steps should be taken to reduce this pilferage of oil.

16.00 hrs.

As far as Andhra Pradesh is concerned, it has been said that 73% of the requirements of oil is likely to be met by the year 1990 from indigenous sources of oil. If the Government is able to achieve this, it is a very good step. I congratulate the Government provided they achieve it. I wish they achieve it.

I request the hon. Minister to take all steps for improving this position.

Seismic survey of oil in Andhra Pradesh shows that in Krishna Basin, there is possibility of lot of oil production. If this basin is explored properly and necessary steps are taken, I think we will be able to get most of the oil that is required.

So, I request the Government to allot sufficient funds to make use of them to serve the projects which are already there, to build alternate projects and to explore the possibilities of improving oil production and to see that availability of oil in Andhra Pradesh is improved.

As far as Andhra Pradesh is concerned, I have been told that in Kalkalur and in

[Shri K. Ramachandra Reddy]

Godavari Basin, oil has been found. The oil found in Kaikalur is of very high quality oil. Steps should be taken immediately to see that the oil from this source is explored and produced and made use of in the country.

There are four wells in Andhra Pradesh, Narasapur 3 and 5 and Rajole 1 and 2. From these wells, lot of oil and gas is coming. But proper use has not been made. This gas has to be collected in one place. Government of India should collect all these four wells and collect the gas at one place and distribute the gas from that place. It has been said that 1.4 million cubic meters of gas is expected. The pipeline has to be laid to collect gas in one place from these four wells. Pipeline is expected to be completed by July, 1987. I do not know whether it will be completed.

I request the Minister to complete this scheme at least by the end of this year and to take steps to lay the pipeline, collect in one tank and see that this is distributed to the public.

This gas is to be made use of. Lot of gas is simply going waste. We are not able to utilise it properly. A number of entrepreneurs are coming forward. The entrepreneurs must be encouraged. They should know how to use the gas. They should be given financial assistance and steps should be taken to see that a number of industries are started where this gas can be utilised.

It has been said that we are wasting lot of gas. This gas can be made use of to produce electricity. Now the country is very short of electricity. We are facing really grave situation due to acute shortage of electricity. This gas can be utilised for production of electricity and it is as such as the other source of electricity. Why don't we make use of the gas, for electricity, so that the country may improve?

We have also to start this gas-based industries. This gas is going waste. In other countries, the gas is being utilised to drive vehicles. Instead of petrol or diesel, gas is used. Why don't we take steps to see that gas is used for conveyance system

for propelling the machine? Then we can save lot of money for the exchequer.

I request the hon. Minister to prevent the waste of gas, to stop the gas being burnt down unnecessarily and take steps to use gas industrially and also to use gas for driving vehicles so that we may save lot of money for the exchequer.

As far as the disgusted unemployed is concerned, there are a number of unemployed who are not able to find jobs. Our Employment Exchanges register lakhs of people every year. The Government is not able to provide jobs to those people. Now kerosene depots are there in almost all the villages. These kerosene depots are now being given to people who are well-placed in life. The policy of the Government is that these kerosene depots will be given to only those educated unemployed people, who are economically backward. Please do not take the community into consideration. Please see that these depots are given to all people irrespective of the community to which they belong. The educated unemployed who belong to the backward-class or who are economically backward, must be encouraged. Steps must be taken to give these kerosene depots for the educated unemployed people. Also, there are diesel and petrol Pumping Stations are there. The diesel Pumping Stations and the petrol Pumping Stations may be utilised to provide employment for some of the educated unemployed people. Further, there are Petrol and Diesel Dealerships exist now. Why can't you encourage the educated unemployed by giving some of these dealerships to them? By this way, you can reduce the burden of unemployment. In this way, I would request the hon. Minister to take necessary steps to improve the production of petroleum gas in this country and see that we save a lot of amount which you are now spending for import of oil.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL
(Gulbarga): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I believe atleast some of the hon. Members of this House may remember that I was in charge of this Ministry for a short period in 1980— for about six months. Even today, I have got some vague idea about the working of this Ministry, the problems of the Ministry and the programme and the target that is set for this Ministry. I am very happy to

say that this Ministry is one of the vital Ministries engaged in the economic activity. It is not an exaggeration if I say that the economic prosperity of the country must depend upon the performance of this Ministry.

Sir, I have gone through the Report that has been circulated to the Members. Just now, the hon. Member compared the production of the last year to this year or the production of the year before last year to last year. But I can compare the production during my period and the production that is now achieved. I can say that the performance of this Ministry is quite satisfactory. I do not want to give the figures and take the time of the House. When I was in charge of the Ministry, the production of crude oil was only 10.5 million tonnes every year. Today, in 1986-87, it has gone up to 30.34 million tonnes—nearly three times during the short period of seven years. Similarly, the production of natural gas during my time was 2358 million cubic metres and now it is 8034 million cubic metres. I think, nearly, it has gone up by four times.

About the capacity utilisation, Sir, in this House on several occasion we speak about it because unfortunately, in our country, the capacity utilisation is not full. In some cases, it is 30 per cent, 40 per cent, 50 per cent, 60 per cent, 70 per cent and if it is 80 per cent, then we consider it as efficient. But here is a case in this Ministry where the refining capacity of the refineries is more than 100 per cent. I think it is 101 and odd per cent. This Ministry is generating a lot of resources. I think the gross resources that have been generated in 1986-87 were Rs. 3,357 crores and in 1987-88 the anticipated resource generation is more than Rs. 3,500 crores. This is in addition to the contribution that this Ministry is making to the State exchequer and the Central exchequer by way of sales tax, excise, corporation tax, customs duty, etc. I think, according to the projected estimate for 1987-88 it is more than Rs. 7,700 crores—the contribution of this Ministry to the State Government and the Central Government. So, with this performance, I think I am not exaggerating if I say that we can derive the satisfaction that this Ministry is performing reasonably

well. At the same time, I must say that, in spite of the best efforts put in by the Ministry and the officers and all those workers working in the public sector undertakings which are under the administrative control of this Ministry, so far, we have not been able to become self-sufficient in oil. I want to ask the hon. Minister in charge of this Ministry whether he has any idea by what time the country is going to become self-sufficient in oil or whether the country is going to become self-sufficient at all in oil, and if it is going to become self-sufficient, what is the time required to become self-sufficient. Because what I find is that even today nearly 30 to 35 per cent of our oil requirement is being imported from different sources. I have got the figures how much they are importing; in this Report they have said how much they are importing every year and how much they are going to import during the current year, *i e*, 1987-88. That only shows that we are self-sufficient only upto 60 to 65 per cent; not more than that.

The consumption of oil is growing. The Ministry is fully aware of that fact. According to the Seventh Plan document, it was projected that the consumption would grow at the rate of 6.4 per cent every year. But they are making hectic efforts to see that the consumption is kept to the minimum, the growth is kept to the minimum. In fact, they wanted to discourage consumption. That is why, last year, they hiked the prices of petroleum products. This was one of the reasons advanced at the time of hike in the prices; they said that they did not want more consumption, they wanted to discourage consumption. What I want to know from the hon. Minister is what is the actual increase in the consumption. The Plan document shows that it is 6.4 per cent. Whether it is confined to 6.4 per cent or whether it is less than 6.4 per cent or whether instead of 6.4 per cent it has gone up to 8 per cent or 10 per cent, I would like to have the facts if they are available with the Ministry. At the rate at which the demand has been projected in the Seventh Plan, the demand by the year 2000 A.D. will go up to 90 million tonnes. My hunch is that it will be not less than 100 million tonnes by 2000 A.D.

As I said just now, we are importing a lot of oil. In 1986-87 we imported 15.6

[Shri Veerendra Patil]

million tonnes of crude oil and two million tonnes of petroleum products, and the outflow of foreign exchange last year was Rs. 2707 crores. This year the picture is not rosy at all. In 1987-88 the programme that they have to import oil is to the extent of 17.34 million tonnes in the case of crude oil and 3.77 million tonnes in the case of petroleum products, and the outflow of valuable foreign exchange is going to be of the order of Rs. 4000 crores. This is the position when the price of oil in the international market is at the bottom. I can quote my experience. In the year 1980 when I was the Minister for a short period, crude oil was not available. The countries who were supplying crude oil, the private parties who were supplying crude oil were negotiating and bargaining. They were asking premium over and above the OPEC price. They were asking how much you give per barrel, if you are prepared to give 2 dollars, or 4 dollars, then we are prepared to supply any quantity that you require. Now it is just 16, 17 or 18 dollars. When it is 17 or 18 dollars, your bill goes upto Rs. 4000 crores. Suppose if OPEC countries join together and hike the price, then what will happen to this country? Fortunately for our country they are quarrelling. There is no unanimity or unity among them. Although they meet and discuss threadbare and come to certain conclusions in the conference hall, outside they go and say that they will have their own base. That is why we are getting the crude oil in international market at the rate of 15 to 18 dollars per barrel. Supposing if it goes to 20 or 25 or 30 dollars, then what will happen to our country? Our foreign exchange position is very precarious. That is why I want to impress upon the Minister that there is a great need for the country to become self-sufficient as early as possible and also the country should produce more and more oil in order to meet our requirements rather than depending upon the foreign countries.

So far as production of oil is concerned, I don't attach much importance to the production. If the oil is there, if the reserves are established, then we can ask our officers and organisations. Whatever we want, they will produce. Even now I distinctly remember. I had a discussion

with our ONGC officers in 1980. At that time we were recovering only 8 million gallons from the Bombay High. I asked them that when we are starving for oil, when the foreign countries are bargaining and squeezing us, why cannot you produce more. Do you know the reply that I received? I think, for your information I may tell you, they said that Mr. Minister if you ask for it, why only 8 or 10 million tonnes, we are prepared to extract even 20 million tonnes or even 40 million tonnes. But the reserves are limited. If we extract 8 million tonnes or 12 million tonnes—I think during my time the programme was to go upto 12 million tonnes and now you must have gone upto 20 million tonnes—the reserves will last for 50 years. If we extract 30 or 40 million tonnes, then the reserves will exhaust in 20 or 25 years. It is for you to decide because we don't have established reserves. That is why I quoted this instance only to bring home the fact that production is not that important. I give more importance to the discovery of oil. That is the exploration. We must spend more and more on exploration.

Just now the Hon. Member was saying that ONGC is spending a lot of money and wasting a lot of money on exploration. It is not a question of waste. I must say for the information of the House and also for the information of the Hon. Member that oil exploration is a gamble. You drill a well, you may get oil or gas or you may not get anything at all. Nobody can say with certainly that once you drill a well, you are bound to get something. You may get a little, but that may not be economical. That is why I would suggest that you must give more emphasis and spend whatever money that is required on exploration. Because if you spend more, you get more returns and the country will be benefited. When the country is benefited, naturally everybody in the country is going to be benefited.

That is why I want emphasis should be given on survey, exploitation, recovery and establishment of oil. I would be happy if the hon. Minister will inform the House as to what is the amount spent on exploration and seismic survey work during the Sixth Plan period and so far in the Seventh Plan and also how much oil or gas your Organisation has been able to establish because

the impression outside is that we have been spending a lot on exploration and survey but unfortunately whatever reserves have been recovered so far they are not commensurate with the expenditure that has been incurred on the exploration.

At the same time, I want to know as on today what are reserves so far as crude oil is concerned that are established beyond doubt and according to the reserves established by your Organisation taking into consideration the present consumption of oil and also the projected consumption for the next few years upto 2000 AD how long these reserves are going to last. Can we tell the country not to worry so far as oil is concerned? Whatever may be the demand for the next 100 years, we are quite free and we need not worry about this problem. Are you in a position to tell this to the nation?

Sir, I need not tell the hon. Minister that it is always economical and prudent to import crude oil and process it in the country than to import the petroleum products. But we are importing petroleum products. I have the figures just now. This year you are going to import 3.77 million tonnes of petroleum products. I do not know the reason why. It is because your refinery capacity is completely exhausted. You do not have any additional refining capacity. That is why you have to import petroleum products. Naturally petroleum products are bound to be costlier than crude oil. I am introducing this because this problem was realised in the Fifth Plan itself that the country should set-up more refineries. I can quote. In the Sixth Plan document on page 244 it is said :

“It will be necessary to instal additional capacity of 9 million tonnes by 1985-86 in addition to completing expansion schemes.”

So the need for creating an additional capacity by setting up new refineries upto 9 million tonnes was recognised in the beginning of the Sixth Plan. That was in the year 1980. That is the beginning of the Sixth Plan I am not talking of Seventh Plan. I will tell the House what the Seventh Plan says with regard to refineries. The Seventh Plan document says on page 133:

“If the current growth of middle distillates continues then India may have to establish 3-4 refineries in every Five Year Plan period.”

I am giving this information to the House that our Sixth Plan says there is a need for having more refineries. The Seventh Plan says that there is a need for having three to four refineries in every plan period. But I am very sorry to say that since 1980 not a single refinery has been set up in our country. I want to know why? Sir, I have to narrate my experience. I beg of the House that I am not boasting myself nor I am indulging in self-praise. In 1980, when I took charge of this Ministry, our officers came and said that there is a proposal in the Sixth Plan to have two refineries. One, according to the Planning Commission's indications, should be in the north-west and another one should be coast-based. Then immediately I appointed a site selection committee of experts, not politicians. I must congratulate the experts who were working with the site selection committee. They did the work in a record time. They produced the reports. They recommended Karnal so far as the north-west region is concerned, So far as the coast based refinery is concerned, they decided Mangalore. After getting the report and after fully discussing with the officers concerned.

I went to Bangalore. In Bangalore, in the Chambers, I announced that during the Sixth Plan period two refineries are going to be set up : one in Karnal and another in Mangalore. But what has happened? I don't know because it is seven years now. It is seven years now that I announced in 1980. Where are those refineries? Those refineries are yet to come.

Sir, what I am saying is not out of any anger; this is only out of anguish. If we take seven years to implement a decision, then what about the gestation period that we require to execute the project? Even after seven years, what is the position with regard to Karnal and Mangalore refineries? It is said in this document on page 8 :

“Government have taken a decision in principle to set up 6 million tonnes refinery at Karnal...”

So, even now it is only a decision in principle. I don't know what is the deci-

[Shri Veerendra Patil]

sion in principle, what is the final decision, what are the formalities that are to be gone through in order to take a final decision, when the project is going to be commenced, when the project is going to be executed, when the project is going to be completed in all respects. We have a bitter experience of Mathura and other refineries where the gestation period was very slow.

So far as Mangalore refinery is concerned, as I said, it is with anguish because we are 24 on this side who have come from Karnataka. Sir, you can imagine the faith that has been reposed in us by the people of Karnataka. I announced as Minister in charge of Petroleum and also as a representative of Karnataka seven years back that Mangalore is going to have a refinery. It is said in the same para :

"It has also been decided that a detailed project report should be prepared for 3 million tonnes petro-chemical refinery at Mangalore jointly by Hindustan Petroleum Corporation and Messrs Indian Rayon Corporation."

Now, it is joint venture. I don't mind whether it is a joint venture or public sector or private sector. What we are interested is in a refinery.

We want to see the refinery; we want to know when the dream of having a refinery is going to be realised. In these seven years the cost has gone up. If it had been implemented in 1980-81, we would not have to spend Rs. 1500 crores. I do not know, but by the time we execute the project, the cost may go up more than Rs. 2000 crores. We would have completed it by spending Rs. 300 to Rs. 400 crores. Today we have to pay through our nose nearly Rs. 2000 crores for one project and another Rs. 1500 crores for Mangalore refinery. Now, the document says that Karnal refinery has been cleared in principle; it is accepted in principle, but our Prime Minister has gone and laid the foundation stone. I do not blame the Prime Minister, because the Minister, or the Minister, officers would have asked the Prime Minister to go and lay the foundation stone there. But what I suggest is that instead of asking the Prime Minister to lay the foundation stone about a fortnight back,

you should have asked the Prime Minister to lay the foundation stone six month or a year later. I am saying this purely in the interest of the working. I can quote how people comment, how press comments. Here there is one paper; I do not want to name it. It says : "Massive funds to be raised from market—Elections hasten launching of Karnal Refinery". Press has got full freedom and they can write anything they want, but we have to look not only to the press, we have to look to the people also. Here in the first column, it is stated and I will read only two or three sentences :

"Rs. 1500 crore refinery at Karnal launched by the Prime Minister would not have been implemented until after 1990, had it not been for the forthcoming elections of Haryana."

And even now there is considerable doubt about its future. Why I am saying this is that anything that we do on the eve of elections, even if we do it with a genuine feelings, with sincere feelings, people look at it in a different way. Press looks at it in a different way. Now, please do not ask Karnataka people to wait for the next elections. As you have done in the case of Karnala, within the next two, three or four months, please arrange a celebration or a function at Mangalore. We will be too happy to have you in our midst, to have the Prime Minister in our midst. I think, it would be our good fortune if the Prime Minister comes there and lays the foundation stone there.

I very strongly hope and expect and expect and pray to the hon. Minister that during his reply he must announce Mangalore refinery. At least he must tell us so far as Mangalore is concerned, what is the time he requires. He now says about detailed project report. I know the functioning of the Government. If they want, they can produce the detailed project report within no time, otherwise they will say, they want this information and that information and they may drag it for 2-3 years. Please get the detailed project report as early as possible and see that the Mangalore refinery becomes a reality.

Since you have indicated that my time is up, I do not want to take more time. I

would now only say one word about gas, whether it is industrial gas or domestic gas. We have to produce more gas. Members are aware of the fact that here in this House, during Question Hour we put a lot of questions and we should that our ecology is being completely destroyed, our forests are being completely destroyed and that there are no real forests. Yes, it is true. Forests are being destroyed. Even today, the whole of our rural population, cent per cent of our rural population have to depend for their fuel needs only on forest products. And for this purpose, trees are being cut and forests are being destroyed. Why? They do not take any pleasure in destroying forests. But when they come home after a day's hard work, how could they prepare their food without any other fuel? This is the only fuel available in the rural areas. Therefore, if you want that our forests should not be destroyed further and they should be protected and preserved as is being done in other developing countries, if you want that the forest should remain untouched here also, then the target for you is to reach all the villages as early as possible with LPG. LPG should be made available to the villages just for their mere asking. Today, with great difficulty, we are able to reach district or at the most, sub-divisional level. We have to go a long way still. One hon. member is saying just now that gas should be put to use for producing power also. I think that there are proposals with the Government of India.

So far as the HBJ Pipeline is concerned, a considered quantity of gas coming from the pipeline is being used for producing power. Gas can be used for producing power, for producing fertilizers and for domestic purposes. Gas can be used so for many purposes. Therefore, the Minister should have a target to see that LPG reaches all our villages as early as possible. Similarly, since we are always short of power, for industrial purposes too gas should be made available to industrialists in abundant quantities.

I do not wish to take much of the time of the House. As I have already clarified, whatever observations I have made, I have made them only out of anguish and not because I want to criticise the Government. I am part of the Government. I am

interested in keeping up the image of the Government. I am interested that our Government should perform in such a way that everybody in this country has a good word about our performance. That is why I made these observations. It is not to discourage the workers and officers who are putting in their best efforts. As I have already stated in the beginning itself, they have been doing excellent work in spite of the limitations. I have started all these things because for a developing country like ours, time is very precious. We cannot afford to waste time. In my humble opinion, wasting time and delaying the implementation of several projects is committing a sin against the nation. Therefore, without further loss of time, all those projects which we feel are going to be economic and are in the interest of our nation should be approved, cleared, taken up and executed within the shortest possible time.

With these words I conclude and before I do so, I wish the officers and workers who are working in the public sector undertaking under this Ministry every success in their efforts because the country's future and its well-being depends upon their efforts.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants for 1987-88 pertaining to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. We have not yet become self-sufficient in respect of production of petroleum and natural gas. The figures show that we are producing only 60 per cent of our requirements and the rest 40 per cent of petroleum is being imported. It is straining our foreign exchange reserves. According to the figures received just now, the production of indigenous crude in 1986-87 was 30.34 million tonnes as against 30.18 million tonnes in 1985-86. This is not a big achievement by any means. The addition was only 0.16 million tonnes. We cannot regard it as achievement. The production of natural gas in 1986-87 was 3700 million cubic metres as against 3315 million cubic metre in 1985-86. Oil has been found recently in Tapti Off-shore, B-42. Structure

[Shri Virbhi Chander Jain]

in Bombay off shore and Kekalur in Andhra Pradesh. Work on the exploration of gas and petrol is going on in the Jaisalmer district for the last 20 years. During this period, some gas had been struck at some places where wells were dug up and drilling took place. After this we have been carrying out seismic survey and undertaking drilling work for the last five years. But what has been our achievement? According to the information received from the Government of Rajasthan, our only achievement is the gas based power plant at Ramgarh which has been cleared by the Planning Commission but it is of 3 megawatt only. This 3 megawatt plant will be too small in size. Therefore, will the hon. Minister get clearance for a 10 megawatts plant so that the electrification is speeded up in the Jaisalmer district. Jaisalmer is a backward district in the whole country from the point of view of electricity. Only 10 per cent area has been electrified. 132 KV line has not yet reached the headquarters of Jaisalmer district and even 33 KV line is not there in a number of areas. In this way, the scheme of rural electrification cannot succeed. What I mean to say is that the capacity of the proposed gas-based plant at Ramgarh should be more than 10 megawatts. Unless concessional rates are offered, this plant cannot prove to be a success. I had asked a question in regard to the ONGC which I would like to read out.

[English]

Unstarred Question No. 3946, dated 24th March, 1987 :

“ONGC and BARC have carried out a preliminary Joint to study determine the possibility of Helium extraction from ONGC's gas fields in Rajasthan. The possibility of extracting Helium will be considered after the reserves and composition of the natural gas from these fields is firmly established.”

From the reply to the question, we find that this is Helium Gas, which is very important one. This will be used for defence purposes. You should also tell us in which work it will be used. how much quantity

we have struck, what would be its cost and how it will be used. Besides, you should tell us how much success we have achieved in the drilling that is going on in our district? I would also like to know what quantity of gas other than Helium we have found?

I would also like to know whether Petrol has also been found there or not, because if Petrol and gas are found there, the prospects of development of our area can improve a lot. Our desert areas can make progress just like Arab countries. The O.N.G.C. has launched a programme there under which a drilling machine is being operated in that area. We have requested you to instal 3 to 4 machines there but the Cenral Government has not paid any head. Therefore, I would request that 3 to 4 drilling machines should be installed there so as to speed up the exploration work. Oil India Limited was undertaking survey work at Bikaner, Jaisalmer and Nagaur. It has done commendable work in regard to the seismic survey. After the seismic survey the results are being processed. We are getting requisite information from the computer in Jodhpur. Kindly tel us how far we have been successful in exploration after Seismic survey? When Sri Naval Kisnore Sharma was the Incharge of this Ministry, at that time clearance was given to purchase a machine worth Rs. 13 crores. Effort was made to acquire that machine but we did not succeed. Later on we came to know that a machine was being installed on rent. We would also like to know the progress made in that direction. Oil India Limited was making progress in the seismic work through the computerised system with the cooperation of a French Company but in the absence of sufficient number of drilling machines that work could not go ahead. When will you make arrangement for the drilling machines? If it is done, it will speed up the exploration work.

The Speaker who spoke before me had been a Minister. He laid stress on LPG connections. I would also like to raise this point. In the districts of Jaisalmer and Barmer, people are felling trees indiscriminately. A famine like situation recur there in successive years. We want that arrangement of LPG connection should be made at the tehsil headquarters so that the

people of the rural areas in the desert districts may take advantage of it and tree felling, which is regarded as a crime, is checked.

In the end, I shall conclude after making submission in regard to Kerosene. There is an acute shortage of kerosene in the rural areas of Rajasthan. If at all Kerosene is available there, one has to pay high price for it. The Rajasthan Government has requested the Central Government for allotting its full quota on the basis of census of 1981 but we have not received quota on that basis till today. Due to this, people are facing a lot of hardship. I would, therefore, demand that Rajasthan should be allotted its due share of kerosene. There is great demand for kerosene in the rural areas. The Central Government should help the State to meet the demand.

Another thing is that Oil Selection Board has not been set up in Rajasthan. The Oil Selection Board decides about the tehsil headquarters, divisional headquarters and other places where LPG connection are to be allotted. Therefore, there is an urgent need for setting up this Board in Rajasthan. I would submit that the Government should take an early step in this direction.

With these words I support the Demands for Grants pertaining to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT (Chittorgarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Demand for Grants of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, which have been presented before the House. The land of our country is full of natural wealth of all kind. Petrol and natural gas is the most precious wealth among all sorts of natural resources. It would not be a hyperbole if I say that Petrol and natural gas are the backbone of our economy and the entire economy is based on them. There are no two opinions about the fact that we are gradually attaining self-sufficiency in the field of Petroleum Products. Whereas in 1981-82, our indigenous production of petroleum products was only 25 per cent, now it has risen to 55 per cent of our total consumption. There has been remarkable progress in this field during the last few years, for which the Ministry

deserves our congratulations. There has been substantial reduction in the import of petrol and petroleum products and we have been able to save a lot of foreign exchange. I would like to congratulate the Ministry and the hon. Minister for this also.

Sir, there are definitely huge reserves of petroleum in our country, but in my view, there has not been adequate research for locating them. There is an urgent need to expedite this task. There are large reserves of petroleum especially in South basin, Bay of Bengal, Kutch and a large area in Rajasthan. If we expedite the research work in these areas, then we would definitely achieve self-sufficiency in the matter of petroleum products by the end of this century. Recently the Government has proposed to undertake research of oil and Petroleum in Cambay, Cauvery basin and Bengal basin with the help of USSR, for which I would like to congratulate this Ministry. The exploitation of oil and petroleum is being undertaken in off-shore areas or high seas in our country but I am very sorry to say that all our oil wells in high seas are insecure. I would like to make a special mention of Bombay High where petroleum Products in huge quantity are extracted. I would like to submit that you should make proper arrangements to post security staff for the safety of these oil fields. Though you have appointed the security staff for the purpose, yet this force needs to be strengthened further. The reason for this is that at any point of time, Indian ocean may become a disturbed area and any foreign power may attack us from sea in which case our natural wealth in the ocean could also be destroyed in no time. I would, therefore, like to request the Government to take suitable measures for the safety of our off-shore oil fields.

In Rajasthan, most of the area is a desert area. Just before me, Shri Viridhi Chander Jain, who also hails from Rajasthan was speaking. He said that there were huge potentialities of finding oil fields in Rajasthan. If investigation and research for oil fields is undertaken on a large scale in Rajasthan, we could be able to meet the requirements of oil in the country to a great extent. There was nothing in the desert areas of Arab countries earlier, but the petroleum products have now changed the

[Prof. Nirmala Kumari Shaktawat]

entire economy of those countries. Similarly, if the search for oil and petroleum is undertaken in the Western areas of Rajasthan, the economy of Rajasthan, could also be changed. I would also like to submit that the production of crude oil has gone up to 30 million tonnes which was only 10 million tonnes at the beginning of Sixth Five Year Plan. I would like to submit especially about natural gas that in 1985-86, 8100 million cubic metres of gas was produced, whereas in 1986-87, the production of natural gas has gone up to 9000 cubic metres. It is a commendable task. I would like to congratulate the Government for this. All this natural gas is being missed, as it is burnt away. We have not been able to utilise this natural gas in industries or for domestic use. Especially our housewives pine for L.P.G. A very large number of people are not able to get L.P.G. even now, whereas a large quantity of gas is wasted by burning it in refineries. I would like to submit particularly about Rajasthan that there are many areas there which are famine stricken. The main reason for famine in the State is that trees are felled in large numbers to be used as fuel wood. If you want to save the trees there and want to turn the desert areas into greenery, then there should not be any hesitation in sanctioning L.P.G. connections in Rajasthan. When we request for sanctioning LPG connection in a large number, the hon. Minister generally replies that he cannot do so as there is shortage of regulators or cylinders. There is shortage of bottling plants. I would like to ask as to why bottling plants are not set up with adequate capacity? In this scientific age, we are very sorry to find that there is shortage of cylinders or regulators. Because of this shortage, we are forced to burn this natural gas. You should, therefore, pay a special attention to it. Natural gas is a valuable asset. It should not be burnt away. Instead, there should be maximum utilisation of natural gas.

Sir, I represent Chittorgarh in South Rajasthan. This area has maximum forests in the State. For quite a long time, the forests in this area have remained protected, but now due to urgent need of fire wood, the forests are being denuded. Rana Pratap had taken refuge in these forests. If you do not take measures to protect these forests, I

would be very pained to say that this area would be cleared of forests gradually.

Sir, you provide gas dealership to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and war widows. I would like to submit that their economic condition is not so sound as to run the agency in loss. What happens today is that they are given such a few number of connections that they have to incur loss for the first year and during the second year, they run the agency on 'no profit no loss' basis. The persons who are economically backward should not be given an agency having a very small number of connections, rather they should be given maximum number of connections.

Sir, this natural gas could be used in industries as also in generation of electricity, but you have not paid adequate attention towards this. Natural gas has been used for this purpose to some extent in Gujarat and Maharashtra. Recently you have proposed to instal a gas based power plant at Para in Rajasthan. I would like to express my thanks for that. But even now there are certain areas in Rajasthan where there is acute shortage of electricity. The natural gas which is likely to be tapped especially in South and West Rajasthan could be utilised for the development of that area. Similarly, the number of refineries is also very small, which should be increased.

I would also like to submit that an earthen lamp in the hut of the poor is lighted with kerosene and prices of kerosene have been increased exorbitantly. Kerosene is mixed with petrol, because the price of petrol has gone up very high. I would like to urge that some chemical should be developed which should be mixed in kerosene to colour it so that kerosene could not be mixed with petrol. You would give the plea that price of Kerosene has been increased, because it is mixed with petrol. If price of kerosene is increased, then the lamp of the poor would also not be lighted which is not a good thing. The price of kerosene must be reduced.

In the far east areas where there is no electricity, people line up in the queues for getting kerosene and they are forced to purchase kerosene in the black market. I would like to submit that you should pay

attention towards this so that kerosene could be made available to the people at a reasonable price.

I would also like to submit that our Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has huge potential. With the help of this Ministry, we can take the country to the zenith of development. If we make proper utilisation of all our resources, then on the basis of progress made in the last 6 to 7 years, I can say with confidence that by the turn of this century, our Government will take us towards self-sufficiency with the help of this Ministry. With these words I conclude my speech.

17,02 hrs.

[English]

SHRI PARAG CHALJHA (Jorhat) : I am glad to note the rapid strides made by the Finance Ministry towards attaining self-sufficiency in this very vital national resource in a not too distant future.

I am rather proud, that I come from an oil-filled area in Assam, a State which produces more than 53 per cent of the country's total on-shore crude to the extent of 9.345 million per annum, Assam's share being 4 966 million tonnes per annum as was evident from the report.

I am proud also for the fact that out of the country's total gas production of 2954 million cubic metres per annum Assam's fields produce about 69 per cent, that is, 2029 million cubic metres against Gujarat which is the second State which produces 919 cubic metres.

But even so, I am sorry to have to oppose the Demands for Grants for the Ministry because of the following observations : Why does this happen—this paradox in my estimation ?

A little dispassionate and un-biased look into the overall picture of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry vis-a-vis their use and sharing of the enormous related potentialities will reveal that why so seriously concerned and considerably resentful we are at the present nature of things. And we feel utterly neglected for long and not getting our right-

ful share in this very vital aspect of our country's planning and economic development.

While the Britishers could build a refinery at Digboi almost a century ago in a far-flung locality amidst the deep jungles of Assam, Assam had to launch two mass movements to get two toy refineries—and the only big refinery to refine the crude from Assam was established 1400 kilometres from

17.05 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Assam. Why it is so ? We have been demanding a new refinery. I was very impressed by the speech of Mr. Virendra Patil who produced documents of Sixth and Seventh Plan wherein it was every emphatically stated that four or five refineries should be established in every plan period. But as far as Assam is concerned, it has not happened.

If we look at the report of the Ministry, it will not reveal why we should not be resentful. Of the 12 refineries in the country, Assam has got just three. The total refining capacity in the country is 45.55 MTPA. In Assam we have three refineries no doubt, but each of the refineries that are now in Bihar, West Bengal, UP, Gujarat and other places, has more capacity than the capacity of all the refineries taken together in Assam. How ? Koyali 7.30 MTPA to be increased to 9.54 MTPA; Haldia 2.50 MTPA, Mathura 6.00 MTPA to be increased to 7.50 MTPA, Cochin 4.50 MTPA, Bombay 6.00 + 3.50 = 2 MTPA, Vizag 4.50 MTPA, Barauni 3.30 MTPA, and all the three refineries in Assam *i.e.* Digboi 0.50 MTPA, Gauhati 0.85 MTPA, Bongaigaon 1.00 MTPA, have got 2.35 MTPA total capacity, more of which is refined in each of the other refineries in other parts of the country. Now, we have Karnal 6.00 MTPA, Mangalore 3.00 MTPA. We do not grudge that. But we fail to understand why modernisation of Digboi refinery for which a sum of Rs. 50 crores was set apart in 1985-86, has not been taken up. We find that additional secondary processing facilities in Gujarat at a total cost of Rs. 635 crores have been taken up. We do not grudge that. But we fail to understand why none of the suggestions made by the task force appointed by the Government

[Shri Parag Chaliha]

of India which submitted its report in 1981, has been implemented so far. One of the suggestions made by the task force was possibilities of downstream industries.

Assam crude is very high in paraffin, wax and aromatics. This crude is not available anywhere in the world. But we are yet to find anything substantial or concrete for better utilisation of this special variety of Assam crude. We want a refinery. That was in Assam Accord. But nothing whatsoever has been mentioned about it in the report. We want a refinery which should be economically viable and employment oriented. We do not want anything less than 3.00 MTPA with a petro-chemical complex. Otherwise, the people of Assam will continue to feel that they are systematically being neglected.

The total estimated gas reserve in Assam is 113 8 billion cubic metres which is free from sulphur and is of extremely high quality. But we have been flaring gas at the rate of 2.5 million cubic metres every day *i.e.* 912 5 million cubic metres every year. Why is it so? Therefore, we feel that the gas should be properly utilised not only in Assam but other parts of the country in order to make gas industry a viable industry in Assam.

For maximisation of LPG in north-eastern region for saving fuel wood as also kerosene it is essential that we make good use of our LPG production. There are 1.5 lakh defence personnel in Assam out of whom 50,000 are covered by LPG. If all these Defence personnel are covered by LPG processes, 84,000 tonnes of the much needed fuel will be saved annually in Assam alone. But we feel that it has not been possible to be done. So, I implore upon the Petroleum Minister, who is a very respectable friend of mine and who is a very eminent personality, to look into this matter. We know that a particular click is playing out. They do not want LPG to be made available to Defence personnel, particularly in Assam.

Then, Sir, for some years now, the case of one particular official of a particular oil concern has been agitating the minds of the people and the Government of Assam. I

do not want to go deeper into the matter. I have so many times made it known to the Minister. I do not understand why one individual should stand in the way of good relationship between the Government of India and the people and the Government of Assam. If he is really so indispensable, if he is so highly efficient, his services should not be confined only to an oil company but elsewhere his services should be utilised in a more fruitful manner so that a wider sector is gained by his experience.

About Sibsagar, where barricading has caused much concern to all of us, I would repeat my request to the hon. Minister that he should kindly go to the spot and meet the people there. They are all agriculturists and when they lose their land, which is the only means of their livelihood, there should be something to rehabilitate them. There are certain other constraints also. So, I would implore upon the Minister to discover certain financial or other possibilities by which he will be able to do something tangible for these people whose only means of livelihood has been taken away for the oil industry.

Sir, I cannot resist the temptation of citing a couplet. Particularly I will request the Petroleum Minister to kindly lend me his ears :

The sun's rays come out in the North-Eastern region the earliest in the country. The sky there is covered with clouds. Though on most of the days all this is beautiful to look at but the most impressive spectacle in the North-East is the sunset.

May we hope that there will still be a brighter morning in the years to come.

[Translation]

SHRI ANOOPCHAND SHAH (Bombay North) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. While supporting the demands, I would like to put forward two or three suggestions, before the hon. Minister. I would like to put forward my suggestions, because all the Members who have spoken have said that the pending demands and the waiting list for LPG in our country is so large that one cannot say as to when this

waiting list would be cleared. However, if we take into consideration the licences that have been issued for manufacturing LPG cylinders and if all the factories go into production at their full installed capacity, I do not think that we would be able to lift all the cylinders manufactured by all the factories. We cannot lift because we have very less bottling plant capacity. We have gas in ample quantity and we have also issued such a large number of licences that we can have as many cylinders as we want. But we should expand the capacity of the present bottling plants and also set up new bottling plants. If we could arrange more and more cylinders, I am of the view that LPG cylinders would be easily available in the country and people would get gas without much inconvenience.

I want to thank the hon. Minister for one thing. So far as I am aware, LPG gas dealers had been coming to him for past some time for increasing their commission. He had given a good thought over it. Earlier the price of cylinder was Rs. 17.50 and now it is Rs. 55 to 56. The commission during this period remained unchanged. Now he has increased the commission but the burden has not been put on the consumers. This hike has been shared by the Government and the Oil Companies. I thank him for increasing the commission. While increasing the commission he had made a fervent appeal to the dealers that services should be improved to the satisfaction of the consumers. I do not know how did they react to it? I request that during his reply he may intimate the position to us. Did he ask them the above said thing and was their representation justified? If some one does a wrong thing he should be awarded the severest punishment. We are ready to do any thing for providing good services to the consumers. I hope some agreement must have been reached in this regard.

One thing more on this aspect. Prices of industrial gas have been increased a little. This might have been done to compensate the domestic consumers but it does have some effect on those poor persons in the big cities who do not have houses to live in, who take their meals in the hotels and sleep on the footpath. I am talking of my own constituency Bombay. Lakhs of people live and sleep on footpaths there

and take their meals in the hotels. With this hike, food for them has become costlier. About Rs. 25 to 30 per cylinder have been increased. Kindly think over it. The ordinary hotels, where ordinary persons eat their food need your consideration. I do not ask for concession for five-star hotels or 'A' Grade hotels but those for hotels where the poor who earn just Rs. 7 to 8, eat food. I hope that you will think over this matter.

One thing I want to say about kerosene. So far as I am aware we had taken a decision in 1980-81 that we would not give more distribution quota to any distributor and we would bring all of them at par. I think we had fixed a ceiling of 250 kilo litres. At that time also representations were submitted. There were people who had quota of 1500 to 2000 kilo litres and thus there was monopoly in Bombay. One has not to search for customers for kerosene. The commission is Rs. 89-90. You can imagine as to how much a person will be earning who has a quota of 1500 kilo litres. But a good decision was taken and a ceiling of 250 litres was fixed. You have also taken a decision that while allotting new agencies, preference will be given to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I want to submit that we should also see that whether the agencies given to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are being properly utilised or not? Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people are brought forward and exploitation is being done in their names. Big persons invest money and 'benami' agencies for kerosene are taken. I do not think there is so much bungling in any other department of the Petroleum Ministry—not even in the distribution of LPG agencies—as is in the kerosene distribution agency, because in other departments there are certain limitations whereas in kerosene distribution there are no such limitations. I also want to know as to how many kerosene distributors in Bombay possess a quota in excess of 250 kilo litres. He should give figures about this. Excess quota from such persons should be withdrawn and given to other categories, such as educated unemployed, disabled persons, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. They should be brought at par with others and ceiling of 250 kilo litres should be adhered to.

[Shri Anoopchand Shah]

I want to submit two or three things more. At present, maximum 'benami' transactions are going on in LPG and kerosens distribution. When we complain about this to the Department, they say that they are helpless and that the people themselves should detect such cases. It is not our duty to detect such cases. Our duty is to draw his attention and bring this thing to the notice of his officers. It is their duty and also the duty of the Vigilance Branch to apprehend such people, but the officers of his Department say that we should detect such cases. If we are to apprehend them then we will not come to him. We will get them arrested by the police. In that case there will be no need to come to him,

Six months back an LPG agency was allotted in my constituency. Though the investment has been made by a senior Inspector of Police but the agency has been taken in the name of a poor man. That man is being exploited. Therefore, what I want to say is that something should be done to check the allotment of 'benami' agencies.

Lastly, I would say that the way oil companies are behaving, it is necessary that this Ministry should have some control over the Chairman and officers of the oil companies. The way these persons are encouraging allotment of 'benami' LPG and kerosene agencies, is not good. It should be checked and necessary measures in this regard should be taken. After taking charge of this Ministry, the hon. Minister has taken effective steps and he has decided the cases which had been pending for quite a long time. I, therefore, once again thank him and hope that when he replies to the debate, he will say something on my suggestions.

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI (Khalilabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and congratulate the hon. Minister because his Ministry is earning good profit, whereas public undertakings are running in huge loss. This speaks of his efficiency. For example, the Petroleum Ministry earned a profit of Rs. 2404.36 crores in 1985-86 and in 1986-

87, the profit is expected to go up to Rs. 2802.27 crores.

It is no secret that in this era of modern technology, development is based on petroleum and petroleum products and it is therefore vital. The efforts being made by the Ministry to achieve self-sufficiency are laudable.

From the report submitted by the Ministry, it seems that the future is not very hopeful. It is estimated that during 1986-87, about 15.6 million tonnes of crude oil and 3.9 million tonnes of petroleum products will be imported. This will involve foreign exchange worth about Rs. 3050 crores.

Sir, in the same way, total imports of 17.34 million tonnes of crude oil and 4.9 million tonnes of petroleum products will have to be resorted to in 1987-88. This proves that imports will go on increasing thereby affecting our economy adversely. The hon. Minister should take effective steps so that in future imports are reduced and the progress of the country is not hampered.

In the Eastern Uttar Pradesh perspective, I submit that per hectare agricultural production is very low there. The reason is that the means of irrigation are totally inadequate in that region. And whatever sources are available cannot be utilised fully as diesel and petrol are not made available in time. During the irrigation season and during the natural calamities like floods etc., consumption of these items increases. Therefore, extra quota of these articles should be made available for that region so that the irrigation sources are fully utilised, which otherwise remain unutilised due to shortage of diesel.

Similarly, there is a fuel crisis in the whole country but in Eastern Uttar Pradesh there are districts whose fuel requirement is met solely with fire wood and cow dung. With the introduction of machines like tractors etc., the number of cattle has dwindled and with the ban on felling of trees in Eastern U.P., an acute problem of fuel has been created there. Therefore, I request that the criterion of 20,000 population for allotment of a gas agency should

be liberalised. In the districts of Eastern U.P. even if the population is 15,000 gas agency should be allotted. Maximum number of gas agencies should be provided there so that felling of trees is checked, forests are protected and at the same time fuel requirement of the people is met.

In this connection, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards flaring of the gas. The present position is that :

[English]

“As of now the country is using less than 11.5 million cubic metres of gas of the total of nearly 20 million cubic metres it produces daily. The rest is flared. In Bombay off-shore alone, valuable gas worth Rs. one crore is burnt every day.”

[Translation]

Sir, in Bombay off-shore alone, gas worth Rs. one crore is burnt every day. In this way, gas worth thousands of crores of rupees is burnt every year. I submit that immediate decision to set up bottling plants either in the public sector or in the joint sector should be taken. It is regretful that the gas is not being utilised just because of lack of bottling plants. On the one hand there is heavy demand of the gas for cooking purposes and for factories and on the other hand gas worth Rs. one crore is burnt every day. In this connection some urgent decision is required to be taken. If there is any hinderance due to non-availability of bottling plants, I would request that permission may be granted to set up a bottling plant in Khalilabad either in public sector or as a joint venture.

I may submit that a few days back when a farmer in Bokata village of Sahjanwan Development Block, which is contiguous to Gorakhpur district, was getting the boring for his tubewell done, suddenly flames started coming out of the well which could be extinguished after two days. This shows that there is possibility of gas reserves in that area. I request the hon. Minister that experts should be sent to this area to conduct a detailed survey and if gas reserves are struck, it will be a matter

of good luck for the country as well as for that region.

Several hon. Members have drawn attention towards a very important problem. I would also submit that though in the reports presented in the House it is shown that so many diesel retail-outlets and gas agencies have been allotted to the poor persons of the backward classes, but in fact I want to tell the hon. Minister—and he may be knowing also—that big people are running petrol pumps, diesel pumps and gas agencies in the name of members of the backward classes and the poor. The hon. Minister may kindly pay attention to the allotment of gas agencies in Basti district and should see that the quota fixed for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in regard to retail outlets is fulfilled and dealership of that person who is running it in ‘benami’ is cancelled.

Adulteration has also become a big problem. Kerosene and diesel are mixed with petrol and this is being done in the entire country. I had said earlier also and once again I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister in this august House that there are large number of people in the country who have dealerships of all the three items *i.e.* kerosene, diesel and petrol and thus it has been made very easy for a person to adulterated kerosene in diesel and petrol and to sell them in adulterated form. I, therefore, request that if there is any such procedure and some persons or their family members have all the three agencies, those should be cancelled. This should be adhered to strictly. There should be one type of dealership with one family.

One more submission I want to make and that is quite comprehensive. As the Oil Selection Board has not been constituted, diesel pumps has not been allotted for all the places. The result is that vehicles and engines are not running due to shortage of petrol and the requirement of thousands of persons is not being met. We have requested the hon. Minister in this respect but for some reason, this work has not been done so far.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) :
 What is the necessity of a Board for this. The hon. Minister should have the power to allot dealerships.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : No, then you will call to Minister corrupt.

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : My submission is that the Board should be constituted immediately and dealerships should be provided for those places for which advertisements were published two to three years back, because in the absence of dealerships the requirements of the people are not being met. The requirements should be met urgently. With these words I support the Demands for Grants.

[English]

SHRI K.R. NATARAJAN (Dindigul) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the AIADMK, I support the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. There is a production of indigenous crude oil to the extent of 30.34 million tonnes and natural gas to the extent of 3700 million cubic metres in 1986-87. This is a very good performance.

But we are importing a large quantity of crude oil and petroleum products from foreign countries. In 1985-86, we have imported 16518 million tonnes of petroleum products and we have to pay a sum of Rs. 4315 67 crores. Naturally, this will effect the exchequer. So, import has to be reduced. I understand the ONGC and the Oil India Ltd, are performing well independently. But I understand that there is a lack of coordination and cooperation between the two Corporation. So, there is a delay in exploitation of the production of crude oil in various places in the country.

The expert committee has stated that there is abundance of oil in Cauveri Basin on shore and off-shore area in Tamil Nadu. The Corporation should undertake exploration and production of oil in Cauvery Basin. This will help produce more oil and also this will give opportunity for labourers for their living. As a matter of fact, a well has been drilled in Narimanam in Tamil Nadu. It is found that there is abundant oil available in the well at

Narimanam. Yet, no production has been started so far. Production should be started as quickly as possible.

Another expert committee has stated that there is abundant oil in Gulf of Manner. The Ministry should take interest in exploration and production of oil in Gulf of Manner also quickly. The present system is faulty and not uniform. Petrol in Delhi costs Rs. 7.50 per litre whereas in Madurai it costs Rs. 8. There is a difference of 50 paise per litre. This will definitely affect the common people. There is hike in the price of petroleum products every year. Stability should be there. Unless there is stability in the prices of petroleum products, there will be hike in the prices of other essential commodities also. The living of the people depends upon petroleum products mostly. So, naturally, it will affect the prices of other essential commodities also.

So I request the hon. Minister to immediately take up exploration and production work in Cauveri Basin and Gulf of Mannar, especially the Narimanam where a well has already been drilled. Production of oil should be started immediately in the Narimanam oil well.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI KUNWAR RAM (Nawada) : Mr. Deputy speaker, Sir, while supporting the Demands for Grants presented before the House, I would like to repeat the words of hon. Member. Shri Virendra Patil who said that he was speaking not in anger but in anguish. Technology is expanding rapidly in this country and different kinds of vehicles have spread in the villages even. Now there is not a single villages where there is no scooter and where three wheelers do not go. Buses are playing and taxi's have also started going to villages. Under these circumstances, the demand for petroleum products have increased. The figures given in the report reveal the truth that today we have advanced by six to seven times as compared to the previous years. We have to import certain quantities of petroleum products and we are producing them indigenously also. The demand for

these products has been increasing in this vast country of ours at the same pace at which our farmers demand for diesel has been increasing. We have made provisions to use scientific techniques in farming. Farmers are being provided motor pumps, they are being given tractors. Under these circumstances, when we are inducing the farmers to adopt scientific methods in farming, the need for petroleum products is being felt there also. In such a situation, if we do not take speedy steps towards increasing production of goods, these motor vehicles and motor pumps will be jammed and they will have no utility. It will affect our production. Just now, Shri Virendra Patil has said that for the last 7 to 8 years, not a single refinery has been set up in this country. It is a serious matter. Whatever resources are available with you, the production can be increased with their help. You may please look into it. Our colleague said that the figures relating to Assam were really pitiable. The production capacity should also be increased there. A machine has been brought to increase the production in Barauni but it has not been put to use. It has stated rusting and therefore, has become useless. It is a sorry state of affairs.

Petro-complex for Barauni has been a matter of discussion for the last 15 years. It has caused frustration among the people of the area and is giving rise to their anguish. You want to shift it from there and take it some where else. I am afraid that if it is done, this anguish might turn into an agitation. You are not setting up the petro-complex in Barauni. Now-a-days machines are available there, but these are catching rust. These should be put to use. You can put the by-products to use. But it is a matter of regret that there is a proposal to shift it to some other place. We can put the machines to use by using bio-gas. Bihar is a backward State. There is no dearth of minerals in Bihar. You have never made efforts to explore the petroleum products there. Natural gas can also be found there. But you did not carry out exploration work. The backwardness of Bihar can be removed with the income that might accrue from these mines. But it is a matter of regret that we always call Bihar a backward State. One of our colleagues said that if Bihar made progress,

the availability of labourers at cheap rates come to a halt. To this I said that he would continue to keep the hon. Members of Lok Sabha from Bihar as cheap labourers. You are neglecting Bihar. You supply diesel to the farmers in the villages. The same arrangement is there in cities also. Why do not you entrust this work to villages people? They can fill it in big drums and take it to villages. They themselves will load the drums in their vehicles and take them to their villages. You will no longer require tankers and the problem of the villages will also be solved. Farmer is the backbone of our country's economy. It is the only way help can be extended to him and diesel consumption suitably regularised in the country. You transport a number of other commodities by trucks. Coal is transported by trucks. If they are allowed to carry it by their own vehicles or through their own mode of, the farmers will get diesel properly, their motor-pump will work, their tractor will run and it will definitely increase the production. This arrangement will be very much helpful in increasing the production of wheat, rice and other cereals in the country. It will generate a lot of wealth in the country. You do not pay proper attention towards this. The situation today is that most of the diesel pumps and petrol pumps have been set up in the cities and their adjoining areas, but not in the villages. Therefore, I want to make a suggestion that the farmer is right in saying that you send the diesel in canisters to the villages. They themselves will load the canisters on bullock-carts. You will not have to face any problem in this regard and the Government too will be relieved of bearing the cost of transportation. The only thing we want is that we may be issued the licence to carry it in canisters. It will make availability of diesel easy in the villages. There will be no black-marketing and the farmers will be benefited. When the canisters will enter the villages, only the farmers will take diesel from them. You should pay attention to it and make proper arrangement in this regard. As of now, you import petroleum product to the extent of 30-35 per cent of your requirement which consumes a large amount of foreign exchange. Therefore, you should ensure that it is not used illegally and its consumption is properly streamlined. If

[Shri Kunwar Ram]

you go importing raw material without ensuring its proper utilization, it is definite that the nation will be put to huge loss after some time. We feel that the petroleum products are not being consumed properly in the country these days and it is not in the interest of the nation. You should pay attention towards this also.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, now I want to make a submission about reservation. After every 10 years, you are extending the reservation policy. After all, for how long will you be extending this reservation for us? Our economic condition is not improving. If you give us some thing, the brokers grab 20 per cent of it. Some big people of the country manage to take licences in the guise of a Harijan or a Scheduled Tribe. Other people benefit at our cost. There are reasons for this. Hon. Minister, if you pay attention to our request, it will be helpful in our welfare, because I am myself a Harijan. In my constituency, a Harijan was allotted distributorship recently. But he is in a dilemma where to get money from to raise the structure. You allotted, him the distributorship all right, but he will have to depend on some richman for money so as to get his other works done. Previously it was the practice that the Petroleum Department themselves selected the site and made allotment on commission basis, be it a petrol pump or a diesel pump; all were being allotted on commission basis. You should revive the same practice. If you cannot adopt this practice for all, you can at least adopt it in the case of Harijans and the people belonging to Scheduled Tribes. They can be allotted outlets on commission basis.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now they are giving loans through banks.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS (Bhilwara) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, even loans are given after a great deal of difficulty.

SHRI KUNWAR RAM : They are not given loans even and ultimately he becomes

helpless and sells himself in the hands of some richman. In a situation like this, how you talk of their economic upliftment? Propaganda is being made in the whole country that Harijans are being uplifted. We are giving this thing and that thing to the Harijans but in reality, he becomes simply an employee and nothing more and does not get any benefit. Therefore, there is need to be a little bit careful in this matter.

The Government of India and the State Government are required to spend a lot of money for this purpose. If you want to make economic upliftment of Harijans a reality, if you want to provide them means, if you want to lift them above the poverty line, you will have to take concrete steps. Otherwise, you cannot claim that you have given reservation to Harijans and people belong to backward classes because in that case the reservation will never end. Until and unless you raise the poverty line above, the reservation will not end. If you try to end reservation, there will be agitations. Their condition has not improved even today. The procedures adopted to improve their condition, are faulty. Therefore, I say that the distributorship you allot for kerosene should be given to the poor, the people belonging to weaker sections and to the tribals. Then only poverty will go, otherwise poverty will not be eradicated.

You will have to bear one more thing in mind. When we were not independent, we managed the work of transportation through water transport system. Now a days, coal and diesel is being consumed in transportation. It is my submission to you that you may please give rapid boost to the work of water transport and lay a network of water transport in the whole country. If you do it, I do not think that there will a need to consume more diesel. This will save large quantities of diesel. The vehicle which starts from here reaches Calcutta after 7 days. But in water transport by a gust of wind, the boat will reach Calcutta from Allahabad in a day. A gust of wind will suffice to meet all your requirements.

[English]

SHRI E.S.M. PAKEER MOHAMED (Mayvram) : Sir, I whole-heartedly

welcome the demands for grants relating to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural gas for 1987-88.

Oil is vital for the growth of economy in this modern time and we have a commendable record in this front. Our crude oil production is around 30 million tonnes per year. With the expansion of oil fields, we would be able to improve the production which is now increasing only marginally every year.

We have also increased the natural gas production from 3315 million cubic metres in 1985-86 to 3700 million cubic metres in 1986-87. We have exceeded the latest figure in the current year. Gas finds in Cauvery basin are going to yield the best results.

I request the Government to tap these gas reserves without delay and distribute it to common men. Stocks of conventional fuel like wood and coal are fast depleting. Hence it is essential that we do not wait further to tap these resources to cater to our energy needs and to avoid dependence on other countries.

Sir, in Narimanam in Tamil Nadu there is good amount of oil wealth. At present there are three wells. I request the Government to allocate adequate funds for rapid expansion of oil drilling operations. The oil may kindly be used for the purpose of Tamil Nadu industry since the industries in Tamil Nadu do not get adequate electricity, particularly when the State is under severe drought.

The Government must also set up refineries in Narimanam oil field in Mayuram. This would enable many industries to come up and create employment opportunities. Therefore, early steps may be taken to establish refineries in Mayuram.

More and more branches of Indian Oil Corporation and other oil companies must be opened in Kumbakonam, Tanjapur and other districts of Tamil Nadu. The activities of exploration and drilling of oil must be expanded so that employment potential is created. I learn with pain that many of the vacancies reserved for Scheduled Castes

in oil sector companies are declassified into open category. This is a dangerous trend and defeats the very purpose of our socio-economic objectives enshrined in the Constitution. Declassification of vacancies reserved for SC community should not be done. All the vacancies for SCs must be filled from SCs.

If suitable candidates are not available then the Government may choose the better manpower available and train them. For this purpose they must start the selection process well before the vacancies arise. In the meantime, the persons can be trained and made fit for the job. If we cannot make men suitable for jobs then we are also not suitable for undertaking any other tougher tasks. Therefore, posts reserved for scheduled castes should not be declassified into open category.

Further, Sir, we must also adequately accommodate our physically handicapped brothers in public sector oil companies. Till today we have reservation for this category of persons only in Group 'C' and Group 'D' posts. Reservation must be extended to Group 'A' posts also.

I thank the hon. Prime Minister on behalf of the people of my constituency for his keen interest in setting up refineries in Narimanam.

With these words I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI P. NAMGYAL (Ladakh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while supporting the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, I would like to express my views before you.

It is a matter of regret that due to some agitations caused by students in Assam, there has been a severe cut in our oil production. It is said that at least crude oil worth Rs. 10 crores to Rs. 11 crores will have to be imported. The Government should pay attention towards it. It is also said that the students are agitating against certain officials. The Government should not make it to be a prestige issue and should try to solve it, so that country could be saved from the losses it is suffering on this account.

[Shri P. Namgyal]

As regards petroleum, it is not the problem of my constituency alone, but of the whole Himalayan region. The people are cutting the trees indiscriminately and using the wood as fuel. Due to this, rivers are flooded and we have to suffer losses and the people of the country also face hardship every year on this account. In this connection I want to make some suggestions. You should concentrate more on supplying L.P.G. especially in hilly and far-flung areas. It will be greatly beneficial to our country as also to the people of those areas. The tribal and hilly areas where you are supplying gas at present should be at least given subsidy in freight. Just as the F.C.I. gives subsidy on the freight in respect of food supplied to every district headquarters in the country. The poor people are getting ration at this rate all over the country. It is very necessary because the poor people can be extended necessary help through this system. Especially, those who live in hilly and far-flung areas can be provided a lot of relief through it.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You may continue tomorrow.

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : I beg to move :

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas be reduced by Rs. 100"

[Need to provide funds for the oil refinery at Mangaba in Karnataka] (1)

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to provide funds for more L.P.G. filling units.] (2)

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to have a gas pipe line connecting Bombay High and

Trivandrum via Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka Tamil Nadu and Kerala.] (3)

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to provide more petroleum outlets for Bombay.] (4)

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to supply L.P.G connection in rural areas also.] (5)

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to streamline the distribution of kerosene in the country.] (6)

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY :
I beg to move :

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas be reducee to Re. 1."

[Failure to attain self-sufficiency in oil and natural gas in the country.] (7)

"That the Demand the under Head Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas be reduced to Re. 1."

[Snail's pace in exploration of oil and natural gas in the country inspite of huge amounts being spent on exploration.] (8)

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to curb the tendency of large scale spending on imports of crude and petroleum products.] (9)

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to check the hike in prices of crude and petroleum products.] (10)

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas be reduced by Rs. 100."

[About the non-availability of kerosene in villages.] (11)

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Marginal increase in oil production in year 1986-87] (12)

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Enormous wastage in expenditure in ONGC and Indian Oil Corporation.] (13)

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Big gap in production of oil and the tall claims made by the ONGC and Indian oil Corporation.] (14)

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to start oil refineries in Andhra Pradesh.] (15)

"That the Demand under the head Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need for giving jobs for the people of Andhra Pradesh in ONGC.] (16)

"That the Demand under the head Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to check large scale pilferage of crude oil from oil fields and crude pipe lines.] (17)

"That the Demand under the head Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to formulate steps to augment production of oil] (18)

"That the Demand under the head Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to give licenses to educated unemployed for distribution of gas cylinders for cooking] (19)

"That the Demand under the head Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Discovery of oil in Krishna and Godavari Basin in Andhra Pradesh.] (20)

"That the Demand under the head Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to stop export of crude and also to reduce the import of crude and petroleum products.] (21)

"That the Demand under the head Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to allot diesel pumps and kerosene depots to economically backward educated unemployed.] (22)

"That the Demand under the head Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to avoid delay in payment of compensation for land acquired by ONGC in Andhra Pradesh] (23)

"That the Demand under the head Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to evaluate the performance of ONGC and Indian

[Shri K. Ramachandra Reddy]

Oil Corporation during 1986-87] (24)

“That the Demand under the head Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas be reduced by Rs. 100.”

[Need to provide upto date technology and machinery for offshore drillings] (25)

“That the Demand under the head Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas be reduced by Rs. 100.”

[Need to evaluate the working of ONGC and Oil with regard to offshore drillings] (26)

“That the Demand under the head Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas be reduced by Rs. 100.”

[Need to allot Petroleum dealership to educated unemployed who are economically backward.] (27)

“That the Demand under the head Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas be reduced by Rs. 100.”

[Need to check the wastage of natural gas explored in Andhra Pradesh] (28)

“That the Demand under the head Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas be reduced by Rs. 100.”

[Enormous wastage and damage caused to oil wells due to fire accidents] (29)

“That the Demand under the head Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas be reduced by Rs. 100.”

[Need for locating the office of ONGC in Andhra Pradesh either at Vijayawada or Vizag.] (30)

“That the Demand under the head Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas be reduced by Rs. 100.”

[Need to contain the enormous wastage of funds in maintaining guest houses by the Indian Oil Corporations] (31)

“That the Demand under the head Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas be reduced by Rs. 100.”

[Need to use gas as fuel for transport of vehicles like lorries, trucks, cars and buses.] (32)

18.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE—

Contd.

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Notification No. 164/87-Customs (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th April, 1987 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to titanium dioxide when imported into India from the basic customs duty in excess of 60 per cent *ad valorem* and from the whole of the additional duty of customs leviable thereon, under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962.

18.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, April 10, 1987/Chaitra 20, 1909 (Saka).