

12.58 hrs.

**BENGAL CHEMICAL AND PHARMACEUTICALS WORKS LIMITED (ACQUISITION AND TRANSFER OF UNDERTAKINGS) BILL—Contd.**

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** The House will now take up further consideration of the Bengal Chemical and Pharmaceutical Works Limited (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Bill.

**SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat):** Sir, I rise to support the Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceutical Works Limited (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Bill, 1980. So far as the object of the Bill is concerned, it is commendable. If you go through the statement of Objects and Reasons it will be evident that the Government propose to have this legislation in order to subserve the interests of the general public by augmentation of production and distribution of different varieties of pharmaceuticals and chemicals which are essential for the needs of the general public. Therefore, the public purpose for which this Bill has been brought forward is clear and I think it would have the support of the entire House.

Apart from this public purpose for which the Bill has been brought forward, there are other aspects also...

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** You can continue after Lunch.

The House stands adjourned till 2.00 p.m.

12.59 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the clock*

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Six Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

[**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair**]

**BENGAL CHEMICALS AND PHARMACEUTICAL WORKS LIMITED (ACQUISITION AND TRANSFER OF UNDERTAKINGS) BILL—Contd.**

Chitta Basu.

**SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat):** Sir, as I was saying before Lunch, this Bill is a step in the right direction. There are certain shortcomings in the Bill which I would like to point out. I admit that the Bill is a step in the right direction because our pharmaceutical and chemical industries,—particularly, the manufacture of drugs are being controlled by multi-nationals and this stranglehold of the multi-nationals over this very vital sector of our economy is not only injurious for the cause of the country's sovereignty but we are also paying a heavier and a higher cost for the drugs.

Today, in the morning, it had been pointed out by a large number of our friends that the scarcity of life-saving drugs and high prices for the bulk drugs are causing many hardships to the people of our country. The only way to get rid of this stranglehold of the monopolists, particularly, the multi-nationals, is to further strengthen the public sector in the manufacture of drugs, chemicals and pharmaceuticals. Having regard to this aspect of our economy in view, I consider that the step of nationalising the Bengal Chemicals is highly commendable and I welcome the Government's measure in this respect. It is in the context that this unit has been taken over in order to further strengthen the public sector in the manufacture of drugs, that particular object should not be ignored at any point of time.

Secondly, I trust that the hon. Minister has taken up this measure in recognition of the great role played by the Bengal Chemicals during the Swadeshi movement of our country. I am sorry to point out however that some hon. Members of this House have barely equated this with certain commercial enterprise—profit-seeking private enterprise—and have

spoken against the principle of taking over itself.

It is for them to have their own judgement. But I feel it is part and parcel of the national struggle of our country. Many freedom-fighters were the employees of this factory and they were imbued with the idea of spreading the idealism of 'Swadeshi' in our country. It is in the fitness of things that Government has taken steps to recognise that great role played by Bengal Chemicals and its founder Acharya Profulla Chandra Roy.

Having said this I want to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister to certain peculiar elements which have crept into the Bill itself. Sir, you are aware that there is a 'doctrine of pleasure' in our Constitution—Article 310. This 'pleasure doctrine' is a havoc. It is not only a heritage of the British Imperialism but is injurious for democracy. On an earlier occasion I had dwelt at length on it. On the basis of this doctrine the Governors are dismissed. Then this is even used to deal with the trade union movement of the Central Government and State Government employees.

Sir, whatever might have been the historical reason for incorporation of this doctrine in our Constitution never has it happened that this 'pleasure doctrine' gets place in the body of a Bill. Sir, you will be surprised to find that this Bill with such a commendable objective of nationalising a pharmaceutical and chemical industry has carried in itself that injurious and pernicious 'doctrine of pleasure'. On page 7 you will find 'hold office during the pleasure of the Central Government'. Then in relation to the appointment of custodian or custodians or a company, the Government is also suffering from indecisiveness—indecisiveness in respect of how to manage this newly taken-over unit. They want that there may be a custodian, there may be custodians and there may be also a company.

Sir, at this stage I want to say that it is not necessary to appoint a custodian. It is not necessary to appoint

custodians. Why should you not appoint a government company to become the custodian for the time being! Sir, in the matter of appointment of custodians, the basic idea is that they only want to appoint somebody who enjoys their confidence, their pleasure and do things at their bidding. This is only an opportunity which is provided for them to resort to political appointments. So, Sir, this is the very disquieting feature of this Bill which I wish to point out. Therefore, I do wish that the Government would reconsider this issue even at this late stage and take a firm decision with regard to the question of appointment of Custodians or the Custodian of a company. This is my first point. So far as my personal view is concerned, I am in favour of appointing a Government company to become the Custodian rather than separate custodian or custodians because this only leads to political appointments which may lead to further deterioration and mismanagement of the company. This Bill provides that the custodian will remain in office so long as he enjoys the pleasure of the Central Government. This is a most injurious aspect in the whole Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It seems that you are much allergic to the word 'Pleasure'. You hold office at the pleasure of the people of India.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: But here it is a question of the people. There it is a question of the pleasure of the Congress-I, the President and the Prime Minister.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Why be so much allergic to 'Pleasure'?

SHRI CHITTA BASU: No, I am not allergic, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Is it because of old age?

SHRI CHITTA BASU: There is another example of indecisiveness on the part of the Government. Somewhere in the body of the Bill it says 'Company—existing company or a new company'. Actually it shows that the

[Shri Chitta Basu]

Government has not decided its mind.—whether there will be a new company for this purpose or not, or whether the existing company will be allowed to be retained. Therefore, Sir, here is another point of indecisiveness in the matter of Government's position with regard to the Bengal Chemical Industries.

My next point is this: I could very well appreciate the concern of the Government regarding the welfare of the workers and employees who are employed in this unit today. What this Bill assures is merely the carrying on of the *status quo ante*. As my friends have pointed out, the Bengal Chemical Works have been the pioneers in the field of our Swadeshi Movement. The employees were not paid adequate wages at that time. Their wages were comparatively low. The employees worked there getting these low wages only because they had the idea of serving the motherland, serving for the welfare of the country. Therefore it is that they did not clamour for higher wages. They took it as a part of their life's mission and worked there. That being the case, the wage-level of the Bengal Chemical Workers were very much below the level of wages enjoyed by the Chemical, Pharmaceutical and drug industries in other parts of the country,—including those of West Bengal, I may point out. Therefore, disparity in wage-level exists today even. My respectful submission is that this Bill does not provide anything with regard to the matter of giving proper consideration to that aspect.

I would request the Government to see that when this Company is being taken over by the Government, they should see to it, that this Company becomes a Central Government Undertaking, that it becomes a unit at par with other Drug, Chemical and Pharmaceutical units under the Central Government. There should not be any disparity in wages between these employees and others similarly placed, for example, that of the I.D.P.L. and

so on. Would the Government give this assurance to the House? This is my submission. And then, lastly, I wish to say this much. As I have stated already, it is no doubt, a step in the right direction. This Bengal Chemical Works has got enough opportunities and potentialities for further development. And this can be achieved only if the Government takes vigorous steps in the matter of further modernisation of this unit; and by this way only this unit can become a nucleus for further development of the pharmaceutical industry in the north-eastern and eastern regions of the country as a whole. What is needed today is that they should have a comprehensive project in the matter of developing it, expanding it, modernising it, and converting it into a nucleus for the development of the pharmaceutical industry for the entire region.

Lastly, it has been pointed out that even after the management was taken over by the Government about two years ago, the company did not or could not earn any profit. That is a minus point and this is due to the fact that the Government did not cleanse the management itself. Many superannuated officers, many inefficient and corrupt officials were there. Having regard to that, the Government should see that a new management is brought in with men of energy, dynamism, persons who are incorruptible, who have got vision and commitment to the public sector philosophy. Instead of that if merely somebody is inducted there for the pleasure of someone, then that management cannot rise to the occasion and really act in a manner which is required in this particular respect.

With these words, I conclude and I hope that the hon. Minister would favourably respond to my suggestions.

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR (Ratnagiri): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, according to the Statement of Objects and Reasons, four grounds are mentioned as to why the Government felt it necessary to acquire this parti-

cular company. It has been mentioned that the company began to show steady decline and the commercial activity of the company stagnated from 1969-70 to 1971-72. Though it showed an upward trend till 1974-75, it started declining thereafter. Lastly, it is mentioned that the company was also mismanaged and, therefore, on 15th December, 1977, the Central Government took this particular concern for management. These are the reasons why the Government has come up with this Bill for acquisition of this company.

Now, if the grounds which are mentioned in the Statement of Objects and Reasons are true, real and genuine, I do support the Bill, but after going through the Bill, I have my own doubts as to whether these grounds are genuine and whether this Bill is a very clean bill. *Prima facie*, one feels that there is nothing in this Bill about which one could say something, but after going through the Bill, I feel that there are many things which this House should consider very seriously. It is mentioned that the original company was not properly managing the business. But I would like to ask the hon. Minister what the position is after the Government company came on 15th December, 1977. From 15th December, 1977 up to this day, nearly a period of three years has elapsed. There is no mention whether this Government company to whom the management of the original company was given did manage the business properly. I was expecting a statement to that effect during the speech of the hon. Minister, but no reference to it was made.

Secondly, was this company during these three years running at a profit and what was the commercial activity? In the absence of it, it is difficult for me to endorse clause 6 of the Bill. Clause 6 of the Bill mentions that after the acquisition, this very company will again be vested in the com-

pany which is running the affairs of the company for the last three years. In my submission, if this Government company which took over in 1977 was running this original company in profit, was managing the properties rightly, there were no losses, why did the Government feel the necessity of this Bill? And if, according to the Government, this company was not properly managing the state of the original company and not doing business properly why under Section 6, a provision is made in this Bill that after the acquisition, this very company will be vested in the existing company, for, we find on page 5 that the "Government shall vest in this existing company on the date on appointed date"? So, two points are there. If the existing company was not properly managing the properties because of which you are acquiring the property, it does not stand to reason that you should again vest the property in that company. And if the existing Government company was properly managing the company, the need for acquisition does not arise. I would, therefore, request the Honourable Minister to reconcile these two points and explain to this House as to why he felt the need and necessity for bringing this particular legislation.

Sir, the interesting point is that it seems, reading Section 7 of the Bill or Clause 7 of the Bill, there is something before the eyes of the Government.

Sir, Section 7 mentions that the Government may even form a new Government company and vest original company in the other company. What is this? Have you before your eyes certain panel of persons who are to be appointed to the new company? You want to create a new company. Why this existing company and new existing company? Have the original existing company which came to take up this particular thing in December, 1947, given them the entire management? Why this Section 6 and Section 7? I would, therefore,



*Works Ltd. (Acq. and Trans. of Undertakings) Bill*

[Shri Bapusaheb Parulekar]

request the Honourable Minister to explain why this new company, existing Government company and not the custodian, of course, to which I would come later.

Sir, the second point and a very important point is that the Government wants us to see a clause by which we are to burden the exchequer to the tune of Rs. 5,02,76,000. I respectfully submit for the Government and the Honourable Minister to lay on the table of the House a report as to who made this valuation, to circulate to all the Members the report on what basis we are to say 'yes' to this particular clause. It may be Rs. 10 crores, it may be Rs. 2 crores, but only because the statement is made that this particular property is worth Rs. 5,76,00,000.

Sir, speaking about the Bill, my friend said that we have no resources. We are wasting money like this. Mr. Basu it may be Rs. 10 crores. You may get more money. There must be satisfaction, before the vote, of testing properly and disbursing the grant of the Government of India. Without any date before us only because of this acquisition, the company is valued at Rs. 15 crores and 76 lakhs and we have to pay Rs. 2,000 per month from 1977. I respectfully submit that it will be very difficult. We are answerable to the people. People ask me after I go back to the constituency "On what basis you sanctioned Rs. 6.5 crores?" and I will have no answer to give. Therefore, when you come with a Bill of this particular type, it is absolutely necessary for the Government, Sir, to inform us about the details of this.

Sir, the last interesting point to which I would like to make a reference is that the Government had extinguished all the liabilities of the previous company, and also of mortgages, everything. I have nothing to say about it. But, in Clause 3 you

will find that the dates prior to 1st of April, 1979 are extinguished. How you have found out this particular day? Are there any favourite creditors of Government after 1st April, 1979? Who are these people. How many people are there? What is the amount? I would request the Honourable Minister to inform this august House as to what is the amount that is to be paid by the company to the creditors from this particular date, who are the creditors to whom the money is to be paid and how you have come with this date, the 1st of April, 1979, and not second day of April?

Sir, a reasonable suspicion arises in the minds of prudent men that there must be something fishy that some persons are to be obliged because their debts are not to be extinguished, their money is to be paid, the money that is prior to 1st April, 1979, is not to be paid. I, therefore, respectfully urge the Honourable Minister that it would have been better for him to come with this information.

I, therefore, respect full urge the hon. Minister that it would be better for him to come with all the information. At least, it was expected that he should have given us all the data in his speech. Now, I would request him that in his reply he should tell us about this particular point of view. If these things are explained in his reply, I support this particular Bill.

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR (Dindigul): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I, on behalf of my party, support this Bill. The Bill has been introduced in the larger interest of the public in India. The population increases in geometrical proportion. The disease also increases in geometrical proportion. Every day, we find a new and wonderful disease in India and elsewhere. The manufacturing companies are manufacturing various medicines. They also go in increasing by leaps and bounds. The poor man is becoming poorer and poorer. It is my duty

to say and point out to the government that a poor man in the street and especially in rural areas is unable to purchase or afford to purchase life-saving drugs and costly medicines. In many local newspapers and national newspapers, day-in-and day-out we are reading so many news items that poor men are dying since they could not afford to purchase costly drugs. Therefore, I plead with the government to take full control on fixation of prices of all drugs and medicines whether they are manufactured or prepared by our nationals or our countrymen or by multinationals or foreigners.

In so far as reduction of prices is concerned, in view of the increase in population and less of production, I don't think in the present state of affairs, the government could reduce the prices considerably to enable the public to purchase costly drugs, life-saving drugs and other medicines. Therefore, I request the government earnestly to produce more, encourage production of these medicines; and by not allowing private monopoly companies, they should still produce more.

In the Janata Government, we were aware that only 40 per cent of the multi-national companies were proposed or attempted to be nationalised. I request this government, competent government—so far as we are concerned, we think and hope that this government is able and capable to do it—to nationalise all the companies irrespective of multi-nationals or national companies. That is the only solution to produce more drugs and medicine. In this way, the government can afford to bring more drugs and medicines in the market and reduce the price and meet the demand of the public. In the Janata regime, when our friends were sitting here we were also making the same demand to the Janata Government when the recommendations of the Hathi Committee were presented by the House. During Janata regime, 40 per cent of

the multi-nationals were nationalised. Now, what about 60 per cent of the multi-nationals? The rest of the non-nationalised companies should be nationalised. Then only we can have a chance, an opportunity and the capacity to reduce the prices of these medicines and can enable the poor man to purchase these medicines.

We are told that prices are controlled by the Health Department. I would like to suggest to them that this theory that population increases by geometrical proportion which was there 200 years back is applicable even now. We should try to control the birth-rate. First of all, without controlling the birth-rate, whoever may be in the power, whether it is your government or myself or anybody else, whichever government comes or even if the devil comes, nobody, can control the prices which are going up like a rocket in the air. First of all, you must use all the machinery which you have used in the 20-point programme in 1976 unequivocally. You have declared the National Security Act. But the provisions of that Act are not applied to control not only the prices of medicines and pharmaceuticals but also the prices of cloth and other essential commodities. All these things are going on. People ask not only the Tamilnadu Government but also this government; our government is being questioned by the public and it is our bounden duty to reflect the opinion of the masses of workers and poor class people.

Adulteration is a crime which is more heinous than even the crime under 302 IPC. 302 covers cases where one fellow murders another fellow; two families or a few families may be involved in the murder case; a few families may be spoiled or destroyed. But if one commits adulteration, it is an offence against humanity; it is against national and international law. We are going to the doctors in hospitals and they give prescriptions

[Shri K. Mayathevar]

but if due to adulteration patients could get only poison from the stores and pharmaceutical shops, it is a very heinous crime. In 1976-77 you introduced a Bill to give penalty for adulteration, life imprisonment, 14 years. Now we are pleading repeatedly for death sentence for adulterators. I request the government to nationalise all the multinationals and the monopolies.

Stringent action should be taken against officials who have committed certain irregularities, want only did misappropriation in Bengal Pharmaceuticals. Hon. friends said some important points about this Bill from the bottom of their heart. Five crores are paid to that company. That amount should be spent by the Central Government in consultation with the state government. It should not be allowed to be paid by the custodian; it may be a politician or some bandicoot who spoiled that company. Old bandicoots should not be allowed to touch a simple pie. It is not your money or the Chairman's money; it is the money of the toiling masses. Therefore, you must take the utmost care to control this company by direct control in consultation with the state government. With these words, I support the Bill.

**SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE** (Jadavpur): We have supported this; no doubt about it. We have seen that immediately after the government takeover of the management, there was considerable improvement in the quantum of production and in the management efficiency. But recently there have been complaints of decline in the efficiency. I am sure after nationalisation, proper attention will be paid to the organisation. I wanted to know from the hon. Minister that so far as IDPL projects were concerned, at one time a decision was taken that in that part of India where pharmaceutical industry is almost non-existent except for one or two units which had become sick, the IDPL units would be set up in West

Bengal and land had been made available in Kalyani, sufficient quantum of land. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether that project is still being pursued or it had been scuttled or shelved. It is an important matter. I would request the hon. Minister to kindly look into it so that the project is carried into effect. A very important demand of the people of that area can be met by that.

**श्री राजनाथ सोनकर शस्त्री (सं-  
पुर)** : आदरणीय सभापति महोदय, बंगाल केमिकल्स की औषधियों के सम्बन्ध में यह जो बिल पेश किया गया है, मैं इस का स्वागत करना हूँ और साथ ही साथ मैं इस बिल के माध्यम से मंत्री जी का ध्यान इस ओर ले जाना चाहता हूँ कि औषधियों का निर्माण जिन्दगी का बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण मामला है। ज्यों ज्यों हम तरक्की करते जा रहे हैं, त्यों त्यों औषधियों की विचारधारा में भी परिवर्तन होता जा रहा है।

आजादी के पहले हम लोग जो औषधियाँ इस्तेमाल करते थे आज उनकी जगह बड़ी बड़ी औषधियाँ जो बड़ी बड़ी इंडस्ट्रीज में तैयार की जाती हैं ले लिया है। पहले जो यहाँ नहीं होती थी—अथर्ववेद की सूत्राओं में संघ पुष्पी पुर्नवा-काली मिर्च के बारे में स्पष्ट रूप से लिखा हुआ है कि यदि आदमी को सौ वर्ष तक जिन्दा रहना है तो वह इन औषधियों का सेवन करे। लेकिन आजादी के बाद हम सब लोगों को सौ वर्ष जिन्दा रखने के लिये अनेक दूसरी केमिकल, औषधियाँ निर्मित की जाने लगी हैं और अब हर आदमी उनका फायदा उठा रहा है। यह औषधियों के विचारधारा में बहुत बड़ा परिवर्तन हुआ है लेकिन इसके साथ साथ केमिकल इंडस्ट्रीज की भी अपनी विचारधारा में बहुत बड़ा परिवर्तन हुआ है।

केमिकल इंडस्ट्रीज जो मानव के जीवन के लिये औषधियों का निर्माण करती हैं और जिन्हे मानव पैसे के बल पर खरीदता है। कभी कभी यह सुना जाता है कि यदि डाक्टर किसी औषधि को लिखता है और पेशेन्ट बाजार में औषधि खरीदने के लिये जाता है या उसके परिवार के लोग जाते हैं तो वह औषधि बाजार में गायब पाई जाती है। वह औषधि या तो वहां होती ही नहीं, यदि किसी दवा वाले ने उसे छिपा कर रखा हुआ है तो वह उसका ब्लेक करता है और उसका चाँगुना पांच गुना दाम वसूल करता है। यहां तक कि कुछ औषधियों की जिनकी कि फैक्ट्री की किमत दो सौ रुपये होती है वे बाजार में दो-दो सौ रुपये तक में मिलती हैं। कभी कभी तो कम्पनियों द्वारा औषधियों में बड़ी भंयकर मिलावट भी कर दी जाती है।

गत वर्ष कानपुर का ग्लूकोज काण्ड पूरे देश में गूज उठा था। ग्लूकोज जहां से लाया गया वहां उसमें ऐसी मिलावट की गयी कि उसको लगाते ही बीमार मौत के घाट उतर गये। यह बड़े आश्चर्य की बात है। इसका अखबारों में हल्ला मचा और इसकी उत्तर प्रदेश की विधानसभा में भी गूज हुई। उग काण्ड का क्या हुआ यह तो मंत्री जी ही जानें लेकिन उस काण्ड में 80-85 आदमी ज़रूर मौत के घाट उतर गये और इस काण्ड को पूरा देश जानता है।

मान्यवर अभी मैंने आज से 22-23 दिन पहले एक डाक्टर की सलाह पर एक पेरीटन (Piriton) नाम की दवाई बाजार से खरीदी वह दवाई बनारस में पांडेपुर के एक बहुत बड़े मेडिकल स्टोर-एहसान मेडिकल स्टोर-से खरीदी थी। यह दवाई देश की एक प्रसिद्ध कंपनी ग्लेक्सो की औषधि है उसको खरीद कर जब मैं डाक्टर को उसे

दिखाने के लिए ले गया तो डाक्टर ने उसको हिला डुला कर देखा। दवा की उस शीशी में एक चींटा मौजूद था। यह ग्लेक्सो कम्पनी हिन्दुस्तान में ही नहीं विदेशों में भी दवाएं बेचती है और एक बड़ी लोकप्रिय कम्पनी है। मैं उस शीशी को जिसमें कि चींटा था, इस हाउस में पेश करूंगा। अब यह तो मंत्री जी ही जाने कि वे जाली दवाइयां हैं या असली हैं। मैं निवेदन करूंगा कि सरकार इसकी जांच करे। अभी इसकी सील भी नहीं टूटी है।

एक बात और बताना चाहता हूं। मेरे एक मित्र ने डेढ़ माह पहले एक औषधि खरीदी। वह सूर्या मेडिकल लखनऊ द्वारा बनाई गई स्प्रिट थी। उस बोतल को इस्तेमाल करने से पहले जब देखा गया तो उसमें मक्खी थी। वह भी मेरे पास इस समय मौजूद है। यह पता नहीं कि सारी इस प्रकार की दवाइयां बनारस में ही जा रही हैं या सब तरफ जा रही हैं। यह तो मंत्री जी ही बतला सकते हैं कि मंत्री जी मिलावट कर रहे हैं या सरकार ने इलेक्शन के लिये पैसा लिया है और यदि जनता सरकार के जमाने में यह मिलावट की गई है तो वह कांग्रेस सरकार के जमाने में कैसे आ गई? आशा है मंत्री जी इन सब बातों का उत्तर देंगे।

मैं सूर्या मेडिकल के बारे में बात कर रहा था। यह उत्तर प्रदेश की बड़ी प्रसिद्ध कंपनी है, जिसकी बोतल में मक्खी पाई गई है। सबसे आश्चर्य की बात तो यह है कि उस शीशी पर आबकारी डिपार्टमेंट के अधिकारी की मुहर लगी है और उसके सिगनेचर भी हैं। माननीय आबकारी मंत्री जी भी बैठे हुए हैं। वे आबकारी अधिकारी आई. ए. एस. पी., आई. पी. एस. होंगे। वे भी इसमें हिस्सेदार हैं।



[ श्री राज नाथ सोनकर शास्त्री ]

महोदय, यह इतना गंभीर मामला है। हम तो एक ससद सदस्य थे, हमने अपनी बात यहां हाउस में कही लेकिन देहातों में जो व्यक्ति होंगे, करोड़ों आदमी होंगे, जिनको इस प्रकार की मिलावटी दिवाइयां दी जाती होंगी, उनकी क्या स्थिति होगी? यह गंभीर मामला इस बिल से ज्यादा जरूरी है इसलिये मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से निवेदन करूंगा कि वे तुरन्त इन सब बातों पर ध्यान दें जिससे लाखों, करोड़ों आदमियों के साथ, उनकी जिंदगी के साथ इस प्रकार का जो मजाक किया जा रहा है वह समाप्त हो।

महोदय, मैं विशेष इस बिल पर तो नहीं कहूंगा, लेकिन इस प्रकार की जो मिलावट कंपनियों द्वारा की जा रही है उसके बारे में पुनः मंत्री जी से विनम्रतापूर्वक अनुरोध करूंगा कि वे इसे देखें। इस संबंध में यदि आवश्यक हो तो हम भी वे शीशियां उनके सामने प्रस्तुत करेंगे। मंत्री महोदय यह पता लगाएं कि इस मिलावट में सरकार का हाथ है या किसी व्यक्ति विशेष का हाथ है या किसी पार्टी विशेष का हाथ है?

आपने मुझे समय दिया, धन्यवाद।

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHR P. C. SETHI): I am very grateful to the hon. Members who have participated in the discussion on this Bill.

SHRI HARIKESH BAHADUR (Gorakhpur): Hon. Members say that I should support this Bill. I am supporting this Bill.

SHRI P. C. SETHI: Though it is very late.

Barring the exception of Shri Verma, who was opposed to the nat-

ionalisation of this Company, and for that matter to the word "nationalisation" itself, because he was of the opinion that nationalisation results in more losses and, therefore, nationalisation should not be resorted to, almost all the hon. Members who have stood up here have welcomed and supported the Bill, though of course they have pointed out the various defects and deficiencies which they have found in the Bill. I am thankful to Shri Mohammed Ismail, who has not only supported the Bill but, as the leader of the Company's union, has thrown open an invitation to me to visit this factory. I assure him that I would take the earliest opportunity to go there. . . (Interruptions) Now the invitation has been accepted, it would be difficult to withdraw it.

Coming to Shri Mulchand Daga, he has neither supported it nor opposed it, but he has not liked the general methodology of the Bill. He perhaps thinks that there is a ready draft available in all the Ministries, and that is put up here as a stereotyped Bill. He has pointed out that, according to the 1951 Act, the Government has the full authority to go into the affairs of the Committee, and that they should have done it much earlier. I do not know what he means, but if we go into the previous history of the Company, it was not doing badly. In the initial stages, as has been pointed out by various hon. Members, particularly from West Bengal, this Company has its foundation in the liberation movement of our country, and many of the employees of this Company have actively participated and helped the national movement. The very purpose of establishing this Company was a benevolent one, and that was to have the Indian pharmaceutical and drug industry established in that part of the country, which would provide the benefit of drugs and pharmaceuticals to Indians. Apart from manufacturing drugs and pharmaceuticals, it has also been making a hair oil.

**SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE:**  
 Cantherdine also.

**SHRI P. C. SETHI:** Yes, Cantherdine.

Shri daga was asking for details about the shareholders of this Company. The total number of shareholders of this Company is 3096. The shares held by the Life Insurance Corporation and Government agencies are 7428 and the rest are held by the general public. The authorized capital of this Company was Rs. 1 crore and subscribed capital Rs. 79.95 lakhs. Some hon. members, including Shri Daga, suggested that the shareholders should be paid back. The accumulated losses of the Company before the Government took over the Company in 1977, amount to Rs. 2.70 crores. Therefore, had the Government not come to the rescue of the Company and taken over the undertaking on behalf of the Government to run it, not only the entire share capital would have been wiped out but, if the Company had gone into liquidation, nothing would have been obtained. So, as far as the money of the shareholders is concerned, unfortunately, the position is they have lost much more than what they have invested.

As far as the question as to why this Company went into loss after the take-over is concerned, this question has also been raised by Bapusaheb. As far as the loss of the Company is concerned, I have pointed out that after taking over, as has been pointed out by various hon. Members, the Company has done fairly well. The losses of this Company decreased in 1978-79 from Rs. 197 lakhs to Rs. 97 lakhs. In 1979-80 they again increased to Rs. 148 lakhs. But in this particular year, Rs. 57 lakhs had to be given as a wage increase and therefore, this position was obtained.

As far as the overall turnover is concerned, the Company did very well indeed and the turnover in 1977-78 was Rs. 422 lakhs which has now come in 1979-80 to Rs. 841 lakhs. Therefore, whatever has been pointed

with regard to the management after the take-over, I have not gone into the details as to how these losses have come, but I can say that the overall performance of the Company after the take-over had not been bad because more money was injected, running capital was given and cash credit was given and this total credit which the Company got from various institutions like the United Bank, the Industrial Reconstruction Corporation of India etc. comes to about Rs. 263,00,000. Therefore, with the injection of this money, this Company tried to turn the corner and I am very happy to say that by and large the workers fared very well and they tried to build up the production by their very good work.

As far as the management is concerned, what Bapusaheb has referred to has been stated in the Bill till the affairs of the Company before the Government took over the Company in 1977 and not about the affairs of the Company after the Government took over. And therefore, when the Government had taken over this Company to run it, we were hopeful that we would be able to improve the affairs of the Company and perhaps if it is turned into a profitable company, we might not nationalise it. But, Sir, our hopes did not prove true and ultimately now the Government has taken the decision to take over the Company.

It has also been pointed out by some of the hon. Members, as for instance, Mr. Arakal asked me as to what were the findings of the Commission. He also asked that instead of investing so much, why should we not form a new company with Rs. 5 crores because it will be better; otherwise this amount of Rs. 5 crores which we are going to invest will again go into private hands. When I come to the scheme of payments, the hon. Members will realise that nothing is going into the private hands and therefore, this fear that this Rs. 5 crores will go down the drain is not correct. This Company

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has got vast lands and about what Bapusaheb has asked as to how the Committee came to the figure of Rs. 5.02 lakhs, as a matter of fact, looking into the cost escalation of the land which the Company has got at various places, the compensation could have worked out to even a bigger amount. But compensation now in terms of what the courts have decided is what the Government gives. It is an amount and therefore, we have not taken into consideration the escalated price of the land and the Cabinet has decided to give the compensation of Rs. 5 crores.

15.00 hrs.

When I come to the scheme of payment, I shall explain how this Rs. 5 crores is going to be disbursed.

Therefore, it would not be possible to have a company of this size within this amount of Rs. 5 crores. This company has got vast resources of land. A big building is going to come up on behalf of this company in Bombay, and it has got the resources and the capability to advance to become a much bigger public sector company. Our idea in taking over the company is not merely to nationalise it, but to streamline its management, production, availability of raw materials etc., to have very happy labour relations, to modernise it and diversify its production to the best extent possible so that it becomes a model unit for this part of the country which at one time was the pioneer in the chemical and drug industry.

Shri Narayan Choubey has said that this Bill should have come earlier. I agree that it could have come earlier, but ultimately he was happy, and we are all happy, that the Bill has come, and therefore this company's nationalisation has been welcomed by him also.

He also pointed out that the chief executive of the company is a mechanical engineer and is not a

chemical man. But he is a man of business administration, he was in Engineers (India) Ltd, and he knows administration. If, after enquiry, we find that the management is not good, certainly Government has the option and, as Mr. Chitta Basu described, has the pleasure to dismiss him.

It was also pointed out by Mr. Choubey that workers' participation should be ensured. We will try our best to keep up the morale of the workers.

As many hon. Members, including Mr. Chitta Basu, have pointed out, the disparity in the payment of wages between the IDPL workers and the workers of this company should be kept in view, and they should be brought on a par. We shall be certainly very happy to do it. I may inform Mr. Basu and Mr. Mohammed Ismail, who also happens to be the leader of the labour there, that after the take-over we have increased their wages and given Rs. 57 lakhs. So, it can be done in small doses. Otherwise, if we include the past payments due to the workers, the company may not have a good start. Therefore, till the company is modernised and it is able to turn the corner, they should not expect a sudden increase. I hope they would continue to co-operate. We on our part will try to do our best to see that all the public sector companies under the roof of the Central Government are paid on the same lines. This is our ultimate objective.

A question was raised by Mr. Halder about supply of raw materials, and particular mention was made of mutton tallow for which in a particular year the company had to spend Rs. 50,000 more. This article is usually imported through one of the subsidiaries of the STC, and in that year that subsidiary told us that they would not be in a position to get it and asked us to go into the local market for purchase. The tenders were invited. Unfortunately, the

imported price of mutton tallow is cheaper than the given price in India. Therefore, the company had to pay Rs. 50,000 more. But we will try and see that in future, through the company which is now nationalised, such things are not repeated.

The hon. Member, Mr. Chitta Basu, also asked as to who will be appointed as the Custodian and as to why the Government should have the pleasure. He asked: Will they appoint somebody whom they like and not appoint somebody whom they do not like? This is the way, generally, the bills are framed. But I am happy to inform the House and, particularly, Mr. Chitta Basu who has raised this point that the Government is going to appoint a Government company, namely, SSPL as the Custodian. Therefore, the fear that we are going to appoint a particular person according to our pleasure should not be there. The Custodian will function only till such time a new Government company is formed. Here, I would like to refer to Clause 6 for the benefit of the hon. Member. It says:

"Notwithstanding anything contained in sections 3 and 4, and subject to the provisions of section 7, the Central Government may, if it is satisfied that an existing Government company is willing to comply,"

This Clause is not as if we are undecided. But before we plunge into this question, we have framed the clause in a manner so that the Government's satisfaction is obtained before we decide this question, whether a new company is to be formed or an existing company is to be allowed. As far as the Bill is concerned, the clause by clause position of the Bill is quite satisfactory.

As far as the "amount" arrived at is concerned, the Evaluation Committee consisted of eminent persons, Dr. P. R. Gupta, Adviser (Drugs), Shri D. K. Jain, Deputy Adviser, the Bureau of Public Enterprises, Shri

S. C. Basu, Registrar of Companies, Shri Shyamal Banerjee, Marketing Officer, the Hindustan Fertilisers Ltd. and Shri B. K. Keayla, O.S.D., the Department of Chemicals. They arrived at an amount which was about Rs. 7 crores. But, as I said, it was ultimately decided to give Rs. 5 crores and four thousand.

As regards the scheme of payment which we have envisaged, the position is like this. We have provided in the Bill that there will be priorities and in terms of those priorities the payments would be made. In addition to the Custodian, there will be one person who would make these payments after assessing everything. The first category of persons who are likely to be paid, the top most priority, would be the wages, the salaries and other dues of the employees of the company for the post-take-over period as well as arrears in relation to the wages, the salaries, the provident fund and other dues of the employees for the pre-take-over period. Therefore, this is the first priority which will go out of Rs. 5 crores and odd. This amount is quite substantial. It may be in the vicinity of Rs. 71.27 lakhs. The second category would be the loans advanced by the Central Government and interest due thereupon. This is again a substantial amount which is about Rs. 165 lakhs. This is the second priority which will be on the payment to be made.

The third category would be loans advanced by banks and financial institutions, guaranteed by the Central Government, and interest due thereon and this will be Rs. 90,70,000/- Credit facilities for the purposes of trade and manufacturing operations etc. would be Rs. 87.91.000/-

Therefore, these are the various priorities that we have fixed and, in terms of these priorities, payments would be made and this new company would be formed if it is found necessary. Keeping the sentiments of the



[Shri P. C. Sethi]

hon. Members in view, we will try our best to retain the same name of the company. Even if a new company is to be formed, we will try to find out whether we can retain the same name and nomenclature of the company in order to keep intact the historical association connected with this name.

With these words, I am very thankful to the Hon. Members . .

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE.  
What about IDPL?

SHRI P. C. SETHI: That question does not arise out of this. Similarly the question which Shri Ramavatar Shastri mentioned also does not arise out of this. But I may say that we have not yet taken a final decision. West Bengal would be definitely kept in view when we finally plunge into the decision of having public sector drug units in various parts of the country. I can assure the hon. Member that we will do our best to keep West Bengal also on the map.

Regarding the points raised by Shri Shastri, they are also important, although not connected with the Bill, because if there is any 'Makhi' in the medicines, it is a most undesirable thing to happen and if the medicines available in the market are adulterated, that is also very unfortunate. It is an unfortunate coincidence and rather a tragedy of events that whether it is Glaxo Peritone or whether it is Surya Medical Spirit—whatever type of things Mr. Shastri went to purchase in the market, he either found a cheater or a 'Makhi'. Most of the people who have been purchasing these medicines of the company have not made these complaints. But I do believe that what Mr. Shastri says should be correct.

श्री राजनाथ सोनकर शास्त्री : 'हो सकता है' नहीं बल्कि 'है' ।

SHRI P. C. SETHI: I said it should be correct; I did not say it is 'likely' to be correct.

Although I am not concerned directly with the adulteration problem, he need not produce the bottles in the House. We can certainly take up the matter with the Health Minister and we will try to do our best to find out the particular reason. I can assure him that every Party does take donations for Elections, but as far as medicines are concerned, medicines are lifesaving drugs and we have never touched medicines or the medical field for this purpose.

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR:  
The hon. Minister has not replied to one point. With your permission I would say this is important. I am highly obliged to you for replying to all points, but I made out a last point as to how you have arrived at the date 1st April 1977—i.e., extinguishing all the dates—and whether the priorities which you just now gave to the House take into consideration the liabilities that are created after 1st April 1979. If you refer to sub-clause (3) of Clause 5, it says:

"(a) save as otherwise expressly provided in this Act, no liability of the Company in relation to its undertakings, in respect of any period prior to the 1st day of April, 1979, shall be enforceable against ."

How have you arrived at this date and what about the liabilities before this date? The priority figures which you gave are all after 1st April 1979

SHRI P. C. SETHI: The Hon. Member had the fear that there is something fishy in arriving at this date. All that I wanted to clear was in terms of the categories which I have just now indicated before the House and also the amounts which I did not want to disclose at the first instance because this might unnecessarily create some problems for those who are not in the range of getting anything. Therefore, I would like to point out that in regard to the categories which I have pointed out, whether it is salary, loans advanced by the Central

Government, loans advanced by banks, credit available for various purposes, etc., the loans will be repaid...

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR:  
They are after 1st April 1979.

SHRI P. C. SETHI: As far as wages and salaries are concerned, wages, salaries, provident fund and other dues of the employees are for the pre-takeover period also.

15.15 hrs.

[SHRI HARINATHA MISRA in the Chair]  
Therefore, as far as wages and salaries of the workers are concerned, it is not only the cut-out date of 1979 but also the pre-takeover date.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall now put the motion for consideration to the vote of the House. The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the acquisition and transfer, in the public interest, of the undertakings of the Bengal Chemical and Pharmaceutical Works Limited, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we take up clause-by-clause consideration. I think, to Clause 2 to 10, there are no amendments given notice of. I shall put them together to the vote of the House. The question is:

"That Clauses 2 to 10 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 2 to 10 were added to the Bill.*

Clause 11—(Duty of persons in charge of Management of Undertakings) of the company to deliver all assets etc.)

*Amendment made*

Page 7, line 24,—

2390 LS—10.

for "the manner in which" substitute—

"the manner in which the management of" (1)

(Shri P. C. Sethi)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is: "That Clause 11, as amended stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 11, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

*Clauses 12 to 16 were added to the Bill.*

Clause 17—(Payment by Central Government to the Commissioner)

*Amendment Made*  
Page 10, line 39,—

for "the said account" substitute—  
"the said deposit account" (2)

(Shri P. C. Sethi)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is: "That Clause 17, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 17, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are no amendments to Clauses 18 to 22. I shall put them together.

The question is:

"That Clauses 18 to 22 stand part of the Bill".

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 18 to 22 were added to the Bill.*

Clause 23—(Disbursement of money by Commissioner to Claimants.)

*Amendment Made:*  
Page 13, line 2,—

for "such claims" substitute—  
"such claim" (3)

[Mr. Chairman]

Page 13, line 3,—

for “such amounts are due” substitute—

“such amount is due” (4)

(*Shri P. C. Sethi*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

“That Clause 23, as amended,

stand part of the Bill.”

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 23, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

*Clauses 24 to 33 were added to the Bill.*

*The Schedule was added to the Bill.*

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula, the Preamble and the Title were added to the Bill.*

SHRI P. C. SETHI: I beg to move:

“That the Bill, as amended, be passed”.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

“That the Bill, as amended, be passed”.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): Sir, we support the Bill. But I felt the compulsion after hearing the Minister's reply. The point is that the reply that the Minister gave about the management of the company, I do not feel that he has done enough home task on it and how very important the re-organisation of the management is from the point of view of making this company a success probably he has not properly appreciated. Because of only that I rise to speak.

Sir, All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) was the first and foremost champions for its taking over and nationalisation. The Minister would do well to see what was the big enthusiasm created by the workers led by their unions which brought this big improvement in production in the first two years. Even after that if the government money is not spent correctly then it is the management of that company which is responsible and in

that a big role has been played by the Chief Executive of Bengal Chemicals. It is good you have made another government undertaking the custodian but that does not automatically mean that that custodian will take up a new set up. In reply to Shri Narayan Choudhary's remarks the Minister's answer is that this gentleman who is now the Chief Executive of Bengal Chemicals though a mechanical engineer, is experienced in administration and he is such and such. It shows that the Minister holds a brief for him.

Sir, all of us got a psychological moment in Bengal Chemicals when as a break-through the Government took over this company. Now, when we are passing the Bill, if you do not make up your mind to give another big psychological boost to these very workers who defended government money by adopting a clear-cut attitude towards the old management and Chief Executive Officer about whom they are complaining so much, the things will not improve. You have said that you will have investigation. I am afraid these investigations take such a long time that the entire psychological moment is gone and lot of money is wasted. That is why I am particularly requesting you to understand the urgency of it and not take long long time for this very necessary re-organisation. I would request you to call for the workers' representatives and listen to them and take a quick decision. This is my specific request.

Sir, one or two more points and I am done. You were very kind to say about the IDPL unit in West Bengal which you have in your consideration. As soon as I hear the word ‘consideration’ I get very much allergic. Shri Hidayatullah was quite right when he said that when it is only ‘consideration’ it means that the files are lost. When it is ‘active consideration’ it means the file has been found. So, your ‘consideration’ may mean that the file is lost. So, I do not know when it will come into active consideration. Our experience with relation to Haldia petro-chemicals is very bad. You are coming to Haldia on 28th and, I hope, you will make a categorical announce-

ment that you have given the licence. Secondly, this IDPL from 'consideration' when will it become under 'active consideration'?

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री (पटदा) : सभापति जी, मैं बंगाल कैमिकल एंड फार्मास्यूटिकल वर्क्स के राष्ट्रीयकरण के विधेयक का हार्दिक समर्थन करता हूँ और इसलिये करता हूँ कि इस कम्पनी का सम्बन्ध राष्ट्रीय आन्दोलन के साथ बहुत गाढ़ा था और मैं अपने को राष्ट्रीय आन्दोलन का एक सीपाही मानता हूँ। इसलिये यह मेरा कर्तव्य और धर्म हो जाता है कि सरकार जब इसे ले रही है तो इसका जितनी खुशी के साथ समर्थन किया जाये वह करना चाहिये।

यह ठीक ही कहा गया है कि इस कम्पनी का सम्बन्ध स्वदेशी आन्दोलन से अन्योन्याश्रित रहा है और उन दिनों इस कम्पनी में साबुन, तेल और दवाइयाँ सब बनती थीं। हम लोग उस जमाने में कांग्रेस के वालेन्टियर थे, हम चाहते थे कि इसकी बनी हुई ज्यादा से ज्यादा बनी हुई चीजें लोग खरीदें और इसको प्रोत्साहित करें क्योंकि यह स्वदेशी आन्दोलन का एक पार्ट एंड पार्सल था। जब आप इतनी बड़ी कसर्न को, संस्था को अपने हाथ में ले रहे हैं तो इसको एक राष्ट्रीय स्मारक समझकर लें और इसकी उन्नति के लिये जो भी संभव हो करें।

इस सिलसिले में मैं यह भी जरूर कहना चाहता हूँ कि इसके मैनेजमेंट में, प्रबन्ध में ऐसे ही लोगों को रखें जिनका विश्वास राजकीय क्षेत्र के दर्शन में हो, उसमें विश्वास करते हों निजी क्षेत्र के दर्शन वालों को मेहरबानी कर के इस तरह के कारखानों में मत डालिये, नहीं तो वह इसे खान्सीकर समाप्त कर देंगे और यह घाटे में जाकर लिक्विडेशन में चला जाएगा।

आपने इसकी चर्चा की कि हम मैनेजमेंट को ठीक रखेंगे, अगर कोई गड़बड़ी होगी तो तुरन्त कार्यवाही करेंगे लेकिन शुरु से ही ऐसे लोगों को इसमें रखें, जो इसमें विश्वास रखते हैं।

आखिरी बात मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि यहां जो दवाएं अब बनती हैं, क्या मैं उम्मीद करूं कि उनके अतिरिक्त जो बहुत सारी जीवन रक्षक दवाएं हैं उनका उत्पादन भी इस में होगा। यह हम जरूर मंत्री महोदय से एश्योरेंस चाहेंगे कि राष्ट्रीय स्मारक के रूप में जिस संस्था को हम पुष्पित और पल्लवित करने जा रहे हैं, इसके जरिये हम जनता की जिन्दगी को बचाने वाली कुछ दवाएं भी उत्पादित कर सकेंगे या नहीं?

इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं इस विधेयक का हार्दिक समर्थन करता हूँ।

श्री मोहम्मद इस्माइल (दरकपुर) : सभापति जी, मैं सिर्फ इतना ही कहना चाहता हूँ कि लाइफ सेविंग ड्रग्स जो यहां तैयार की जायें, मेरा कहना यह है कि सर पी० सी० राय के जमाने में बंगाल कैमिकल की जो मशहूर दवाएं होती थीं, उनको पहले शुरु किया जाये। उसके एक्सटेंशन के बाद यह काम करें।

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, to the best of my knowledge, I think, I had not said anything which should have provoked Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee. All I said about the management was this, that the person holding the affairs of the company at the moment is not only a Mechanical Engineer, but a Business Administration man also. About the need to have greater home-work into the affairs of the management is concerned, I can assure the hon. Member that when we go into the question of forming a new company or continuing with the old



[Shri P. C. Sethi]

company we will examine the set-up of the existing management and see how far they have fared, in the past two or three years and if we find that they have been lacking in management or if there is anything wrong about them, we would not hesitate to remove them. She has also suggested that the workers' representatives should be taken into confidence and be asked about the affairs of the company. I assure her that we would certainly do it.

Shastriji has said that the persons who are holding the management of this company should have an outlook of managing the public sector companies, they should not be persons who are interested to carry on the interests of the private sector. I assure him as also the entire House that we will put in such persons who believe in the public sector and who would like to do work in the public sector industriously.

With regard to the expansion of the company, I have already said that our first task would be to modernise it, and the second task would be to diversify it. And as has been suggested by Shri Mohammed Ismail, whatever patent medicines were being produced by this company based on the formulations or prescriptions given by Dr. Roy, we would certainly try our best to manufacture them in big quantities and varieties. Secondly, when we go in for further expansion of these things, we would also keep in view the suggestion given by Shastriji that some life saving drugs should also be produced in this company.

As far as the IDPL and Haldia units are concerned, I am going to Haldia on the 28th along with the Chief Minister and we hope we would be able to do something about the problems they are facing in Haldia, particularly when you are asking for a new unit there. Our old unit of Fertilizers is stranded there; we are paying wages for nothing because the power is not available.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: The file is lying with your Energy Minister. He is busy correcting 'Who is Who'.

SHRI P. C. SETHI: If we are assured of all the cooperation and help, we would certainly try and do our best whatever we can do for Haldia. Now, it would not be desirable as wanted by Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee that I should go there and announce something on the 28th when the House is sitting. If I do that, you will put me in the dock here. So, I do not want to do that.

I again thank the hon. Members and request that the Bill, as amended be passed.

SHRI ANANDA GOPAL MUKHOPADHYAY (Asansol): Sir, I am thankful to Shastriji for pointing out the association of Bengal Chemicals with the fight for freedom of the country. One thing has perhaps been missed, and that is the association of the greatest scientist of the day, Dr. Pratulla Chandra Roy. I would request the hon. Minister to commemorate the memory of this great scientist, who was the founder of this company and also a pioneer in the chemical industry in the whole of country. While keeping the interests of this company, I hope, the hon. Minister will take care to commemorate the memory of this great personality.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is: "That the Bill, as amended, be passed".

*The motion was adopted.*

15.40 hrs.

#### HIGH COURT AND SUPREME COURT JUDGES (CONDITIONS OF SERVICE) AMENDMENT BILL.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up the High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill. Shri Shiv Shankar to move.