

Both of us are interested in this. He is a scholar because he has written books and I have read them and I can also call myself one in so far as I have written books. I shall try my best to take necessary follow-up action.

With these words, I have great pleasure in requesting the House to pass the Bill, as amended.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

“That the Bill, as amended, be passed”

The motion was adopted.

— — —

14.45 hrs.

OILFIELDS (REGULATION AND DEVELOPMENT) AMENDMENT BILL

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & CHEMICALS AND MINES & METALS (DR. TRIGUNA SEN) : I beg to move:

“That the Bill further to amend the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948, be taken into consideration.”

Under Entry 53 of List I—Union List—of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, legislation towards regulation and development of oil-fields and mineral oil resources continues to be the responsibility of the Union Government. This responsibility had been borne even earlier by the Union Government and the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act was enacted in 1948 for the purpose. The Petroleum & Natural Gas Rules, 1959, framed under sections 5 and 6 of the said Act, and amended from time to time, stipulated that royalty at the rate of Rs. 7.50 per metric tonne of crude oil and casing-head condensate and at 10 per cent of the value at the well-head of the natural gas obtained by the lessee, shall be paid.

The Prime Minister has now been pleased to give her award which provides for an increase in the rate of royalty payable for crude oil, etc., from Rs. 7.50 to Rs. 10.00 per metric tonne, with effect from 1st January,

1968. This enhanced rate has, therefore, to be applied not only to leases granted in future but also retrospectively to all leases with effect from 1st January, 1968. Now to give legal implementation to the Award, the Government have been advised that it is necessary to make appropriate provisions in the Act itself for imposing a liability to pay enhanced rate of royalty in the leases. Hence, this amendment.

The Bill incorporates a small amendment in the existing statute. I hope that the same will meet with the approval of all sections of the House.

SHRI SRINIBAS MISRA (Cuttack) : On a point of order. This Bill provides for collection of taxes...

AN HON. MEMBER : Royalty.

SHRI SRINIBAS MISRA : Taxes are also there. It is said here, ‘the levy and collection of royalties, fees or taxes ...’.

This is purely a Money Bill, whatever may be the original Act. But the recommendation of the President is not there. Article 117(1) says :

“A Bill or amendment making provision for any of the matters specified in sub-clause... shall not be introduced or moved except on the recommendation of the President and a Bill making such provision shall not be introduced...” etc.

I do not find the recommendation of the President in this Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We have got Bulletin Part II, dated the 15th May, in which the Vice-President acting as President has given his recommendation.

SHRI SRINIBAS MISRA : That is all right.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved : “That the Bill further to amend the Oilfield (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948, be taken into consideration.” Mr. Hazarika.

SHRI J. N. HAZARIKA (Dibrugarh) : This Bill has been introduced to show that the royalty in the real sense is to be enhanced from Rs. 7.50 to Rs. 10. Though it is seemingly so, I do not think that the real royalty is being proposed to be enhanced by this Bill. Sir, now oil is mostly available in Assam which is a very backward State. The Wanchoo Committee recently reported that Assam is one of the backward States. Only yesterday Government informed the House in reply to a question that Assam is a backward State. Assam being a backward State, more priority should be given to it than to those States which are advanced.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : Sir, I rise on a point of order. Yesterday I wanted to raise it but I could not do so because we were just having the obituary references. Sir, we do not know whether some people who have gone out of the Congress, have formed a group in the name of Congress. I have nothing against Dr. Ram Subhag Singh but the whole thing is that it is something strange, rather ridiculous that the ruling Party is Congress and the Opposition is also Congress. Of course, the Election Commission has decide which is the Congress now. I admit they have all been elected on a particular symbol—right from Mrs. Indira Gandhi to Dr. Ram Subhag Singh. But they have actually bifurcated and the reasons are known to everybody. They claimed to be 64, but yesterday the voting figure showed 50 or 52. Whatever it is, they are more than the required number for an Opposition Party—I admit.

Now, the point is that there was a ruling given by Shri Mavlinkar previously and the ruling was that if a motley group of some people want to join together and form into a group, they shall not be recognized as the official Opposition group. For instance, Dr. Karni Singh and his group in which my friend, Shri Tenneti Viswanatham, is also there, claimed to be much more than the Swatantra Party in number and they requested the hon. Speaker, your predecessor, repeatedly that they should be recognised as the official Opposition Party because they were more, but they were not recognised on the one ground that they did not fight the election on a particular symbol. Of course,

that does not apply here. Here they contested on the same symbol. But in a House of 520, how can the ruling Party be the Congress and the Opposition Party also is Congress. It is a contradiction. If they can possibly call themselves 'Congress' and add something just like when the Communist Party divided, one was called CPI and the other was CPI(M). we can understand that. (Interruptions) I do not attribute motives to any one. The question is very simple. I want to have a ruling from you or from the hon. Speaker if you cannot decide it. If they want to declare that they are Congress and these people are also Congress and in between there is no opposition, we are all wiped out. We cannot understand this that the Ruling Party is Congress and the opposition is also Congress. They should call themselves Congress (Nijalینگappa) and Congress (Indira Gandhi). That I can understand. There must be something. There should be some name to this Party. Otherwise, the Swatantra Party, though I dislike them from the very core of my heart, is Party No. 1.

SHRI SEZHIYAN (Kumbakonam) : In this connection, I would suggest for the convenience of the Members that the CPP can be called the Congress Party in Power and the others can be called the CPO or the Congress Party in opposition.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Some new name should be given to them. I want your ruling on this.

श्री सच्चुल गनी डार (गुडगांव) : आपके रुलिंग देने से पहले मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि श्री बनर्जी जानते हैं कि काँग्रेस टिकट पर जो कामियाब हुए। .. (व्यवधान)

[श्री श्री عبدالغنی ڈار: آپ کے روٹنگ دینے سے پیٹھ میں کہنا چاہتا ہوں کہ شری بنرجی جانتے ہیں کہ کانگریس ٹکٹ پر جو کامیاب ہوئے۔]

श्री सच्चुल गनी डार : मैं हम रुलिंग में श्री बनर्जन साहब की मद्द करना चाहता हूँ।

[श्री अब्दुल गनी डार]

कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी हकीकत में मुल्क को अपने हाथ में लेना चाहती है। कौन नहीं जानता कि इस वक्त तक कांग्रेस पार्टी वही है जिसके प्रेसीडेंट श्री निजलिगप्पा हैं। (व्यवधान)

[श्री अब्दुल गनी डार :—] मैं इस रोलक में जिरूमि
 मर्यादा की मदद करना चाहता हूँ—किंगडम पार्टी की सत्यता
 में एक को अपने हाथ में लेना चाहती है कौन नहीं जानता
 कि इस वक्त तक कांग्रेस पार्टी वही है जिसके
 प्रेसीडेंट श्री निजलिगप्पा हैं (द्विबोधक)।

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Why should he bring in Nijalingappa's name here ? He is not a Member of this House. We are not talking of Nijalingappa here.

सभापति महोदय : मि० डार, आप बँट जाइए। (व्यवधान)

SHRI ABDUL GHANI DAR : I am addressing the Chairman and not Shri Randhir Singh.

श्री रणधीर सिंह (रोहतक) : ये कांग्रेस से फंके हुए हैं। ये तो गंध हैं जोकि कांग्रेस से फंके हुए हैं। (व्यवधान)...

SHRI ABDUL GHANI DAR : I protest against what he is saying. I am addressing the Chairman.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE (Batul) : I rise on a point of order...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let me dispose of one point of order, and then he can raise his point of order.

श्री अब्दुल गनी डार : जिस पार्लियामेंट्री बोर्ड ने इनको नामजद किया उससे ये बागी हो गए। इधर के लोग वफादार हैं। धीरे जो वफादार हैं वही कांग्रेस है। (व्यवधान)...

बाकी वे बागी हैं, देशद्रोही हैं, कम्युनिस्टों के भरोसे पर हुकूमत करना चाहते हैं। (व्यवधान)...

[श्री अब्दुल गनी डार :—] मैं इस रोलक में जिरूमि
 मर्यादा की मदद करना चाहता हूँ—किंगडम पार्टी की सत्यता
 में एक को अपने हाथ में लेना चाहती है कौन नहीं जानता
 कि इस वक्त तक कांग्रेस पार्टी वही है जिसके प्रेसीडेंट श्री निजलिगप्पा हैं (द्विबोधक)।

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE : I rise on a point of order. MR. CHAIRMAN : Let me dispose of one point of order. Then he can raise his point of order.

SHRI TENNETI VISWANATHAM (Vishakhapatnam) : May I make a submission ?...

MR. CHAIRMAN : No. I do not want to hear any more on this.

SHRI DHIRESWAR KALITA (Gauhati) : On a point of order...

MR. CHAIRMAN ; No, I am not allowing it.

SHRI DHIRESWAR KALITA : I am raising a point of order, and you will have to hear it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let me dispose of one point of order and then I shall hear him. First, I have to give my ruling on the point of order raised by Shri S. M. Banerjee.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Shri Abdul Ghani Dar is the manager of the Syndicate.

SHRI ABDUL GHANI DAR : He is the back-door stabber.....

SHRI SRINIBAS MISRA : Before you give your ruling on the point of order, we

want to submit on the point of order from different angles.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have to give my ruling on this point of order first. If he has another point of order, he can raise it afterwards.

SHRI SRINIBAS MISRA : I want to make a submission on this point of order from other angles.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is only one angle.

SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA (Begusarai) : A very important issue has been raised in this House by way of this point of order. You should kindly hear the various points of view on this.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The point of order is this that the Congress Party has split up into two, and the other side is sitting opposite near the Opposition. The very fact that seats have been allotted to them by the Speaker shows that the Speaker has recognised this party.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Under what name ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : They have called themselves 'Congress-Opposition'. That is the name given in the letter.

SHRI SRINIBAS MISRA : You are giving your ruling without hearing us ?

SHRI RANDHIR SINGH : They are the loyal Opposition to our Party.

SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA : May I know whether one party can be simultaneously a party in power and also a party in the Opposition ?

SHRI DHIRESWAR KALITA : The same party cannot be in the Government and in the Opposition. How can you give this ruling ?

SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA : I want your ruling as to whether the same party can be in Government and also be simultaneously in the Opposition. This is a point for your ruling.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : You may refer the matter to the Attorney-General.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not to be referred to the Attorney-General. It is a matter for the Speaker to decide in his own authority as the head of this House that these people will be recognised ; they have been allotted seats because they have been recognised by him. Whether they belong to one party or another does not come in here.

SHRI SRINIBAS MISRA : Will the Speaker recognise us if we sit on the Treasury Benches ? Will I be justified in sitting there and asking for recognition ?

15 Hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If he applies, then he may.

SHRI SRINIBAS MISRA : That right cannot be given to the Speaker. The Speaker is not allowed to do like that.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Speaker's ruling cannot be challenged in this House.

SHRI SRINIBAS MISRA : It is a question of the people, the constituents who have elected the people as the Opposition and as Government. They are in power and also in the Opposition. Bullocks are here and bullocks are there, and where are we to go ? We are the Opposition really ? On both sides, we find bullocks.

SHRI P. M. SAYEED (Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands) : What is the name of that party ?

SHRI SRINIBAS MISRA : We are making a travesty of democracy.

SHRI SEZHIYAN : May I know whether the party's name is Congress-Opposition ? Congress-Opposition would mean that the party will be perpetually in Opposition.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : They can do one thing.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I do not want to hear any more on this.

SHRI S.M. BANERJEE: I am not raising any controversy. I bow to your ruling. Since the seats have been allotted, and the Swatantra is there, the Sangh is there and the Syndicate is there, they can call themselves the 'Syndicate Ltd'. That should be the proper name.

SHRI RANDHIR SINGH: They are the most loyal Opposition to our party.

श्री अब्दुल गनी डार : **

श्री स० मो० बनर्जी : **

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, order. These observations will not be recorded.

Interruption)

Order, order. If Shri Abdul Ghani Dar goes on in this manner, I shall not allow him to speak for ten days. Let him resume his seat now.

श्री कंबरलाल गुप्त (दिल्ली सदर) : चेरमन साहब डिफिकल्टी में हैं कि कौंसिस किसको कहें। इनको कहें या उनको कहें। 21 की वकिंग कमेटी में 10 इन लोगों के साथ थे और 11 उनके साथ। यह 10 नम्बरी कौंसिस में है।

SHRI SRINIBAS MISRA: I am moving a motion to the effect that the entire conversation and cross-talk between Shri Dhar and Shri S. M. Banerjee be expunged because it was so vulgar.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have already said that those remarks should not be recorded.

SHRI J. N. HAZARIKA: In this Bill, it is proposed to raise the royalty from Rs. 7.50 to Rs. 10 per metric tonnes. In the real sense, there is no increase. The Assam Government used to get Rs. 11.65 per tonne of crude oil before. Thereafter, Oil India came in the public sector. The refineries did not want to pay more of royalty. Therefore, there had been a serious objection from the Government of Assam. The Assam Government wanted acceptance of a liberal royalty rate, say, Rs.

15. But the Government of India very vehemently opposed it. Then Government of India as well as the Government of Assam agreed that the price should be formulated by the Prime Minister. This was in 1962. That Prime Minister is no longer there in this world. Since 1962 many years have passed. The rate should have been reasonably altered. Rs. 10 is not at all sufficient and is no encouragement to a poor State like Assam. Therefore, this rate of Rs. 10 per metric tonne should be revised and there should at least be a moderate increase to Rs. 12.50.

There is a lot of controversy about the pricing of oil. As you know, many things have been said concerning the pricing of crude oil, indigenous and imported. Ultimately, of course, something is decided. But we are concerned here with indigenous oil. I appeal to the Government that Rs. 10 per tonne is really very insufficient because oil is now being struck in very thickly populated areas, very well-developed areas of cultivation and other surface properties. People there have been gravely affected. In my own constituency, Oil India has got all the wells dug. Many people have been displaced from there. They have not been well-compensated. Even if you pay ten times compensation for the property lost by them, that will not be real compensation because they have had to leave their hearths and homes and go elsewhere. Elsewhere also they are not being provided properly. Many of them are in the forests. Forest land is not available to them. The Forest Department does not allow them to occupy that land even for a day. Unclassed forest land is not available to them. Revenue land is not available to them. Even wasteland is not given to them. There are many people who have been gravely affected in this way. But if thereby the State Government is benefited, they are prepared to suffer.

They have been giving voluntarily their land to Oil India. Likewise, they also gave voluntarily lands, rather homes, to the defence department when there was Chinese aggression. When there was required land for military purposes, people voluntarily came forward to give their land. By all

these acts the whole of India, not only Assam, will benefit. The demand of the Government of Assam for increased royalty on crude is quite justified and if you make it just Rs 10/- per tonne, you will be doing an injustice to the claim of the people of Assam and their Government.

In my constituency the fertiliser plant is coming up in the public sector and people are happy. They are giving their lands as in the case of O.I India for exploring oil. There have not been adequately compensated. There are a number of representations pouring in and their claims were not settled in a fair and just manner; they were not even heard. I hope the home Minister will direct the Oil India Corporation and the refineries as well as Oil India where they have a majority share as also the Fertiliser Corporation at Namrup to consider the claims of the affected persons fairly and justly. In conclusion, if the Bill is amended I shall support it; if the schedule is not amended on the lines I suggested, I shall oppose it.

SHRI BISWANARAYAN SHASTRI (Lakhimpur) : I rise to support this Bill. It is a consequence of the revision of royalties which is paid to the different States where oil is drilled. Previously royalty was paid at the rate of Rs 7.5 per metric tonne and after a review the rate has been raised to Rs. 10 from 1st January 1968. The Government has come forward with this Bill to enable them to pay this enhanced royalty to the different oil producing States and so that they could also fix and collect fee, etc. from the parties who are drilling oil in different State. In Oil India Ltd. the Government of India have fifty per cent shares and the agreement entered into by the Government of India with that company provides that the financial directors should always be from the B.O.C. The foreign company took advantage of this provision to manage things in such a way that huge amounts had been diverted to foreign countries.

I do not see any reason why it should not be merged with the Oil and Natural Gas Commission, which is a national organisation, and which is also doing similar work in other parts of the country. What is the reason behind it that the BOC which is the dominant partner in Oil India Limited

is entrusted with the task of drilling oil in certain parts of our country? I suggest, therefore, that the Government should make up its mind to nationalise that company also. In other words, I would like to suggest that Oil India Limited should be merged with the Oil and Natural Gas Commission so that the benefit can be ploughed back to this country for the larger benefit of the people.

So far as the royalty is paid to the States is concerned, it is not quite sufficient. So far as my State of Assam is concerned, quite a good number of wells have been drilled there and oil is also being drilled from these wells, and as a result, the lands which have been cultivated by the cultivators have been taken away; the cultivators have been evicted from those lands and they are to be resettled somewhere else. It has become a burden on the slender resources of the Government of Assam. Therefore, I would like to suggest that the royalty that is to be paid to the Assam Government should be increased; as has been suggested by my friend Shri Hazarika, it should be at least Rs. 12.50 so that there is some compensation that the State Government can have from oil companies and with those amounts, the State Government can do something for the rehabilitation of those people and do other beneficial work for the benefit of the people.

Therefore, while supporting this Bill, I would only suggest these two things; that the Government should nationalise the oil industry and along with it, they should increase the rate of royalty from Rs. 10 to Rs. 12.50. With these words, I support the Bill.

SHRI R. K. AMIN (Dhandhuka) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I understand that this Bill is a necessary consequence of fixation of royalty, because of the Prime Minister's award, that is, the price be raised from Rs. 7.50 to Rs. 10. So, it has been necessary to introduce this Bill.

Now, if this is the only reason and that is why this Bill is introduced, there is nothing to oppose on our part provided the hon. Minister is ready to consider it as a temporary measure. Because the present system is basically wrong, if we allow this system to continue, from time to time we will have

[Shri R. K. Amin]

such Bills before Parliament and we will have to amend them from time to time and without our having any opportunity on the part of Parliament to discuss the merits of case. Instead of that, what I suggest is that this may be considered as a temporary measure and the Ministry should be ready to introduce a permanent Bill in which the system of fixation of royalty should be revised.

You may ask why I consider this system as a wrong one, and why I want a new system which will change the basic pattern. For example, from time to time, the Prime Minister will decide and give her award as to what is the right price or royalty. It may be that a State might be with the Congress and the Centre also may be with the Congress and they might offer the job of fixing the royalty to the Prime Minister and she might accept it also. But now we know that all the States are not Congress States ; some States may be or may not be having Congress Governments. Which Congress also is a doubtful thing. In that system, if it is handed over to the Prime Minister to decide at what level the royalty should be fixed, probably you will be handing over too much political power and executive power to the hands of the Prime Minister. Any State with a non-Congress Government will be in difficulty. Even political power is likely to be misused in fixing the royalty. It may be said, "If you side with me, I will give you a higher price. Otherwise, I will give you a lower price." Such a possibility must be removed.

When the Prime Minister gives the award, because she is the Leader of the House and when it comes before the House, it becomes difficult for us to change it. One has to take it for granted. There is no basis or principle involved in its fixation. One has merely to say whether he agrees or disagrees. Why should this situation prevail where Parliament has no say and only the executive has a say ?

The principle which has been accepted is also wrong. While fixing the price it may well be the case that the price for Gujarat is higher and that for Assam is

lower. When royalty is to be paid you say it is Rs. 10 for both States. Even if the value of the rupee goes down, only Rs. 10 will be paid for 4 or 5 years. Therefore, royalty should be as a percentage of the value of the oil or gas, so that even when the price or value changes you need not revise the royalty. It shall continue to be the same percentage as before, whether it is 10, 15 or 20 per cent.

You are fixing the royalty in the case of natural gas and oil. But there are other States which have other natural resources. Why should you adopt a separate principle for those States ? I recommend that there should be an independent body for fixing the royalties of all the natural resources available in the country, whether it is coal, oil, natural gas or any other thing. If there is an independent body, some coordination will be maintained between the different royalties paid for different natural resources. Such an independent body will also ensure that it is taken out from the Prime Minister's fold and from the political sphere.

I once again submit that this Bill should be considered as a temporary measure and after a year or two, the hon. Minister should bring out a permanent measure incorporating the system of paying royalties as a percentage of the value and also setting up an independent body for fixing the royalties for different natural resources in a coordinated manner. If that assurance is given, I have no objection in accepting the Bill.

*SHRI G. VISWANATHAN(Wandiwash): Mr. Chairman, Sir, though there was inordinate delay in introducing the system of interpretation of southern regional languages into English and Hindi, I am grateful to the hon. Speaker and to his Secretariat for having extended to us this facility of speaking in our mother-tongue. (Interruptions)

The Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill, 1969 has been introduced in this House today and through this Bill the royalty payable for crude oil has been increased from Rs. 7.50 to Rs. 10.00

*The original speech was delivered in Tamil.

per metric tonne. This enhanced rate is made applicable retrospectively from January, 1, 1968. This Bill has been brought forward after a delay of two years. In spite of that, I extend my support to this measure.

Under sub-section 3 of Section 6A of this Bill it is stated :

“Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1) or sub-section (2), no royalty shall be payable in respect of any crude oil, casing-head condensate or natural gas which is unavoidably lost or is returned to the reservoir or is used for drilling or other operations relating to the production of petroleum or natural gas, or both.”

I specifically refer to this provision because I feel that this puts a premium on wastage. As a Member of the Public Undertakings Committee I happened to tour Gujarat. We saw many oil installations of O.N.G.C. in Gujarat. We found to our dismay that natural gas was being wasted unnecessarily. We saw the natural gas burning into smoke and becoming part of blue clouds. I request that the Ministry should find out some method of conserving this gas so that it can be sold to people as a fuel or possibly it can be exported also. This natural gas being wasted now should be converted into a revenue-earning product. I request that the Ministry should take proper steps in this direction.

I would refer now to some of the grievances conveyed to us by the agriculturists of Gujarat, whose land was being acquired by the Government of the purpose of oil exploration. Firstly, the Government is acquiring more than the required area of land for this purpose. Secondly, the compensation paid to them is insufficient; the compensation is not being paid in proportion to the value of land acquired. Thirdly, even this small compensation is not paid in time; it takes years for the agriculturists to get this money. They are made to suffer both ways — they lose their land and they don't get money also in time.

As I come from a family of agriculturists I can boldly say that an agriculturist will never be prepared to part with even a cent of land to anyone. Here, land in excess

of the requirement is acquired. I bring to the notice of the hon. Minister these grievances and request him to see that land in excess of requirement is not acquired from the agriculturists. They should be paid the compensation in time.

I will now come to another important point. All of us know that our country is rich in its natural resources. Now, it has been proved beyond doubt that India can become self-sufficient in oil in not too distant a future. That means India is rich in its oil resources. We have been hearing about off-shore drilling in Cambay for so many years. We do not know whether we have succeeded in exploring oil there. Cambay and Assam are not the only parts in India where oil is available. Sometime back, exploratory work was undertaken in the Cauvery Sedimentary Basin. It is not that wherever you drill you will get oil. You may be disappointed in some wells. But we should continue to explore the adjoining areas. I would like to mention here the need for conducting geological survey more extensively throughout the country. In whatever region it may be, if there is a slight indication of oil, then the Government should make intensive efforts of exploration there.

With these words, I support this Bill and conclude my speech.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Sir, we are thankful to the chair for this achievement of the Lok Sabha Secretariat. I hope interpretation in other languages will also follow soon.

SHRI V. KRISHNAMOORTHY (Cuddalore): Sir, we are very much indebted to the hon. Speaker as well as the Government for providing simultaneous translation of these languages.

SHRI RANDHIR SINGH: There should be arrangement for the simultaneous interpretation of the Harayanvi language also.

SHRI DHIRESWAR KALITA (Gaubati): Sir, I wanted to speak in Assamese.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please speak in English.

SHRI DHIRESWAR KALITA : There is no provision for simultaneous translation of Assamese ; so, with this protest, I am speaking in English.

I welcome this Bill brought forward by Dr. Triguna Sen. I want to preface my speech by saying something about Assam. Assam is the main oil-bearing State in India and had the opportunity of having the first refinery in India as also the first public sector refinery. Last month 9 lakh people of Assam went to jail for demanding a second public sector refinery. The Government of India had set up an expert committee to go into this. The expert committee has submitted its report but the decision of the Government has not yet been announced in this behalf. I would request the hon. Minister that the Government of India should announce the decision within a short period of time so as to mitigate the grievance of the people of Assam.

According to statistics supplied by Government of India, Assam has at present 68 million tonnes of crude oil. For so many years the Government of Assam has been demanding a revision of the royalty on it. The Government of India ultimately sent it for an award to be given by the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister has come out with an award of Rs. 10. Instead of Rs. 7.50 now they have increased it to Rs. 10. The Government of Assam was demanding Rs. 15 as royalty but they have given only Rs. 10.

You know, Sir, Assam is a backward State. It has got rich potentialities but no industry. Even the tea gardens, which are owned by the British or the Indian monopolists of the Syndicate and Swatantra side, have their head offices in Calcutta. Even income-tax goes somewhere else and not to Assam, because the headquarters are situated either in Calcutta or in Patna or in Bombay.

Geographically, Assam is a valley in between two hills. It is a small State with a small population. But it has rich potentiality under the soil of Assam, of oil, coal and other minerals. Assam has always been suffering and paying the highest. The Government of India has now increased

the royalty of Rs. 10 per metric tonne. I am afraid, consequently, the oil price will also rise. I apprehend that. Today, in Assam, we are paying the highest for any oil product, for kerosene, for petrol, for diesel, though we produce crude, refine crude and we sell it. But we pay the highest according to the Persian Gulf Parity Theory, the Supplemental Agreement, which has been in existence since 1961 between the Oil India Ltd. and the Government of India.

This Agreement should be changed. I have been demanding in this House for the revision of the pricing system for which the Shantilal Shah Committee was appointed to fix an award. The report has been submitted to the Government on which they have not yet taken any decision. They should do something about that.

What I am apprehensive of this is that with an increase of Rs. 10 royalty, though the Assam Government may get more money, the consumer in Assam will have to pay more. The rise in the rate of royalty may result in the rise in price of finished product. So, I want an assurance in this House that the Government of India will not allow any increase in the price of any finished product.

I do not want anything more to add. While welcoming the Bill, I want the hon. Minister to clarify the points that I have made.

***SHRI J. H. PATEL (Shimoga) :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for the opportunity you have given me to speak in this House and that too in my own regional language, Kannada.

Since I came to this House, I have been agitating for the introduction of simultaneous translation of the speeches rendered in regional languages. At long last this scheme has now been introduced. I should be thankful to the Ex-Speaker Mr. Sanjiva Reddy and also the ex-Deputy Speaker Mr. Khadiikar who heeded to my appeal for the introduction of simultaneous translation. My persistent appeal has borne fruit.

*The original speech was delivered in Kannada.

Now that we can speak in our regional languages in this House, it will be possible for us to express our view points in our own languages. For the ex-Speaker Mr. Sanjiva Reddy, ex-Deputy Speaker, Mr. Khadiikar as also to the Secretary Mr. Shakhder, I owe a deep debt of gratitude for the arrangements that they have now made for introducing this simultaneous translation of regional languages.

*श्री रणधीर सिंह (रोहतक) : "हरियाणवी" भाषा में भाषण दिया ।

SHRI HEM BARUA (Mangaldai) : While congratulating the hon. Speaker for having introduced simultaneous interpretation for different Indian languages, I would say that it was a mistake on his part not to have introduced it for Assamese and Oriya...

AN HON. MEMBER : Bengali also.

SHRI HEM BARUA : For Bengali, it is not there ! Provision should have been made for all these languages.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I expect the hon. Member to speak on the Bill before the House.

SHRI HEM BARUA : About this Bill, although the enhancement of the royalty is not in commensurate with the demand made by the Governments of Gujarat and Assam, I would welcome this Bill with mixed feelings. I have some serious objections to certain provisions in the Bill.

The rate of royalty in respect of any mineral oil is not to exceed 20 per cent. Why do you fix the maximum like that ?

There is another thing. The enhancement of the royalty rate was to be discussed after four years. I would like the Government to reconsider this and consider enhancement of the rate after every one year.

There should be some status attached to the award given by the Prime Minister. The award was given by the Prime Minister, late Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, in 1962. Then it

was stipulated in the agreement that there would be revision after four years. But unfortunately it has taken a longer time than that. That was stipulated in 1962, and now it is 1969. I am happy to find that retrospective effect is going to be given to this from January 1968 ; that is a well come thing.

Whenever there is discovery of oil in any part of the country, instead of delegations being forced to go to Delhi to plead for enhancement of royalty, Government that this should enhance the royalty immediately because that is due to them. After the award given by late Shri Jawaharlal Nehru in 1962, after a lapse of four years, the representatives of the Governments of Assam and Gujarat had to come to Delhi and press the Ministry for enhanced rate. Whatever that might be, the thing is this is an anti-socialist Bill ; this is not a socialist Bill. I would urge upon the Government to nationalise the entire oil industry. Unfortunately certain agreements were entered into with some foreign companies during the time of Mr. Malaviya who was supposed to be a great socialist ; by that great socialist some agreements were entered into with foreign oil companies giving benefits only to the foreign companies and not to India ; the Indian interests were sacrificed.

I would like to say another thing. Assam is a poor State. The Assam Government are forced to utilise the revenues of the State in various matters. Now the problem of unemployment is getting more and more intensified in the State. Assam produces oil. It is quite natural for the people living in Assam to demand a higher royalty. The Assam Government demanded Rs. 12.50 per metric tonne, and that was brushed aside. I would request the Government to reconsider this demand and increase the royalty to Rs. 12.50 as demanded originally by the Government of Assam. I know, during the last Budget, there was a deficit, so far as Assam Government was concerned, to the tune of Rs. 50 crores. Now, if you do not pay the necessary royalty, the legitimate royalty to the State that produces the crude oil, we shall have doubts about the *bona fides* of this Government.

*The hon. Member did not furnish the Hindi and English translation of his Speech.

[Shri Hem Barua]

Now, there is another thing. There are new oil fields discovered in the State at Lakwa, Rudrasagar, Dum Duma, Nazira and Teok and the people of Assam are legitimately demanding a second oil refinery in the public sector in order to process the crude oil that is available in the State. Even there is no announcement. I would urge upon Dr. Triguna Sen who belongs to Assam and is very sympathetic—I know he is a dynamic man—to make an announcement here and now that Assam is going to get the second oil refinery as demanded. When the experts committee was appointed, I have congratulated Dr. Triguna Sen for appointing that experts committee. But the experts committee were asked to take into account two oil fields only. What about the other oil fields like Dum Duma, Nazira and Teok? They have not taken these oil fields into account. I would urge upon the Government in consideration of the paucity of finances from which the Assam Government is suffering, to increase the royalty to Rs. 12.50 per tonne. At the same time, I would urge upon the Government to nationalise the entire oil industry so as to plough back the money into the field of development so far as oil and other avenues of life are concerned.

Thank you, Sir.

SHRI NAMBIAR (Tirpuchirappalli) : Sir, when you called me, I was away to the doctor. I was not doing well. Even now I am not well.

AN HON. MEMBER : He can take rest.

SHRI NAMBIAR : Though I am not well, I would like to speak a few words due to my desire to impress upon two important points. This announcement of royalty is a good thing. We accept it. However, unfortunately, the oil refineries are not so bad, but the oil exploration is done very badly. Recently I had an occasion to visit some of these oil drilling areas and oil production centres. But, with all respect to the hon. Minister here, I have to submit that the Oil and Natural Gas Commission is not at all working satisfactorily. We had an occasion to go to their headquarters and discuss with them. What all had been done in the Committee need not be revealed now at this stage, but my opinion is that the

Oil & Natural Gas Commission requires a very good prodding. If necessary, the chief of it must be changed. I am told that the time has come for him to retire or to leave. If that is so, it is better if he is relieved so that the ONGC is saved. My reason is this. The relation that they have with the labour is such that it is beyond description. There is no labour code or rule or any provision of the labour regulation is being followed in the ONGC with the result that the labour is very much discontented and there was a big strike, lock outs and so many troubles. Similarly, the scientists and technicians are very much discontented. Hence the hon. Minister now in charge of it may be pleased to look into this question and see that the ONGC is saved.

Further, with regard to the drilling operation, I have to submit that it is not properly done. We have defective machinery and rigs and we have defective electro-logging system with the result that the wells are not properly tested. Testing takes months together and what happens is that the wells which are drilled after spending several millions of rupees are treated as useless. We know the case of Karaikal. We have many other cases in the south in the Cauvery basin. Cauvery basin is considered to be one of the most prospective areas for the discovery of oil. From the seismographic survey it was found out that there are very favourable structural features. But when we drilled wells, we found all of them dry. This is due to bad drilling, bad equipment and bad management. We can go only to areas where we could get oil. They are digging these wells, getting a little oil and boasting that they are reducing very much oil. There is no use in resting content with going to a place where you get oil just on the roadside. In Ankleswar, we could find oil on the road side. It is a very comfortable arrangement one could ride a good car, not even a jeep and reach there; all equipments could be transported easily there. But we have to explore and carry out test drilling in places which are remote. Though it is a difficult operation, that sort of tapping has to be done.

So far as the Kaveri basin is concerned, surveys show that there is a scope for discovering sufficient quantity of oil there. Efforts were also made. But our ONGC is paying lip-sympathy to the south. So far as the south is concerned perhaps ONGC may not like that the south should produce oil. If this is so, we

will have to probe into the matter. We have to look into the very composition of ONGC.

I had raised this question in a letter to the Minister with a copy to the late lamented Chief Minister of Madras. I wanted him to take of interest in the matter. I am pursuing the matter with the present Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

In making the remarks I did, I was not making a general attack. I would therefore request the Minister to look into these matters, first, the question of labour relations, second, drilling for oil in the south, particularly the Kaveri basin and Godavari basin where there are prospects of considerable reserves and third, overhauling the administration of ONGC. The top executive of this organisation is a person who is about to retire. If so, make him retire and see that labour-management relations are well placed so that ONGC may be a great boon to the country.

I have no objection to the enhanced royalty rates proposed as the States exchequer will benefit thereby.

श्री छ० म० केवरिया (मांडवी) : सभापति जी, आपने मुझे जो मौका दिया उसके लिए मैं आपका बड़ा अनुगृहीत हूँ। माननीय मन्त्रीजी के प्रति मेरी श्रद्धा और विश्वास होते हुए भी, आज यह सरकार जो नीति अपना रही है, खास तौर पर गुजरात के लिए ... (व्यवधान) ... गुजरात के सम्बन्ध में सरकार जो नीति अपना रही है उस पर मेरा बड़ा रोष और विरोध है। इस बिल में बताया गया है कि हर चार साल में सरकार रायलटी के रेट के बारे में सोचेगी। इसके लिए यह बिल लाया गया है। पहले जो नेहरू एवार्ड हुआ था उसकी अवधि पहली नवम्बर, 1966 को समाप्त हुई। वर्तमान प्रधान मंत्री को चाहिए था कि वे फौरन ही रेट्स फिक्स कर देतीं, लेकिन उन्होंने रेट्स को फिक्स करने में जो देरी लगाई उससे गुजरात की सरकार को बड़ा नुकसान उठाना पड़ा। रायलटी का रेट साढ़े सात रुपए से बढ़ाकर दस रुपए मीट्रिक टन जो किया गया उसको पहली जनवरी, 1968 से लागू किया गया। इसके कारण पहली नवम्बर, 1966 से लेकर 31 दिसम्बर,

1968 तक गुजरात सरकार को करीब-करीब 85 लाख रुपये का नुकसान हुआ। जब आप कहते हैं कि रिट्रास्पेक्टिव इफेक्ट देना चाहिए तो फिर सही बात यह है कि जब नेहरू एवार्ड की अवधि पूरी हुई थी तभी से एनहैंसड रेट देना चाहिए था। लेकिन ऐसा नहीं किया गया। इस प्रकार से सरकार की जो विलम्ब की नीति है उसके कारण राज्य तथा जनता को नुकसान सहन करना पड़ता है। आज आपकी सरकार कहती है कि हम सोशलिस्टिक हैं लेकिन जब जनता को सोशल जस्टिस न मिले तो फिर आप कैसे कह सकते हैं कि हम प्रोग्रेसिव हैं। इस दृष्टि से मैं इस बिल का विरोध कर रहा हूँ।

अगर आप देखें तो मिडिल ईस्ट में जो फुल पोस्टेज प्राइस दी जाती है वह साढ़े 12 और 15 परसेंट के बीच में दी जाती है : गुजरात और आसाम सरकारों ने भी फुल आयल की रायलटी के रेट्स के बारे में यही मांग की थी लेकिन प्राइम मिनिस्टर ने आर्बिट्ररीली दस रुपये ही दिए। वह भी हमने स्वीकार कर लिए। लेकिन अगर आप देखेंगे तो हमारे गुजरात में जो परसेंटेज आफ प्रोडक्शन है वह इस प्रकार से है।

शंकरेश्वर 91.2 परसेंट—फुल पोस्टेज प्राइस 121 रु० 12 पैसे,
कलोल, नवगाम तथा कंडी—8.25 परसेंट
—फुल पोस्टेज प्राइस 106 रु० 43 पैसे,
घोलका 4.44 परसेंट—फुल पोस्टेज प्राइस 110 रु० 29 पैसे,
कठाना 0.25 परसेंट—फुल पोस्टेज प्राइस 103 रु० 33 पैसे।

इस दृष्टि से अगर आप एवरेज फुल पोस्टेज प्राइस गिनें तो करीब-करीब इसकी प्राइस 11 रु० 9 पैसे आती है। गुजरात की 10 परसेंट फुल पोस्टेज प्राइस को आप गिनें तो गुजरात गवर्नमेंट को 31.63 लाख का हर साल लास होता है। गुजरात की जनता को यह भास होता है जोकि शांति से रहना चाहती

[श्री छ० म० केदरिया]

है और कानून और व्यवस्था में विश्वास करती है। कभी दंगे नहीं करती। इसलिए उसको यह नुकसान सहन करने के लिए आप मजबूर करते हैं। ...व्यवधान...

श्री इसहाक सम्भली (अमरोहा) : गुजरात में विडीकेट ने दंगे कराये हैं।

[شری اسحاق سمبلی (امروہہ) گجرات میں]

سنڈیکیٹ نے دنگے کرائے ہیں۔]

श्री छ० म० केदरिया : आप जैसे लोग ही वहाँ पर गड़बड़ करते हैं। बात-बात में आप तिडीकेट को बीच में न लाइये। यहाँ पर पब्लिक इन्ट्रस्ट की बात चल रही है। तो मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि 10 परसेंट फुल पोस्टेड प्राइस जो 11.9 आती है उसकी बजह से गुजरात सरकार को हर साल 63 लाख का नुकसान हो रहा है। मैं दो बातें अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ। पहली यह है कि जब नेहरू एवार्ड समाप्त हुआ, पहली नवम्बर, 1966, तभी से प्राइम मिनिस्टर क एनहांसड प्राइस देनी चाहिए और तभी वह सोशल जस्टिस हो सकती है। नहीं तो मैं कहूंगा कि आपकी सोशलजिज्म की बात गलत है।

They have given effect to the Prime Minister's award from 1st January, 1968. Actually, it should have been given effect to from 1st November, 1966.

16 hrs.

दूसरी बात यह है कि 10 परसेंट फुल-पोस्टेड प्राइस आपने स्वीकार कर लिया है। जब आप 10 परसेंट फुल-पोस्टेड प्राइस देना चाहते हैं तो एवरेज प्राइस 11.9 रु० होती है। उसके मुताबिक हमको एवरेज प्राइस देनी चाहिये। तभी सोशल जस्टिस होगी।

देहरादून में आयल का प्रोडक्शन नहीं है लेकिन जो एन०जी०सी० का हैडक्वार्टर देहरादून में रक्खा गया है। कितनी गलत नीति सरकार की है कि जहाँ आयल का प्रोडक्शन नहीं होता वहाँ हैडक्वार्टर रक्खा जाता है। या तो उसको

असम में रखिये तब हम समझ सकते हैं या गुजरात में रखिये तब समझ सकते हैं लेकिन अफसरों और गवर्नमेंट की सुविधा के लिए उसे देहरादून में रक्खा गया है। इससे एक तो गवर्नमेंट की कास्ट बढ़ जाती है दूसरे जनता को भी दिक्कत होती है। इस बात को आपको सोचना चाहिये और जहाँ पर आयल का प्रोडक्शन होता है वहीं हैडक्वार्टर रखना चाहिये।

श्री यशपाल सिंह (देहरादून) : देहरादून में खोज हो रही है और कहा जाता है कि वहाँ लाजिमी तेल निकलेगा।

श्री छ० म० केदरिया : आपकी कांस्टिट्यून्सी है इसलिए आप ऐसा कह रहे हैं।

जब आप कहते हैं कि यह सरकार प्राप्रे-सिवसोशलजिज्म को मानती है तो सोशलजिज्म को आगे लाने में कोआपरेटिव सेक्टर ही बेस्ट वेपन और भीन्स है। लेकिन मेरा पर्सनल एक्सपीरिएन्स है कि जब भी आयल के डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन के लिए पम्प दिये जाते हैं तो प्राइवेट सेक्टर को दिये जाते हैं। कोआपरेटिव सोसायटीज और कोआपरेटिव एजेन्सीज के लिये जो मांगे रक्खी जाती हैं उनको ठुकरा दिया जाता है। अगर आप इसी तरह से सोशलजिज्म को लाना चाहते हैं तो वह नहीं आ सकता। अगर आप सही मानों में सोशलजिज्म को लाना चाहते हैं तो जहाँ पब्लिक इंटरेस्ट है, कोआपरेटिव सोसायटी हैं उन्हें डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन का काम देना चाहिए। ऐसा न करके अगर आप कहते हैं कि आप प्राप्रेसिव सोशलजिज्म लाना चाहते हैं तो वह गलत है।

आखीर में मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ (व्यवधान), हिन्दुस्तान के आजाब होने पर देश के कांस्टिट्यूशन में शेड्यूल्ड कास्ट्रस और शेड्यूल्ड ट्राइव्स के लिए नौकरी में रिजर्व सीट्स दी गई हैं और सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट ने और होम मिनिस्ट्री ने कई सर्कुलर भी निकाले हैं कि उनकी परसेंटेज पूरा कर दिया जाये। मैं

सरकार के ऊपर यह आरोप लगाने के लिये तैयार हूँ कि इतने पढ़े-लिखे बत्रालिफाइड आदिवासी और हरिजन व्यक्ति होते हुए भी कारपोरेशन में, ए० एन० जी० सी० रिफाइनरीज में और आयल फील्ड्स में उनको काम नहीं दिया जाता है। इसलिए मैं आपसे विनती करता हूँ कि जो सरकार की नीति है उसको इन नीकरियों के बारे में कार्यान्वित किया जाना चाहिए। जिस क्लास को आप ऊँचा उठाना चाहते हैं और इस सोसायटी में दूसरों के समान स्तर पर लाना चाहते हैं उनके लिये कुछ किया जाये तभी मैं मानूँगा कि आप सच्चे ढंग से सोशलिज्म को अपनाना चाहते हैं।

श्री श्रीकारलाल बेरवा (कोटा) : सभापति महोदय, मैं इस बिल का स्वागत करता हूँ क्योंकि आपने 7.50 परसेंट से बढ़ाकर 10 परसेंट रायल्टी की है ! लेकिन प्रगर यह 1962 से बढ़ाई जाती तो अच्छा होता क्योंकि तब राज्यों को कुछ और राहत मिलती। इस बिल का विरोध जिन लोगों ने किया है वह अपने ढंग से और अपने राजनीतिक स्वार्थ की वजह से किया है, लेकिन इसका मैं समर्थन करता हूँ।

आज कई सालों से सहायता लेने के बाद भी हम तेल के मामले में आत्म-निर्भर नहीं हो सके हैं। हम विदेशों की तरफ देख रहे हैं और विदेशी कम्पनियों की तरफ देख रहे हैं। क्या कभी सरकार ने सोचा कि वह लोग हमसे कितना दाम इसका लेते हैं और कितना प्राफिट कमाते हैं और तेल साफ करके जब हम पब्लिक को बेचते हैं तो उसका क्या दाम बैठता है ? विदेशी कम्पनियों के दबाव में आकर हम मनमाने दाम लेते हैं। आज तेलशोधक कारखाने कई जगहों पर हैं लेकिन उनका खर्च इतना ग्रंटशंट है कि आप अन्दाजा नहीं लगा सकते। इस सारे खर्च का प्रभाव जाकर तेल के दाम पर पड़ता है। हर साल तेल का रेट बढ़ाया जाता है और उस पर भी हम 10 परसेंट रायल्टी देते हैं। इस रायल्टी का खर्च जनता पर नहीं पड़ना चाहिए। जिस तरह से असम

में तेलशोधक कारखाना कायम कर रहे हैं, देहरादून में इसके लिए खोज हो रही है, उसी तरह सरकार कोई ऐसा प्रयत्न क्यों नहीं करती कि जगह-जगह तेल के कारखाने स्थापित करके हम अपने को आत्म-निर्भर बना सकें ? राजस्थान के जैसलमेर में तेल का कुआँ खोदने का काम चालू हुआ और कम से कम साल भर तक चला। 100-125 फीट गहराई तक खोदा गया लेकिन हिन्दुस्तान-पाकिस्तान का भगड़ा हुआ तब काम बन्द हो गया। अगर जैसलमेर में तेलशोधक कारखाना बनाया जाता या तेल के कुएँ खोदे जाते तो वहाँ की जनता को राहत मिलती वहाँ पत्थर पर तेल नजर आता है। लेकिन सरकार की आंखें बन्द हो रही हैं। उसको तेल नजर नहीं आता, उसको राजस्थान की धूल नजर आती है। मैं समझता हूँ कि अगर राजस्थान में तेल का कारखाना खोला जाता और कुएँ खोदे जाते तो तेल का उत्पादन कम से कम अब तक वहाँ दुगुना हो जाता। लेकिन सरकार तो रेलों की तोड़-फोड़ करने वालों, आत्म-हत्या करने वालों और गवर्नमेंट का नुकसान करने वाले तत्वों के आगे झुकती है। राजस्थान की भोली-भाली जनता आज इस सरकार की तरफ देख रही है, कभी उसने कोई उत्पात नहीं किया, फिर भी तेल के कारखाने के लिए कुएँ खोदते-खोदते बन्द कर दिए गए। मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि उनका खोदना क्यों बन्द कर दिया गया ? क्या पाकिस्तान ने मना कर दिया था ? राजस्थान सरकार को आश्वासन मिला कि हम सर्वे कर रहे हैं लेकिन उसको छोड़ दिया गया। इसी तरह से उत्तर प्रदेश में सर्वे करके छोड़ दिया। जगह-जगह इस तरह की धोखेबाजी करके जनता को विश्वास दिलाकर उसके साथ खिलवाड़ किया जा रहा है। यहाँ पर लड़ाई के दिनों में क्या हुआ ? हिन्दुस्तान-पाकिस्तान की लड़ाई बीस दिन हुई। उस वक्त हम तेल के लिए बाहर के लोगों की तरफ देख रहे थे। उन्होंने तेल बन्द कर दिया तो हमारे टैंक खड़े हो गये। मैं तो कहता हूँ कि हमें शर्म आनी चाहिए कि 22 वर्षों में भी हम आत्म-निर्भर

[श्री श्रीकार लाल बेरवा]

नहीं हो सके। हमारी सरकार तो आपसी लड़ाई-झगड़े में आत्म-निर्भर हो रही है, तेल के कारखानों के मामले में अभी भी आत्म-निर्भर नहीं हो सकी।

हम देखते हैं कि ग्रंकलेश्वर में रात-दिन गैस जला करती है, लेकिन उसको वह जनता को 4 पैसे मूल्य घटाकर देने के लिए तैयार नहीं है। कई मेमोरैंडम दिये गये, हड़तालें हुईं, बाजार बन्द रहे, लेकिन वह किसी को भी 4 पैसे कम में देने के लिए तैयार नहीं है। ग्रंकलेश्वर में तो रात-दिन गैस जलती रहती है और देश की जनता गैस लेने के लिये तड़पती है। ईंधन के लिये कोयले की कीमत बढ़ रही है, अगर गैस दी जाय तो कई कारखाने चल सकते हैं और कोयले की बचत करके जनता को और रुपया मिल सकता है, फिर भी इसकी ओर ध्यान नहीं दिया जाता है।

अगर आप विदेशी इंजीनियरों का हाल देखें तो मैं आपको बतलाता हूँ। एक विदेशी इंजीनियर की पत्नी का दाँत खराब हुआ। माल-भर तक उसका इलाज होता रहा; आप ताज्जुब करेंगे कि उसके लिए 15,000 रु० के खर्च का बिल पाम हुआ। इंजीनियर की पत्नी के दाँत के लिए 15,000 रु० का बिल। शर्म आनी चाहिए इनको कि विदेशी इंजीनियरों को हमारी छाती पर बिठा कर रक्खा हुआ है और हमारे अच्छे-भच्छे इंजीनियर बेकार बैठे हैं। जो बाहर के इंजीनियर हैं उनको तो चार-चार और पाँच-पाँच और छः-छः हजार रुपया महीना तनस्वाह दी जाती है लेकिन हमारे अपने जो इंजीनियर हैं उनको हजार और बारह सौ रुपया माहवार की तनस्वाह भी नहीं दी जाती है। इतनी भी नहीं उनको सात-आठ सौ देने की कोशिश की जाती है और उनको हमेशा निकालने की कोशिश की जाती है। अच्छे जो इंजीनियर हैं उनको काम करने का मौका तक नहीं दिया जाता है। हम हमेशा से ही फारेन इंजीनियरिंग के गुलाम बनते आए हैं, उनकी ही खुशामद करने आए हैं।

अपनी जनता के हितों से हम खिलवाड़ कर रहे हैं। इन विदेशी कम्पनियों को आपने हमारे ऊपर थोप रखा है। आपको इस सीट पर कायम रहना है तो आपको सबसे पहले तेल के मामले में आत्म-निर्भर होना पड़ेगा और विदेशों पर इसके लिए निर्भरता त्यागनी पड़ेगी। वरना आप इन सीटों को छोड़कर चले जायें और संसद को ताला बन्द कर दें, यही आपके लिए अच्छा है।

श्री फ० गो० सेन (पूर्णिमा) : यह सही बात है कि तेल हम लोगों को जीवन शक्ति प्रदान करता है और इसका उत्पादन बढ़ाने की हम कोशिश कर रहे हैं। यह भी सही है कि इसकी जरूरत बढ़ती जाती है।

जहाँ तक रायलटी का सवाल है, देखने में आता है कि प्रान्तीय सरकारों के पास पैसे की कमी है। सभी चाहती हैं कि अपने गाँवों का डिवेलपमेंट करें। गाँवों से रास्तों की ओर सड़कों की माँग आती है। अगर तेल का सवाल है तो सड़कों का भी सवाल है। हम यह नहीं कहते हैं कि ओ० एन० जी० सी० ने कुछ नहीं किया। हमें दुःख है कि ओ० एन० जी० सी०, जोकि पब्लिक सेंक्टर का एक ग्रैंडरटेकिंग है, उसमें भी पब्लिक सेंक्टर की खराबी आ गई है। कम से कम गाँव वालों को कैरोसीन आयल तो मिल ही जाना चाहिए और इसकी व्यवस्था तो की ही जानी चाहिए। जहाँ तक रूरल इलेक्ट्रिफिकेशन का सवाल है, तीन प्लान खत्म हो चुके हैं और चौथा शुरू हो गया है और जो नक्शे हमें दिखाये गये थे कि इतना इलेक्ट्रिफिकेशन हो जाएगा, वह नहीं हो सका है। आज हालत यह है कि कैरोसीन आयल तक लोगों को गाँवों में जलाने के लिए नहीं मिलता है, रोशनी करने के लिए घरों में नहीं मिलता है। अभाव में शाम के पहले तो खाना खा लेते हैं लेकिन उनके यहाँ बत्ती नहीं जलती है। कैरोसीन आयल का भी ब्लैंक मार्किटिंग शुरू हो गया है। ओ० एन० जी० सी० को चाहिए जहाँ देश की अस्सी प्रतिशत आबादी रहती है,

गावों में, उनके लिए कम से कम जलाने के लिए कैरोसीन आयल तो वह उपलब्ध करें। इसकी बहुत आवश्यकता है।

हमें याद है कि स्वर्गीय जवाहरलाल नेहरू जी ने कहा था कि मुल्क की दौलत को नापना हो तो दो चीजों से उसका नापा जा सकता है। एक लोहा और एक पेट्रोल। लोहे के कारखाने स्थापित आपने किये। वहाँ भी जितना प्रोडक्शन आप चाहते थे नहीं हो पा रहा है और जो हो भी रहा है वह भी स्टॉक पाइल हो रहा है, उसकी खपत नहीं है। हम चाहते हैं कि जो भी काम किया जाए, वह एक सिलसिले से शुरू किया जाए। पूर्णिया जिले में ड्रिलिंग हुआ। यह कहा जाता है कि इंडो गेजेटिक प्लेन में कोई वजह नहीं कि तेल न हो। यह एक्सपर्ट्स का कहना है। फिर क्या वजह है कि वह मिलता नहीं है। हमारे यहाँ पूर्णिया में रीटाहाट में एक्सपेरिमेंट चला था। एक कुआँ खुदा था। एक को ही खोदने से क्या कुछ पता चल सकता है? और ड्रिलिंग होना चाहिए था। तब पता चलता कि वहाँ तेल है या नहीं है।

जहाँ तक गैस का सम्बन्ध है, वह टाउंज तक में उपलब्ध नहीं है। यहाँ अकलेश्वर का जिक्र किया गया है। लेकिन यह दिल्ली तक में भी उपलब्ध नहीं है। कुछ दिन हुए मैं अपने एक मित्र के यहाँ बैठा हुआ था। उसने बर्मा गैल वालों से गैस ले रखी है। वह बता रहे थे कि गैस नहीं मिल रही है और बूल्हा बेकार पड़ा है। उन्होंने फोन भी किया तो उनको बताया गया कि गैस नहीं है। उसने कहा कि कैन को उठाकर ले जाओ। इधर-उधर जब उसने इस तरह से घमकियाँ दीं तो उसको कहा गया कि गैस भेजी जा रही है। ओ० एन० जी० सी० का जहाँ दफ्तर है, देहरादून में भी गैस की कमी है। हमें यह भी पता चला है कि जहाँ क्रूड आयल बन रहा है, जहाँ सब-कुछ है वहाँ गैस बहुत बरबाद हो रही है। अब आप देखें कि देश में एक तरफ

जलावन की कमी है और दूसरी तरफ गैस की भी कमी है लेकिन फिर भी गैस बरबाद हो रही है। जंगलों को उजाड़ दिया गया है और जलावन की कमी हो गई है सारे देश में। इन सब चीजों पर आपका ध्यान जाना चाहिए।

यह हमारा पब्लिक सैंक्टर है लेकिन जो चीज यहाँ तैयार होती है उसके डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन का काम आपने प्राइवेट एजेंसी को दे रखा है, इसमें क्या रहस्य है, हमें नहीं मालूम। इसके बारे में कितने ही पत्र हमको गुजरात से आये हैं। उन्होंने कहा है कि उनकी कोअपरेटिव है, उनको यह काम नहीं दिया जाता है लेकिन प्राइवेट एजेंसी को एनकरेज किया जा रहा है। इससे भी पता चलता है कि कहीं कुछ गड़बड़ है। इसको भी आप देखें।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं चाहता हूँ कि दम परसेंट के बजाय माडे बारह परसेंट कर दिया जाए।

श्री शिव चन्द्र झा (मधुबनी) : रायलटी बढ़ाने की जो बात है उसका मैं एतराज नहीं करता हूँ। मुझे इस पर एतराज है जब यह कहा जाता है कि रायलटी बढ़ाने और घटाने का काम चार साल के बाद किया जाएगा। आप देखें कि आज राज्यों को कितने रिसोर्सिस मिलते हैं। आप पांच साल के बाद फाइनेंस कमीशन बिठाते हैं। उसकी जगह मैं चाहता हूँ कि परमानेंट फाइनेंस कमीशन हो जो हर साल इबैल्युएट करे कि किस राज्य की कितनी जरूरत है और कितने रिसोर्सिस उसको दिये जायें ताकि राज्यों में जो विषमतायें हैं, उनका खात्मा हो सके और बराबरी की भावना मुल्क में पैदा हो। परमानेंट फाइनेंस कमीशन यीअरली इबैल्युएट करे और पता लगाये कि राज्यों को कितना चाहिए। यह जो चार साल की मियाद रखी गई है जिसमें न रायलटी घटाई जाएगी और न बढ़ाई जाएगी, इसको जो फिक्स्ड रखा गया है, मैं समझता हूँ कि यह ठीक नहीं है। इसको डिनामिक होना चाहिए। जिस रफ्तार से हम बढ़ रहे हैं उसमें यह ठीक

[श्री शिवचन्द्र भा]

नहीं होगा। मैं मानता हूँ कि पंडित जवाहर-लाल नेहरू ने जो कहा था उसका आप निर्वाह कर रहे हैं। लेकिन उन्होंने बैंकों का राष्ट्रीयकरण नहीं किया था। आपने कर दिया। अगर आप टोटली उनको फालो करते तो चौदह साल भी बैंकों का राष्ट्रीयकरण नहीं हो पाता। आपको लार्जर व्यू सामने रखना चाहिए। कट्टरपंथी न बनें। कट्टरपंथी बनकर विकास का काम आगे नहीं बढ़ सकता है। मैं संशोधन नहीं दे सका हूँ। मेरा संशोधन होता कि चार साल न होकर हर साल इसका इन्वैशुएशन हो और हर साल इसको तय किया जाए कि जिन राज्यों में तेल मिलता है, उसको कितना हिस्सा मिलना चाहिए, ज्यादा या कम और वह हिस्सा राज्य की मांगों को, उसकी जरूरतों को सामने रखते हुए तय किया जाना चाहिए।

प्राइवेट सैक्टर में जो आयल तैयार होता है उसके हाथ में इसको छोड़ने की क्या जरूरत है। तमाम आयल इंडस्ट्री को नेशनलाइज किया जाना चाहिए। साथ ही साथ जो विदेशी आयल कम्पनियाँ हैं, जिनके कोर्नोरेशन से आज ड्रिलिंग का काम करवाते हैं यह खोज का काम कराते हैं, उस पर भी आपको रोक लगानी होगी। खास तौर पर जो रायलटी आपकी बाहर जाती है, उसकी भी सीमा आपको बाँधनी होगी। आपको कहना होगा कि इससे ज्यादा वह देश के बाहर नहीं जा सकती है। आजादी के बाद विदेशी आयल कम्पनियों के जरिये इस देश का एक्सप्लोरेशन होता जा रहा है। इसको रोकना बहुत जरूरी है। यदि हम ईमानदारी से देश में समाजवाद लाना चाहते हैं, तो इसको रोकना बहुत जरूरी है। इसलिए इस बारे में सरकार की नीति साफ होनी चाहिए। तमाम बातों पर गौर करने के बाद यह कहना पड़ता है कि सरकार की आयल नीति साफ नहीं है। उसको खास तौर से चौथी योजना में, जिससे हम बड़ी उम्मीद करते हैं, आयल के सम्बन्ध में एक

साफ नीति अस्त्यार करनी चाहिए।

आखिर में मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार ने इस बात का कोई हिसाब या एस्टीमेट लगाया है कि देश में कितना आयल है, कितने आयल रिजर्व्स हैं और देश में कितनी जरूरत है। इस बात की सख्त जरूरत है।

मैं इस बिल का स्वागत करता हूँ, लेकिन मैं चाहूँगा कि यदि चार साल के बजाय एक वर्ष की मियाद रखी जाती, तो अच्छा होता और इससे इम विधेयक का मकसद पूरा हो जाता।

SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA (Kaliabor): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Bill will enable the Government to raise the royalty on crude oil. This is in pursuance of the promise that was given by the Prime Minister. I support the Bill. So far as my State is concerned, we have always insisted that the royalty that is paid to the backward State like Assam should have been more favourably considered and that the rate of royalty should have been fixed higher so that we get enough funds to run our day-to-day administration.

So far as the oil royalty is concerned, so far as the foreign oil interests are concerned I would like to draw the attention of the House to certain intrigues of the foreign oil interests that have been going on in my part of the country. Recently, a very coloured report appeared in the *Statesman*. I would like to draw the attention of the Government to a question which was replied to. I ask, whether it is a fact, as the *Statesman* has reported, that the Oil and Natural Gas Commission which is operating in Assam is sought to be excluded under the plea that there is a separate pipeline for the O.N.G.C. and for other reasons. According to the report that appeared in the *Statesman*, it is stated that the oil area in Assam has been divided in two areas of exploration as between the O.N.G.C. which is a public sector undertaking and the Oil India Ltd. which is a collaboration between the Burmah Shell Oil Company and the Government of India. Now, the Oil India Ltd. has developed vested interests in the State of Assam because, due to their curious price policy of crude oil, they have been

able to manipulate and sell crude oil at a much higher price to the public sector refineries so that the Gauhati Refinery will not be able to make as much profit as it should have presumably made. Actually, the Gauhati Refinery has to purchase at a very high price the same crude which other refineries are able to purchase at a lower price under the Persian Gulf Parity Agreement.

The O.N.G.C. which is a public sector undertaking should not be ousted from Assam under any pretext. This type of coloured report should not have appeared in any case. I would like the hon. Minister to categorically deny it and tell the House that no such negotiation is going on with the Oil India Ltd. which is minting money and which is making very huge profits and that they will not be allowed to control the entire area of oil in Assam, thus reducing us to the state of Saudi Arabia or other backward areas. I want a categorical declaration that this type of suggestions which are cleverly made—I do not know from which quarters they came—are not allowed to come like that.

It is reported that there was a proposal for their having 40 per cent share-holding, a minority share-holding, and that the Government was thinking of making them to agree to minority share-holding on the condition that the O.N.G.C. will be ousted from Assam and all that.

On behalf of the people of Assam and on behalf of all the parties concerned with national independence and freedom from the foreign oil interests, I would request the Government never to allow this type of coloured report or even this type of a talk or a suggestion and I would like to know how these things go into the press report and who were the persons in the Ministry who got a coloured report appeared in the press. If this type of reports could find their way to the press, it means that there are some people who are helping in this. I request that some action be taken in this regard.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Minister.

SHRI TENNETI VISWANATHAM : I want to say a few words. I want to avail

myself of the facility of simultaneous interpretation.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He can speak in the Third Reading.

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : I am very thankful to the hon. members who took part in the debate for their various suggestions. They will surely be considered, as far as possible.

Let me now take a few points raised by some hon. members.

Mr. Hazarika first pleaded for payment of adequate compensation to people who have been displaced either by ONGC or by the Fertiliser Corporation of India. I am told that whenever a certain area is taken, it is taken under some Land Acquisition Act and it is the State Government which decides on the rate of compensation payable by the organisation to the people who are displaced. I do not think that either the ONGC or the FCI are defaulters in that regard.

Mr. Hazarika has asked for increased rate of royalty to be paid to the Government of Assam and he said that, in case that was not done, he would oppose it. This matter was referred to the Prime Minister and she has given the award. The award was only Rs. 10.00 per metric tonne for four years which we have communicated to the State Government. I am extremely sorry that the rate cannot be enhanced at this stage.

Shri Shastri also pleaded for increase in the rate of royalty. My answer to him is the same.

He also said that the agreement with Oil India is that the Financial Director of the BOC is the Financial Controller of the Oil India. This statement is not correct. The Financial Director is appointed by the Government of India.

Mr. Amin suggested that the Act should not provide for the Prime Minister of a country to arbitrate. It will be found from the Act that the name of the Prime Minister is not mentioned ; it is the Government or the Parliament that will do. That is why there is a provision in section 6 (A). The

[Dr. Triguna Sen]

present Act takes care of the difficulty which has been suggested by Mr. Amin. In future the Government will issue notifications from time to time to amend the schedule as per section 6 (A).

Mr. G. Viswanathan noticed in Gujarat that gas was being wasted or burnt, and he also requested for speedy exploration of oil. It is a fact that gas is being wasted both in Assam and in Gujarat because whenever we drill a well, gas is produced, but we do not get adequate customers for that. We have started, of course, fertiliser plants, but still there is an excess. We are inducing the private industrialists to start industries with gas as the fuel. We are at it and we are trying to expedite the exploration of oil in different parts as far as possible within the resources that are available to us.

Shri Kalita wanted an assurance that if royalty is increased, the cost of petroleum products should not be increased. Sir, the fact is that the royalty increase has been absorbed by the two oil producing organizations in Assam and has not been passed on to the refineries because the crude is not sold at a higher cost because of the increase in the rate of royalty. The prices remain the same. So the consumer will get the products at the same price. It will not reflect on the petroleum products. The product prices, we have noticed, have remained constant although the rate of royalty has been increased from 1.1.68. So, the hon. Member's fear is not justified or tenable.

Shri J. H. Patel spoke in his mother tongue and if I could have understood him from the arrangements that you have made so that he could talk in his mother tongue in the discussions on the oil...

SHRI DHIRESWAR KALITA: What about the other points I have raised about the pricing of oil ?

DR. TRIGUNA SEN: The Shantilal Shah Committee's report was handed over to me only on the first of this month and we are studying it. I think we will be able to place it before the Cabinet as soon as it is possible.

Shri Nambiar complained about the administration of ONGC and the defect in the system of drilling. I had a discussion with him. He knows we are trying our best to streamline the organization.

Shri Kedaria—I am sorry he has left. Nobody perhaps is interested or serious in the discussion—said again that the rate of royalty should be increased more as the Gujarat Government is losing about Rs. 93 lakhs per year. I think when the Prime Minister in giving her award has said that she has kept all these considerations in view because these things were represented to her by the different Governments also, she had endeavoured to reconcile them in the interests of the economy of the State and the country. Shri Kedaria is not here, but for the interest of my friend, Shri Sharma, I can say that if the rate of royalty was stepped up by 10%, Gujarat would have got Rs. 11.9 per tonne and Assam would get in that case a varying range from Rs. 8.5 to Rs. 9.87 per tonne. So the Prime Minister had to take these two points in view and struck at Rs. 10.

Shri Kedaria talked of socialism and promotion of Scheduled Castes, etc. I am told he was a member of the Congress Party all these 15 years. I am a new comer. I can assure him that the socialism that he preached, I will not do so, but I will practise it.

Shri Onkar Lal Berwa imputed several political motives as to why we are not self-sufficient in crude. I do not like to enter into political controversies, but, for the information of the House I can say only that in 1961 the production of crude oil was only about 10,000 tonnes. Today it is about six lakh tonnes. You can imagine whether we are progressing or not.

SHRI DHIRESWAR KALITA: That is why we are demanding a second public sector refinery.

DR. TRIGUNA SEN: I know. We are at it and are trying to do our best to produce as much oil as possible. It is not possible for many countries, though they have got oil, to be self-sufficient, because the demand for petroleum products always increases and they cannot keep pace with

that. Most countries are importing crude from other countries. But the House will be happy to know that so far as petroleum products are concerned, we are almost self-sufficient at present for our requirements. I know the demand will increase.

I would have been happier if Shri P. G. Sen had told me while he was on this side that there was shortage of kerosene in any village, because so far as my information goes, this year there has not been any shortage.

SHRI P. G. SEN : Purnea is suffering from shortage.

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : I am told about it only today. Now that he is on the other side, he can accuse me. But he did not tell me that there was shortage. So far as my information goes, which is derived from the State Governments, this year there was no shortage of kerosene in any village.

SHRI K. N. TIWARY (Bettiah) : His information is not correct. There is shortage.

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : That is why I had written to State Governments to let me know. Of course, I cannot curb the black-marketeers.

श्री न० प्र० यादव (सीतामढ़ी) : मैं नेपाल बोर्डर से आता हूँ। मेरी कांस्टीट्यूएन्सी 60 मील के एरिया में नेपाल के बोर्डर पर है, वहाँ पर एक रुपया प्रति लीटर मिट्टी का तेल बिक रहा है।

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : This year we have increased the supply by 10 percent to all the States. We got reports from the director in charge of consumer goods in each State that there was no shortage. If the State Governments concerned had told us that there was shortage in some villages, I could have assured them and arranged for more supply. But this was not brought to my notice.

SHRI P. G. SEN : There is bungling among wholesalers and stockists. They do not supply.

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : Is it my duty to run after the blackmarketeers or is it the duty of the State Governments ?

AN HON. MEMBER : Why not appoint stockists?

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : We do not appoint.

Shri Jha said that the rates should be reviewed every 8 years and not four years. I would have been happy if we could do so, But according to this award, we cannot. He also suggested that a ceiling should be fixed. I agree. Perhaps after four years, we will be able to fix a ceiling on royalty paid to the different States provided they agree.

SHRI DHIRESWAR KALITA : He has not answered about the points raised with regard to a second public sector refinery.

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : On a Bill dealing with royalty, that question does not arise. I discussed this with him half an hour ago and I do not like to repeat that here.

SHRI BISWANARAYAN SHASTRI : What about merging Oil India with ONGC ?

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : I am sorry it is not possible because of the agreement between the two. Shri Barua also pleaded for increased royalty and suggested there was a coloured report in the *Statesman* about ONGC being taken over by Oil India. I think the *Statesman* belongs to some of my friends on the other side and I would request Shri Hazarika to find out the source of that report.

SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA : Was there any such proposal?

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : I have replied no.

SHRI J. N. HAZARIKA : I want to know why this Bill had been delayed so much because we had it in 1962; that means four years from 1962. From 1966 they should give effect to this increase why was this Bill not brought earlier ?

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : I tried to place it before the House during the last two sessions but perhaps due to a heavy agenda it could not be taken up. But we have been paying the States, though this Bill has not been passed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill further to amend the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 3, 4, 1 the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We take up the third reading.

SHRI J. N. HAZARIKA : I have given an amendment to the schedule and I wanted to press it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The schedule was part of clause 4. Besides, your amendment is not in time.

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : I move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved :

"That the Bill be passed."

SHRI TENNETI VISWANATHAM (Visakhapatnam) : MR. Chairman, I shall say a few words in my language. Before doing so, what I want to submit to you is that a circular has been sent to us that we must give notice half an hour earlier if we want to speak in our language. This is somewhat unrealistic. In parliamentary life sometimes occasions do arise when a Member wishes to speak after he has heard other speakers and this rule comes in the way of Members. I request you to get the rule changed. Interpreters must always be available here and there should be no need to give notice half an hour in advance.

I shall say in my language about the Bill now.

* Mr. Chairman, in this great and ancient country we have fourteen languages which to day we are fortunate to be able to speak in this august House. When you are presiding over this House bearing all these languages you look like goddess Saraswati in the Heavens residing on Brahma's tongue and hearing all the tongues of Bharat. In fact another name of Saraswati is Bharati. My heart felt thanks are due to all the persons responsible for making this arrangement in this House to enable us to speak in one of our Bharati languages.

Now I shall turn to the Bill before us. The Hindi word "Tael" means "Scorpion" in Telugu. So I would not use the word "Tael" for oil while speaking on this Bill. Some of the Hon. Members who spoke before me wanted that more intensive exploration should be carried out in the Cauvery Basin. This reminds me of a Russian offshore seismic Expedition made in 1967 and they had presented a report. It was mentioned in the Report that there are very many prospective structures in the Godavari-Krishna Delta area. I request therefore, that a more intensive seismic survey should be conducted in this area ; structures should be mapped. This is a very important matter.

Now in the Bill before us, the word "Royalty" is used. I am not aware what word has been used in Hindi for "Royalty" but even if it is in English I would very much that the use of this word is avoided. We have no more Kings in our country and we have therefore no Royalty.

Again I hope that the Bill before us is only a temporary measure and that Government would soon bring before this House a comprehensive Bill for nationalising the Oil industry. It is not in our interests that there should be different organisations like Oil India, Indian Oil Corporation etc. creating complexities. It is also not good that off and on there should be some disputes between these organisations. Therefore, I feel that if at all any industry is to be nationalised it is the oil industry. I reiterate therefore, that the Oil industry should be nationalised. I support the Bill before us.

* The original speech was delivered in Telugu.

SHRI J. N. HAZARIKA : Sir, I am sorry that in spite of the popular support that the royalty should be raised from Rs. 10 to Rs. 12.50—

MR. CHAIRMAN : Are you speaking on the third reading ?

SHRI J. N. HAZARIKA : Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Then you have not yet got my permission to speak on the third reading. Now, Shri Kandappan.

SHRI S. KANDAPPAN (Mettur) : Sir, I would like to make only two points very briefly. The hon. Minister, while replying, referred to the increase in production of crude oil that we have managed to get after Independence, but still the fact remains that our crude requirements, I think, almost half of them, are met by import and not by local production. It is not an argument to say that there are other countries which are relying on import for their basic need of crude oil. So far as our country is concerned when once we are clear that we have got enough crude oil stock in our country without being tapped, there is no reason why we should not expedite the exploratory work and add to our crude oil capacity that is available.

In this connection, I would like to mention that it should not be left to the sweet will and whims of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission's top officials to say which area should be taken up first and which area should be taken up last for the purpose of exploration. It should be based on a scientific assessment as to the availability that is their and it should be made according to their geophysical and geological survey. And once the assessment is made, the Government should go ahead with the exploratory work. This is my plea in this connection.

Now, I would also like to mention another thing with regard to the Cambay offshore drilling. Here, there is no excuse for the Government to delay the work. I understand that the Government is having two or three alternatives before them and they are unable to make up their mind as to whether it should be the indigenous technical knowhow or they should go ahead for

technical collaboration or to get some kind of contract and have some foreign technical knowhow to proceed with this matter. Whatever machinery you are going to evolve, you should not delay matters further. Considering the amount we are paying for importing crude, it would not be costly to go ahead with Cambay offshore drilling.

I am all for the public sector, but if it is at a heavy cost to the consumer, Government should consider it a thousand times before going ahead with any public sector programme. I happened to study the working of the Oil India Limited in Assam, where I stayed for a week some years ago, as a member of the Estimates Committee. There the exploratory wing is manned by Indians. ONGC is also manned by Indians, but it is curious that the drilling cost of ONGC is much more than the drilling cost of Oil India. They may say it depends on the terrain, but even on similar terrain, the difference in drilling cost is very much there between the two. Mr. Nambiar made several allegations against the working of the ONGC and the minister was pleased to say that he is seized of them and he will try to improve the working of the ONGC. Not only in the administration, but in other respects also, there should be some policy whereby the working should be comparable to other organisations already there.

16.58 hrs.

[SHRI K. N. TIWARY *in the Chair*]

If ONGC's working is improved and drilling cost brought down, royalty cannot make much impact on the consumer price, apart from the fact that it is absorbed by the refineries. I find there is enough scope to bring down the cost of drilling. Compared to international price our price of crude is much higher. Therefore, first and foremost attention should be paid to this aspect of drilling cost in ONGC.

SHRI J. N. HAZARIKA : Sir, it is surprising that in spite of the support from all hon. members of the House for raising the royalty from Rs. 12.50, the Minister was unable to accept it. I am sure the people of Assam will not like it and they will protest. The Assam Government was pres-

[Shri J. N. Hazarika]

sing that it should be Rs. 15, but as a Via media we suggested 12.50. When Mr. Fakhruddin Ahmed was Finance Minister of Assam, he was pressing the Government of India very hard that the rate should be Rs. 15. It is very surprising that he is part and parcel of this Government now and still the Government has agreed only to Rs. 10, against the interests of Assam.

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR CHATTERJI (Howrah) : Sir, I entirely agree with the purpose of the Bill, but I add my voice to the demand of the House for some increase in royalty. Those States which are rich in oil and natural gas have to depend on the royalty money for their development. Therefore, the Central Government should see that royalties are not worked out in such a manner that it works to the disadvantage of these States.

Therefore I feel that the demand of Assam is justified.

So far as West Bengal is concerned, not enough attempts have been made in a vigorous manner to prospect for oil in Sunderbans and Bankura. I hope more attention will be paid to that aspect now so that our requirements could be met in full.

The foreign oil companies are functioning in a way which is not congenial to our interests. If only we utilize all our resources there will not be any dearth of crude. Even in the matter of kerosene oil we find that there is always scarcity in one State or another. In spite of the best attempts of the government to check such shortages there is generally shortage of kerosene oil in some part of the country or other. Such essential requirements of the people should always be met, particularly in the rural areas where the people depend entirely on kerosene oil.

Because of the changing situation in the country the reactionary forces are waging their last fight. So, the need of the hour is to step up our internal oil production so that we need not have to depend upon international monopolistic oil cartels which always combine to our disadvantage. Now those cartels follow a price policy which is certainly prejudicial to the best interests

of our country. Therefore, the government should immediately evolve a machinery to augment our oil resources in the very near future so that we can meet our oil requirements from internal supplies.

Coming to the public sector oil corporation we hear some allegations of wasteful expenditure. We also hear of nepotism, favouritism and some other kind of evil practices at the highest level. They should be thoroughly gone into. At a time when the country is losing heavily because of the non-expansion of the public sector oil refineries, it is very necessary that the public sector should function in such a manner as to inspire confidence in the people that if the foreign oil companies are taken over by us we could run them well. In that way, it will be a good service to the country. I hope the government will look into this aspect of the matter.

17 hrs.

SHRI RANGA (Srikakulam) : I am all in favour of the demand made by my hon. friend, Shri Hazarika, for increasing the quantum of royalty. I sincerely hope that the government would take the earliest opportunity of bringing the necessary amendments for increasing the rate of royalty.

Secondly, when I was touring in Gujrat, quite a number of our peasants there began to complain that they were not being given the benefit to the extent that they deserved of this royalty. In America people under whose land oil is being extracted are being given some credit for the contribution that they make. Therefore when this compensation is being paid for their land some consideration should also be given to this fact that they deserve a part of the benefit that accrues to the country.

Thirdly, I am in agreement with my hon. friend, Shri Viswanatham, who said in terms of our own mother-tongue, Telugu, that the Godavari Basin should be explored, the Bay of Bengal should be given priority, and then it should be possible for us to explore and extract quite a large quantity of these very valuable minerals including crude oil, kerosene and various other things.

Then, is there no chance at all for reducing the price of kerosene oil? My hon. friend, the Minister was taking credit of the fact that there was no shortage in the supply of kerosene oil. But what about the price of kerosene oil? It has been raised by various stages. There has been no effort at all till now to reduce it during all these years. Would it not be possible for him to reduce the price of kerosene oil and not simply to complain that excise duty ought to be reduced and so on? Excise duty will take its own course but from the producer's point of view they should be prepared really to reduce the price of kerosene oil.

There is also one other point. Whether it is relevant on this occasion or not, I would like my hon. friend to keep it in mind, namely, the need for ensuring that in selecting their agents, staff and representatives for various services that they need for developing this industry, they do try to recruit people—agents, representatives and others—in a non-political, non-partisan and an entirely commercial manner and ensure that all classes of people are given an opportunity of offering their co-operation to Government and this Corporation without any regard whatsoever to their political affiliations or social standing.

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : Sir, I thank hon. Members for the various suggestions that they have given. I have noted them down and I can assure hon. Member that I will try my best to implement as many of their suggestions as is possible for the Government to implement.

Shri Viswanatham—he has left—made two suggestions : firstly, that we should make more drilling in the Godavari—Krishna Delta to find out oil and, secondly, if I have understood him aright, that the oil industry should be nationalised. So far as the Godavari-Krishna Delta is concerned—I have written to the Chief Minister also—I have told him, since some scientist of Andhra Pradesh thinks that there is a possibility of finding oil there, I have advised him to come to D hra Dun to discuss with the experts—both Indian and foreign—and come to an understanding. We will not have any objection to go into that provided it is technically suggested that it should be

done. I have no reservation for this area or that area. With our limited kitty in our eagerness to get more oil we go to a place where there is more prospect quickly than to other places. This is the only consideration, I may say frankly.

SHRI TBNNETI VISWANATHAM : I thought, the Minister told us that he was trying to get some French experts to re-interpret the existing data.

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : I think, they would be coming by the end of December.

Many hon. Members have suggested nationalisation of the oil industry. The word nationalisation, to my mind—excuse me—should not be used so cheaply as we understand it. When we nationalise an industry, we must first find out whether we are sure of getting the raw materials. Secondly, the products that are produced should be available at a cheaper cost to the consumers in the country. These two aspects must be considered thoroughly before we decide to nationalise any industry.

So far as the oil industry is concerned knowing as all of you do, we are having a shortage of crude oil and the crude oil is being produced by some big cartels, monopolists and it is very difficult to make even a break through because if you want to get some cheaper things by negotiation, they combine and that agreement fails. This is the true picture of the oil industry. Unless you get the crude oil at cheaper cost, unless you get the raw materials as you want to make the production cheaper, I think, we should not just say, you nationalise the oil industry. It will not be good for the country and for the poor consumer.

About the price of kerosene, the Shantilal Shah Committee has submitted the report and they must have mentioned what should be the price of kerosene. But that also depends on at what price we get crude from outside. Just by nationalising refineries or oil industry, we do not achieve that. I do not like to jump on this suggestion unless I am sure about having the supply of raw material and about seeing that the products reach the consumers at a cheaper

[Dr. Triguna Sen]

price in abundance as per their requirements. Unless I am sure of these two things, I am extremely sorry I cannot think of nationalising the oil industry.

So far as the planning of exploration is concerned, I have talked with several of my friends and also said in the Consultative Committee that it is a truism that we are drilling in different parts of the country. But we are short of scientists who can interpret and evaluate those readings that we get. We are planning for a scientific exploration with the assistance of Russian and French scientists and, I am sure, within a couple of months, we will be able to do that.

Then, my hon. friend, Shri S. Kandapan, compared the drilling cost of the O.N.G.C. with that of the Oil India. It is not possible, perhaps, to compare in this way. First of all, as you know, the Oil India is confined to a small place whereas the O.N.G.C. is exploring all over the country including Assam. We are not taking the cost only in Assam. We have to take the country as a whole. The O.N.G.C. has got 45 rigs working in different parts of the country. There are several such other factors which also influence the drilling cost of the two organisations. I agree that the Oil India has got the expertise, the drillers, the geologists and engineers since a very long time as you might have seen in Assam, whereas the O.N.G.C. is just developing. It has only about 9-10 years' standing. That is also a big factor.

I may inform the House—Mr. Pilloo Mody asked me about it;—he will be glad to know—that the O.N.G.C. will spud in the first well in Cambay basin by 31st March, 1970. All works scheduled to reach this goal are being executed according to schedule.

SHRI PILOO MODY : With whose collaboration ?

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : We will do it ourselves.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

“That the Bill be passed”

The motion was adopted

17.10 hrs.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (ABOLITION) BILL

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF LAW AND IN THE
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE
(SHRI M. YUNUS SALEEM) : I beg to
move :

“That the Bill to provide for the abolition of the Legislative Council of the State of Punjab and for matters supplemental, incidental and consequential thereto, be taken into consideration.”

Only a few months ago we had passed a similar Bill abolishing the Legislative Council of the State of West Bengal. Now on the basis of a Resolution passed by the Punjab Legislative Assembly under article 169 of the Constitution, this Bill is moved before this House for consideration.

On 24th April, 1969, the Legislative Assembly of the State of Punjab considered this matter under article 169 of the Constitution and passed a Resolution for the abolition of the Legislative Council of the State. Now this Bill provides for the abolition of the Legislative Council and it also contains certain supplementary provisions. Clause 7 makes necessary provisions in respect of pending Bills. As the House is aware, certain Bills which are passed by the Assembly are to be introduced in the Council also for their consideration. To meet this contingency, where Bills are pending before the Council and have not yet been discussed by the Council, provision has been made that they would be deemed to have been finally passed by the Assembly.

I hope, the hon. members will consider this Bill seriously and express their views for the passing of this Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved :

“That the Bill to provide for the abolition of the Legislative Council of the