

tionery etc., it was stated that "There is no ceiling for the supply of electricity and water at the residences of the Ministers and Deputy Ministers. They have, however, agreed to a voluntary ceiling of Rs. 2,400/- per mensem. For the consumption of water and electricity above this ceiling, a Minister is liable to make payment." A typographical mistake has occurred in this answer. The correct position is that the voluntary ceiling is Rs. 200 per mensem or Rs. 2,400/- per annum.

12.06 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED PILFERING AND DESTRUCTIVE ACTIVITIES ON HALDIA BARAUNI PIPELINE NEAR WEST BENGAL-BIHAR BORDER

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Alipore): Before calling his attention, may I draw your attention to the fact that the statement in reply running to 1½ pages was handed to us just now at 12 noon. Only the other day you observed that such statements should be made available much earlier so that we can go through them.

MR. SPEAKER: It can be read by the Minister.

SHRI S. KUNDU (Balasore): They cannot make the bureaucracy work. They do not care for your directives. That is my experience with these Ministers.

MR. SPEAKER: If I do not receive the statement in time, the Minister will have to wait till the evening. Today I make an exception. But I warn them. They must send me the statement in time.

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra): Otherwise, give them detention in the evening.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: I call the attention of the Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals and Mines and Metals to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

The reported pilfering and destructive activities on Haldia-Barauni Oil Pipeline near West Bengal-Bihar border.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (DR. TRIGUNA SEN): First, I must apologise for the fact that the statement was made available only at 12 O'Clock. I was given to understand that it was circulated yesterday—I do not know why this happened.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU (Diamond Harbour): If he cannot give a statement in time, how can he run a huge pipeline?

SHRI BALRAJ MADHOK (South Delhi): They cannot shift the blame on to the Secretariat. For us, only he is responsible.

MR. SPEAKER: If it was yesterday, it was Sunday.

DR. TRIGUNA SEN: The Haldia-Barauni-Kanpur Products Pipeline is comprised of two major sections, namely; (a) Barauni-Kanpur (b) and Barauni-Haldia and a branch line of 58 kms. from Baradabar to Maurigram. Since September 1967, the Barauni-Haldia section has been transporting petroleum products from the Barauni Refinery to the delivery points of Marketing Division of the IOC.

2. During the three years of its operations, four major incidents of suspected attempt of theft/pilferage of petroleum products have been reported so far. The first major one took place on 8th March, 1968 near Jasidih, the second on 8th December, 1969, 20 kms. away from the first; the third on 10th May, 1970 and fourth on 4th/5th June, 1970 at Jhajha. Only in case of the first incident, some drop in the pipeline pressure was recorded. There have been seven other minor attempts.

It is reported that about 50 kl of motor spirit was lost in the first incident. In the others, no loss or substantial damage to property has taken place.

These repeated incidents and their occurrence in roughly the same area has caused concern to Government and I.O.C. We have taken up this matter with the State Government through the Ministry of Home Affairs. Police investigations into these incidents have not been fruitful so far. Suspects are being watched. The local police has started

[Dr. Triguna Sen]

armed patrolling and is maintaining vigilance to find the criminals.

The Industrial Security Team has also inspected the HBK Pipeline in November and December 1968 to assess its vulnerability to sabotage by the destructive elements. Their recommendations with regard to the security arrangements of vulnerable points have been accepted by I.O.C. Patrolling of the line have been intensified by I.O.C. in the affected areas, as recommended by the Team, and action is also under-way for recruitment of an Industrial Security Officer. Government are considering to provide the services of the Central Industrial Security Force for protecting the pipeline system. I. O. C. have also embedded the gauge adopters by concreting so that access to the gauge adopters is made difficult.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: This pipeline is not only supplying products for civilian purposes, but defence requirements too. Therefore, it is naturally a matter of serious concern that repeated attempts like this have been going on for the last two or three years to steal petroleum products out of this line, although we have never previously been informed by the Government about this till now.

I want to know whether it is a fact or not that this pipeline runs only about three feet below the surface and during rains, floods and so on, this pipeline is very easily exposed, and that the controlling valves are almost always exposed, that they are extremely vulnerable. Between Barauni and Haldia there are eight major river crossings. At these river crossings this pipeline follows the oridges over the rivers, and therefore, it is not hidden at all, it is absolutely exposed.

In view of this vulnerability of the pipeline, detailed recommendations were made not only by this Industrial Security Team, to which the Minister has referred, which made not one but 40 recommendations on this point two years ago, but in addition, another committee called the Ghosh Committee also made concrete recommendations, which are published, included in the Appendix to the 66th Report of the Committee on Public Undertakings, for vigilance in the main-

tenance of this pipeline. Despite this having been clearly pointed out, three years have passed, no action worthwhile has yet been taken, and the post of the Security Officer has not yet been filled up. Nothing has been done about the whole security set-up which was recommended. And that is why I would like to know what have the people who are responsible, that is to say the Minister, the Secretary to the Ministry, the Managing Director of the Pipelines Division, the General Manager of the IOC, all these high-officials who are responsible for seeing that these recommendations are implemented, been doing.

This is a matter of urgent importance, because the Public Undertakings Committee, of which you yourself were a distinguished Chairman, as you know, in its 66th Report, has categorically stated in its final recommendations that there has been a persistent effort to slur over the dereliction of duty of high officers and not to fix their responsibility, though copious facts to substantiate such lapses have come on record. This committee also went into the question of the alignment of the very pipeline—Haldia-Barauni pipeline—and they have recommended that the least that could be done is to proceed departmentally without delay against the officers concerned because the Committee felt that the Government should not allow a feeling to go around that the officers who commit such grave lapses and indulged in dereliction of duty should go unpunished. (Interruptions.) When the PUC has made such strictures and made such strong recommendations why has no action been taken and why have they allowed this recommendation to lapse and have appointed yet another commission to go into the same question all over again, about this pipeline whose security even they could not protect? Is the external sabotage meant to cover up the internal sabotage by high officers who had been exposed on more than one occasion? Will he tell us the reason for avoiding the implementation of the PUC's reports and recommendations regarding the need for immediate action against high officers who are guilty and allowing them further loopholes to escape by appointing yet another committee which may drag on for another two or three years? What are they

doing? Why are they not implementing the security recommendations?

DR. TRIGUNA SEN: The hon. Member has asked two questions. The first is whether security arrangements for protecting the pipeline as was recommended had been taken. I find that about forty recommendations were made. It has been reported to me by the IOC that most recommendations had been implemented. In respect of some of the recommendations it was necessary to refer to the Home Department of the State concerned and they had been referred to it. Security officers had also been appointed. Actually all these activities are confined to an area of 20 kilometres between Jhajha and Jasidih; there is also information that wagon breakers were active on the railways in that place. Instead of appointing security officers, the IOC referred it to the State Government through the Home Ministry and the State Government had in turn referred it to the Jasidih police station and thus quite some time went by; I agree. But after that, when we saw that the State Government was not taking any steps though the Home Ministry again and again referred it to the State Government the recommendations on security measures had been taken up by the IOC.

Secondly, he referred to recommendations made by the PUS against some officials and the action to be taken against them. Government went into the whole case and there was also the report of enquiry by Justice N. S. Rao. The two reports are absolutely different; they are contradictory to some extent. It was an unusual measure though but still at the request and recommendation of my Ministry Government took a decision to appoint a commission of enquiry to go into the working of the Government itself in this respect. . . . (*Interruptions.*) The PUC recommended action against lapses on the part of the officers concerned and also about the Government's working itself. There are many rules and procedures to be followed to frame charges which are required to be referred to an enquiry commission so that they could be brought to book. That is why this commission has been appointed.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: The Minister cannot mislead the House like this; he should forgive my saying so. N. S. Rao Committee

dealt only with alignment. The PUC report is not only on alignment but also capacity and so many other things. What does he mean by saying that they are contradictory to each other and therefore a third committee is required. The two have dealt with different things altogether.

DR. TRIGUNA SEN: The PUC while making the recommendations criticised the action of the Government and the actions of certain officers. According to the rules of procedure it has to be referred to a commission of enquiry. Of course, I understand that it is an unusual procedure to go into the activities and the working of the Ministry itself. But we had to do it. (*Interruption*)

SHRI S. KUNDU: He asked for departmental action. Please assure the House that you are taking departmental action.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS *rose—*

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Departmental action on the basis of the evidence available. It is clearly written here, in black and white. Sir, will you allow the PUC to be treated in this cavalier fashion? Has it got no status? What is the meaning of this? Here is a recommendation in black and white.

SHRI S. KUNDU: What is the action that you are taking? (*Interruption*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kundu, the procedure in Calling Attention is that only those Members who have tabled it are allowed to ask questions.

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK: Sir, the recommendations made by a Committee of this House are very specific, and their recommendations are being flouted. That is our charge.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU: Sir, by now, I know the hon. Minister's success in sending drugs underground. Now, about the pipeline. He has made a mockery of the PUC and therefore of the House, in that the Public Undertakings Committee has very clearly said:

"The Committee would, therefore, like Government to take immediate steps

[Shri Jyotirmoy Basu]

to bring to book the guilty officers on the basis of evidence that is already available. The least that could be done is to proceed departmentally without delay. . . "

etc., etc. But nothing has been done. They have just instituted another enquiry to kill time, (*Interruption*) There has been a wide-spread dereliction of duty including arranging security for the pipeline which caters to half the population of north India including the defence installations. We had air-crashes at the air-ports and we suspected that this was due to sub-standard fuel which could have easily been done by sabotaging the pipeline and boring holes and so on. There are charges of corruption also, on the part of some very senior officers who mostly belong to the Indian Civil Service. But they are punishing those officials who are loyal and patriotic, and rewarding those who were hand-in-glove with the misdeeds of a man like N. V. Balwani who has been given a key position, and the pipeling has been wholly neglected.

Will the hon. Minister give this House an assurance here and now that till such time as the enquiry is completed, he will give full protection to those honest and loyal officials who helped in bringing the whole thing to light and protect them from pressure and harassment which have been practised on a number of them? Secondly, will he suspend, and wherever it could be done, completely keep out of the Corporation, and out of here, in Delhi, such officials like Mangat Rai, Kashyap, Rajwade, who are holding key positions and pressurising—(*Interruption*)—It is a fact. You, Sir, have been the Chairman of the Committee. These officials are pressurising and tampering, and how long will they keep them in these positions? (*Interruption*)

MR. SPEAKER: It is a different matter. I happened to be the Chairman of that Committee. But I happen to be the Speaker now. I did not know that I would have to ask you to be in order because of procedure. Certainly, of course, you should not refer to people who are not present here to defend themselves.

SHRI NAMBIAR (Tiruchirappalli): Leave alone the names; but they are officials with designations.

DR. TRIGUNA SEN: I am sorry that the hon. Member has mentioned names of some officers who are not here to protect themselves. Surely I am not here to defend or protect any of the officers. (*Interruption*).

SOME HON. MEMBERS: What else?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Do not allow yourself to be bullied by those officers.

SHRI S. KUNDU: What else are you doing then? You have no guts. You should resign. A Committee of Parliament has made clear recommendations, and you are talking of another enquiry.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kundu, please do not get excited all the time. Sometimes you may, but not all the time.

DR. TRIGUNA SEN: I am yet to understand how I am protecting any officers who have done anything wrong. We are told by the Ministry of Law that if we are to proceed against any officer on this report, there must be a commission of inquiry to go into this and make specific charges. Unless and until that is done, we cannot punish any officer. That is why we have done so. It is not our intention to protect anybody.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU: Will he grant protection to those officers who have helped in bringing to light the misdeeds and corruptions there? Will he keep out those officers who are involved in it and who are pressurising and tampering with the witnesses and doing other things to save themselves from this black act?

DR. TRIGUNA SEN: There should not be any doubt in the mind of the hon. member that those who assisted in giving evidence etc. will be harassed by anyone in the ministry or elsewhere. If there is any such instance, he can bring it to my notice.

SHRIMATI ILA PALCHOU DHURI: (Krishnagar): In view of the fact that this pipeline carries petrol for defence purposes as well as for civilian consumption, may I know whether the IOC have thought of meeting the cost of security of this long pipeline? Secondly, some of the States have suggested that like the railways, there should

be a protection force under the control of IOC so that people and parties who want to sabotage the pipeline can be thoroughly traced and brought to book. Will the Hon. Minister consider this suggestion also?

DR. TRIGUNA SEN: IOC has now taken the whole responsibility and appointed a watch and ward department for the maintenance and operation of the pipeline in the whole section.

12.27 hrs.

RE. CLOSURE OF SHAHADRA-SAHARANPUR LIGHT RAILWAY

श्री प्रकाशबीर शास्त्री (हापुड़): अध्यक्ष महोदय, पूर्व इसके कि आप अगली कार्यवाही पर जायें मैं आप से एक पत्र-प्रदर्शन चाहता हूँ और उस हेतु आप से यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ....

अध्यक्ष महोदय: मुझे तो पहले इसिला होनी चाहिए थी।

श्री प्रकाशबीर शास्त्री: वही मैं आप से निवेदन कर रहा हूँ। हमारा दुर्भाग्य यह है कि हम शोर नहीं मचाते या इस प्रकार का कुछ प्रदर्शन नहीं करते जो जबरदस्ती आप से समय ले लें। हमारा अपराध यही है कि हम नियमित रूप से अपनी बात कहना चाहते हैं। बात सिर्फ थोड़ी सी है जिसमें मैं आपका ज्यादा समय नहीं लूंगा।

यह संसद के इस सत्र का अंतिम सप्ताह है। इस पूरे सत्र के अन्दर 13 बार हमने आप को कॉलिंग अटेंशन नोटिस दिये, तीन बार हमने शीट नोटिस स्वेचन दिये और एक ऐसी समस्या की ओर आपका ध्यान दिलाया जिसका करीब डेढ़ करोड़ आदमियों से सम्बन्ध है और वह यह कि कल पहली सितम्बर से एस. एस. लाइट रेलवे बन्द होने जा रही है। परिणामस्वरूप कल पहली सितम्बर से 1500 कर्मचारी बर्खास्त होने जा रहे हैं।

नन्दा जी यहां पर बैठे हुए हैं उनसे हमारी पार्टी के श्री रघुवीर सिंह शास्त्री मिले थे। नन्दा जी ने उनसे कहा था कि वह यह लिख कर दे दें विस्तार के साथ मैं अवश्य कॉलिंग अटेंशन नोटिस को स्वीकार कर लूंगा। यह शहादरा और सहारनपुर के बीच चलने वाली एस. एस. लाइट रेलवे जो 140 किलोमीटर की है जिसमें 15 मंडियां पड़ती हैं कल से यह रेलवे लाइन बन्द होने जा रही है। लेकिन आप ने इस पर ध्यानाकर्षण प्रस्ताव स्वीकार नहीं किया। मंत्री महोदय शीट नोटिस स्वेचन एक्सीप्ट नहीं करते। अब आप ही यह बतलायें कि कल से जो यह रेलवे लाइन बंद होने जा रही है उसके मामले को यहां पार्लियामेंट में उठाने के लिए क्या उपाय करें? डा० राम सुभग सिंह जिस समय रेलवे मिनिस्टर होते थे, डा० राम सुभग सिंह को याद होगा, उन्होंने उस समय यह कहा था कि हम इस रेलवे लाइन का राष्ट्रीयकरण करेंगे। गवर्नमेंट की ओर से उन्होंने यह आश्वासन दिया था कि इस रेलवे लाइन का नेशनलाइजेशन किया जायगा। कल से यह रेलवे लाइन बंद होने जा रही है तो अब आप ही बतलायें कि कैसे यह मामला इस सत्र के अंतिम सप्ताह में आयेगा?

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH (Buxar): I had announced that all the light railways will be nationalised. No light railway should be allowed to be closed down.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NANDA): Shall I make a statement later or give a brief reply now?

MR. SPEAKER: You may make a statement sometime in the evening.

SHRI NANDA: Yes, Sir; I shall clarify the position in the statement.

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH: But the railway line should not be closed.

SHRI NANDA: I cannot make any commitment in a hurry.

श्री प्रकाशबीर शास्त्री: एक महीने से हम बराबर कोशिश कर रहे हैं कि सदन में