

11.02 hrs

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:—

"I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on Monday, the 24th May, 1976, adopted the following motion in regard to the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee of the Houses on the adoption of Children Bill, 1972—

"That the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Adoption of Children Bill, 1972, be further extended up to the last day of the Ninety-seventh Session of the Rajya Sabha".'

11.03 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS THIRTY FIRST REPORT AND MINUTES

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO (Chattrapur): I beg to present the following Report and Minutes of the Committee on Petitions:—

- (1) Thirty-first Report.
- (2) Minutes of Seventy-eighth to Eighty-second sittings.

11.24 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. COMMENCEMENT OF COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION OF CRUDE OIL IN THE BOMBAY HIGH

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a statement on the commencement of commercial production of crude oil in the Bombay High.

Statement

I have been keeping the House informed of the progress in our efforts at oil exploration and production in the Bombay High offshore area. Bombay High is an extensive field and if we had followed the normal course of appraising the potential of the structure, drawing up a techno-economic plan for its development and then drilling the production wells, it might have taken four to five years before commencing commercial production from the field. In order to minimise the gap between discovery and the commencement of commercial production, we took certain special steps with the advice of our Consultants and telescoped the appraisal of the structure and the commencement of the first stage of production. As I have mentioned on other occasions, this field, on being fully developed, can yield oil at the rate of 10 million tonnes per annum. This potential would be achieved in five successive phases, so that by 1980-81, the full production potential would be established. Bombay High was discovered in February, 1974 and I am glad to inform the House that commercial production commenced on 21st May, 1976 i.e. in a period of about 27 months. This is considered to be a highly satisfactory rate of progress by international standards. The ONGC deserves our congratulations for this achievement and so do the consultants and collaborators who have helped the ONGC in this task. The Two wells which are on production would be acidised in a few days time and the flow of oil then is expected to improve considerably higher. It would have been perhaps proper for us to withhold this news till our production per well had increased after acidisation. But the House is well aware of the excitement which the oil news creates especially amongst those who are diligently engaged in this thrilling pursuit.

It would be worth while recalling the assistance that we have received from various parties in this effort. The first

Bombay High (Stat.)

reminder to us with gratitude is the marine seismic survey conducted with the help of a Soviet seismic survey ship during 1964-66 which was on its way back to the Soviet Union after the week that it had to do in our south seas. Detailed seismic and reflection surveys were conducted thereafter with the help of C.G.G. of France and Geophysical Services International of U.S.A. Mitsubishi Soji Kaisha Ltd. of Japan built the Sagar Samrat for us and it was this drilling vessel that discovered oil in the Bombay High structure in February, 1974. For the conceptual Plan for the first phase of the development of Bombay High, we had C.F.P. of France and GEOMAN of U.S.A. as our consultants. Credit is due to the scientists and technicians of ONGC for finalising the Plan. The designs were reviewed by the Engineers India Limited while McDermott of Dubai fabricated the platform and also installed the platform, the SBM and inter-connecting submarine pipelines. The SBM were supplied by the Dutch. Shipping Corporation of India has provided the tanker "Jawaharlal Nehru" which functions as the storage tanker for the Bombay High oil.

I would be failing in my duty if I did not express at this juncture my sincerest gratitude for the constant support and encouragement which I have been receiving from not only our Prime Minister and my other colleagues in Government but also from Members of this august House for all our programmes of the exploration and development of the country's oil resources. I must also in all humility state that while what we have been able to achieve is most gratifying, it only represents a fraction of what still remains to be done in this field. In spite of great advancement in the techniques of oil exploration in all its phases a discovery of hydrocarbon field both on shore and offshore is still mixed up with many imponderable problems. Drilling ultimately proves the positive or negative aspect of all efforts of explorers. I am, however,

Restructuring of HSL (Stat.)

confident that success so far achieved will inspire and spur us to spare no effort in the country's exploitation of required quantity of oil and gas within the shortest possible period.

11:05 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. STRUCTURING OF HINDUSTAN STEEL LIMITED

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a statement regarding restructuring of Hindustan Steel Limited.

Statement

As the Honourable Members are aware, the question of restructuring of Hindustan Steel Limited in the context of the formation of Steel Authority of India Limited had been under the consideration of Government for quite some time. Hindustan Steel was originally incorporated in 1954. At present, it has five major operating units under its control—three integrated steel plants at Bhilai, Rourkela and Durgapur, the Alloy Steel Plant at Durgapur and Coal Washeries at Dugda, Bhojudih and Patherdih. The Fertilizer Plant at Rourkela is a part of the steel plant complex.

2. The functions of HSL are essentially confined to planning, direction, control and provision of advisory services to the steel plants and other units under its control. However, when Steel Authority of India was formed in January, 1973, it was envisaged that gradually the work being performed by HSL should pass over to this new Holding Company so that there would be only three tiers operating viz. the Ministry, SAIL and the steel plants/undertakings. There is accordingly at present a certain amount of avoidable over-lapping and duplication of work between SAIL and HSL. This is not in the interest of efficient functioning of large enterprises on sound business and commercial lines.