

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will permit him but not now. The next item is "Statement by Ministers". They may lay them on the Table.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have already said that the statement will be circulated to hon. Members.

12.43 hrs.

CORRECTION OF ANSWER TO SQ
NO. 1203 RE PRODUCTION OF
NON-FERROUS METALS

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN) : Sir, I lay on the Table a statement correcting the answer given on the 21st April, 1969 to supplementaries by Sarvashri Pattiam Gopalani and S. Damani on Starred Question No. 1203 regarding production of non-ferrous metals.

12.43½ hrs.

STATEMENT RE. GOVERNMENT, REACTION TO RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON SALARY, ALLOWANCES AND OTHER AMENITIES TO MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a statement* regarding Government's reaction to some of the recommendations of the Joint Committee on Salary, Allowances and other amenities to Members of Parliament.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Sir, the statement may be read out.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Even if they are read out there is no time for putting questions (*interruptions*). Copies of all statements will be circulated now.

SHRI S. M BANERJEE (Kāṅpur) : Sir, I raise to a point of order. My point of order is with regard to item 22 on the Order Paper.

12.45 hrs.

PETROLEUM (AMENDMENT) BILL**

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (DR. TRIGUNA SEN) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Petroleum Act, 1934.

SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL (Chandigarh) : Sir, I rise to oppose the introduction of this Petroleum (Amendment) Bill. In the Statement of Objects and Reasons which has been attached with this Bill one reason that has been given is that they want to change the nomenclature and no reason has been stated regarding the enhancement of penalty. You will see that by clause 14 the penalties are being enhanced from a fine of Rs. 500 to one month's imprisonment and Rs 1000 fine. This is being done in every minor cases. Even for the breaches of ordinary rules, even for persons who are temporarily in charge of either a place where petroleum is stored or even when someone is transporting it. You will be pleased to see that in the original Act Chapter I deals with this.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : At this stage you are allowed to make a brief statement and not allowed to go into the merits of the Bill.

SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL : I am not going into the details. On the contravention of a very minor rule, a person in charge of a place of storage of petroleum, a person transporting petroleum or a person dealing with petroleum if he refuses or neglects to show to any officer any receipt-acle or plant or even if he fails to render reasonable assistance to any officer during inspection he will be liable to be punished with imprisonment as well as a fine of Rs. 1000.

My submission in this behalf is that there must be some rationality behind puni-

*Please cols.....

**Published in Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 16-5-69.