

197 *Written Answers* AGRAHAYANA 19, 1892 (SAKA) Govt. decision on 198 majority participation in foreign oil companies (C.A.)

by June, 1971, and at what rate they will be removed every month ;

(b) how many houses have been built in Rajasthan for them and in which area and what are the names of those places ;

(c) the measures adopted for the supply of drinking water there ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) About 8000 families from Pong Dam are likely to be moved by June, 1971 at an average rate about 1500 families per month.

(b) About 3400 houses for the oustees have been constructed in abadies selected so far on the Suratgarh Branch and Anupgarh Shakha areas of Rajasthan Canal.

(c) Each Abadi is being provided with a Pucca Diggi with filtering arrangements for supply of drinking water.

Enquiries/Commissions Conducted by Shri G. D. Khosla after his Retirement from High Court Bench

2386. SHRI S. C. SAMANTA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the date on which Shri G. D. Khosla retired from the High Court Bench ;

(b) the enquiries, commissions conducted by him for the Central and State Governments ;

(c) whether he is conducting any inquiry on the Academies of the Education Ministry on fixed remuneration ;

(d) whether he has also accepted the Netaji Death Enquiry at the same time ; and

(e) the total consolidated payment to him since his retirement besides the pension ?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF

HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) 15. 12. 1961 when the retirement age of High Court Judges was 60 years.

(b) A statement is laid on the table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT—4389/70.*]

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The total payments made to him after retirement are not readily available. However, the nature of remuneration for each assignment is indicated in the attached statement.

12.05 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED DECISION OF THE GOVERNMENT TO HAVE MAJORITY PARTICIPATION IN THE FOREIGN OIL COMPANIES

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : I call the attention of the Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals and Mines and Metals to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon :

“Reported decision of the Government to have majority participation in the foreign oil companies”.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (DR. TRIGUNA SEN) : I would first of all like to inform the House categorically and clearly that no decision has been made by Government to have majority participation, or indeed any participation, in the foreign oil companies.

As Hon'ble Members are aware, we have constantly had under review the working of the Refinery Agreements with the foreign oil companies, in the background of our progress in developing self-sufficiency in both the refining of oil and the distri-

bution of petroleum products. As we have progressed in these matters, certain aspects of the Refinery Agreements have proved irksom. In particular, we have had in the recent year or to difficulties in regard to convincing the foreign oil companies about the price at which crude should be imported by them for their refineries. In this matter, as Hon'bler Members know, the oil companies have eventually agreed and accepted the Government proposed price and crude is now being imported at this price. Nevertheless, we have been anxious to evolve some method by which, in future, occasions for disagreement did not occur, by the adoption of a system which would ensure competitive prices.

There are also certain other aspects of the Refinery Agreements which require'd revision or which have now become out of date.

During the course of the last few months discussions have been undertaken with the foreign oil companies to examine how far Refinery Agreements could be revised in the changed circumstances. I am glad to inform the House that the companies have been agreeable to undertake consideration of the matter in a constructive manner.

The discussions are, even today, at an exploratory and tentative stage. Hon'ble Members will, therefore, appreciate that in these circumstances there is little advantage to gain, and there may be much loss, in discussing matters to which neither party has so far come to firm decisions. It is true that one of the proposals under discussion has been the suggestion of the foreign oil companies for the conversion of their companies to Indian Companies and the participation of the public sector in them to assist in the evolution of satisfactory arrangements. No decision on this matter has, however, been taken, nor even have any of the major details been discussed. I would, therefore, repeat as I started that there is no decision regarding participation by Government in the foreign oil companies.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : When I read the news of participation of the Government in foreign oil companies, I had mixed reaction

of happiness and surprise because I thought that something was being done to stop the exploitation of these oil companies and surprise because I could not imagine that this Government would take such a bold step as I know fully well the character of this Government. I am really disappointed at the statement of Dr. Triguna Sen for whom I have the greatest regard. It is full of apology, as if something very bad is being done. It started with a denial and ended with a denial to satisfy those oil magnates of Esso, Caltex and Burmah Shell. It is stated here :

"It is true that one of the proposals under discussion has been the suggestion of the foreign oil companies for the conversion of their companies to Indian Companies and the participation of the public sector in them to assist in the evolution of satisfactory arrangements."

This is something which I am unable to understand. What is this evolutionary method ? It goes on say :

"No decision on this matter, has, however, been taken nor even have any of the major details been discussed."

This is strange. Then what has been discussed is known only to the Minister and the oil companies. These oil companies have behaved in a shabby manner for years together and they are actually trying to bully this Government with a double-barrelled gun—firstly asking for a rise in price and secondly creating artificial shortages in the country. I want to know, apart from this discussion which will continue without any fruitful result and which will ultimately result in the benefit of these oil companies, whether the Government will take a decision to take over these oil companies and bid good-bye to them ? We had been exploited enough ; they have bled our country white by their exploitation. Has he got the courage of this conviction ? If there is some substance in their tall talk of socialism these oil companies should be taken over. I want a straight answer from the hon. Minister.

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : I am sorry ; my knowledge of English is rather meagre. He

said that he was happy when he read the news that the oil companies had asked for collaboration. Having said so he insists that the Government should nationalise them. I have not understood the meaning of both these sentences... (*Interruptions*). It is not correct to say that the private oil companies are coming to us with a double gun as he mentioned to try to raise prices of the crude nor is it correct to say that they cause artificial shortages. We asked them to reduce the price of crude to a certain level at which it was available and all of them agreed to that. About artificial shortage, it is something new; there is no shortage and they cannot create any artificial shortage of petroleum products. Recently we have taken power under the Essential Commodities Act to deal with such situations if any. The oil companies are obliged to produce petroleum products according to the needs of our country. Coming to the question of participation, it is true that there is a proposal to convert them in to Indian companies for participation with some public sector concern in the country, perhaps the IOC, but there are so many points involved in it. There are major issues involved in it. It is not easy to accede to that or even to consider that without considering the interests of the country. Let us take one point only. May be they may ask participation in management. Can we agree to that? No. There are so many points on which we cannot agree and we have to consider the major aspects first and then only we can decide. We have also to compare between nationalisation and participation and see which is good for the country and we shall pursue only that course which will be to the interest of the nation.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : The last part of the question has not been answered. It is high time that they were taken over. What is the answer to that? Will he consider that? They may want participation. Supposing, the negotiations fail, will the Government consider taking over the oil companies? In the interests of the nation, they must take them over. I want an answer to that. I am sure that he will reply.

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : I can assure the hon. House that we will not do anything which is against the interests of the nation.

SHRI VASUDEVAN NAIR (Peer-made) : That is too general a statement.

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : It is not too general a statement.

SHRI GANESH GHOSH : (Calcutta-South) : Mr. Speaker, Sir believe it or not, the agreements that the Government of India—a free Government after 1947—have concluded are not with the Governments of the USA or Great Britain but with some foreign oil companies, and these agreements up till today have remained a source of insult, shame and humiliation to the people of India. The Government, it seems, is afraid to displease the Government of the USA or of Great Britain, lest they should without the sorely needed money for our fourth Five Year Plan, because, there is no attempt up till now, after 20 years of our freedom, to scuttle or cancel those agreements. But there have been shameless, disgusting attempts to by-pass these agreements, not scuttling them.

What does the Minister say? He says, "We have constantly under review the working of the refinery agreements." It is only "review the working of the refinery agreements in the background of our progress". Eventually, after much coaxing and prayers, these foreign oil companies "have agreed". The Minister is very happy to say that "they have eventually agreed" to accept the suggestions of the Government, the proposals of the Government. The Minister says that "We have been anxious to evolve some method; " not scuttle those agreements, not cancel them outright as humiliating for our national honour. But attempts are being made; they are "anxious to evolve some method" to by-pass those agreements. Long live those agreements, a source of eternal humiliation to the people of India.

Then they also say, "There are also certain other aspects of the refinery agreements which required revision..." Only revision, not scuttling, not cancelling them. These things are under the consideration of the Government. The Government is glad. The Minister says, "I am glad to inform the House..." That is, by-passing the agreements and keeping the agreements in fact, is under their consideration. They are very happy. Long live this Government and long live our eternal humiliation. (*Interruption*)

[Shri Ganesh Ghosh]

May be, after much prayers and after giving them much concession, they have agreed to accept one or two minor proposals of this Government. But I ask this Government, "Will this satisfy us?" Or, are they taking a firm stand to cancel these agreements by tomorrow morning? Will the Government kindly answer this question? That is my first point.

Secondly, all these things come to nothing. What are the facts today? The refinery capacity needed at the end of the fourth Plan is 28 million tonnes. This is what we require. On the 1st of January this year, the capacity was only 20 million tonnes. With the completion of Haldia refinery by 1972 and the expansion of Cochin refinery, etc., our total capacity will be augmented by only four million tonnes bringing the total to only 24 million tonnes. The requirements at the end of the Fifth Five Year Plan will come to about 42 million tonnes; that is, our capacity will be 18 million tonnes less than our requirements. So, in the next nine years, to come up to the end of the Fifth Five Year Plan, we would have to augment our capacity by 18 million tonnes, that is, two million tonnes every year. Where is the arrangement? Where is the Plan? What action have the Government taken to augment this capacity by the end of the ninth year from now? There is little possibility that this capacity will be realised by the end of the Fifth Five Year Plan. Everybody knows that it takes about 5 years to complete a refinery and bring it under production from the stage of sanction. There are only 9 years and we have to take up a gap of 18 million tonnes. According to present estimates, after expansion of the present public sector refinery at Madras and after Haldia is commissioned and after the development of Koyali, Barauni and Assam refineries, we might reduce the gap by 6 million tonnes. Still there would be a gap of 12 million tonnes at the end of the fifth Five Year Plan. What action has the Government taken till today to make up this gap? Nothing. Only there are discussions and talks and certain proposals being made to the foreign oil companies. It means ultimately they will come to an agreement with the foreign oil companies, not take them over outright.

What little Cuba or tiny Ceylon could do, we in India with 55 crores of people cannot do! This Government is thoroughly incapable; they are cowards, cringing before the foreign companies...

MR. SPEAKER : This is not a public meeting.

SHRI GANESH GHOSH : This is an all-India issue, not an issue about West Bengal. If it were a West Bengal issue, you would be quite correct in stopping me. This Government has decided to come to some collaboration arrangements with the foreign oil companies. Will the Minister clearly say, "No. I will scuttle these agreements with the foreign oil companies. I will not allow them to come anywhere near the public sector industries. I will nationalise them in the interest of 555 million people of India."

MR. SPEAKER : I think by scuttling, he means, rejecting.

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : I am very happy that my hon. friend, a member of the CPM has prayed for the long life of this Government. This is how he started. That means, indirectly he supports the action of the Government at least so far as this matter is concerned. (*Interruptions*). Next he said that the Government are coaxing and praying to the oil companies to reduce the price of crude. It is not correct. The House knows that we have never coaxed the oil companies nor have we made any request or prayer. We demanded it and they had to agree to it. Then, he mentioned about the requirements of the petroleum products during the fifth plan period. We are aware of it. Perhaps he has quoted it from the plan document. It is good that he studies it. He also mentioned how we are going to expand our existing refineries. There is also a proposal to have another refinery—the eleventh refinery—somewhere to meet demands of north-east India. We are making all arrangements for that. We are discussing this issue with the Planning Commission and the Finance Ministry. I am sure we would be able to meet the demands of the fifth plan. My friend asked, while small countries like Cuba and Ceylon have been able to nationalise the oil companies,

why a big country like India cannot do so ? As a matter of fact, I am trying to gain experience from Ceylon as to what difficulties or advantages they have gained by nationalisation. I hope my hon. friend, who shouts only that I must nationalise today or tomorrow, will also educate me whether they are facing refacing any difficulties. We must learn they experience of others. I would not like to make the some mistake that other countries did.

As I said before, we have not made any decision for collaboration. It is not our intention that we are seeing only to this aspect of the matter. We are studying the pros and cons of both the proposals. I can only assure the House, through you, that the Government will not take any decision or steps which will go against the interest of the country.

SHRI TRIDIB KUMAR CHAUDHURI (Berhampore) : We are thankful that the Minister without any cant or hypocrisy has just said that there is no change in the present policy. It is neither nationalising nor is it participating in the foreign companies. It is also seems that the Government has made no proposals on its own ; so far it is studying only one proposal which has come from a foreign oil company convert itself into an Indian company and participation of the Government in those Indian companies. I would like to know if the detailed outlines or at least the broad features of this proposal have been submitted to the Government. On the fact of it, it appears, whether Government policy changes or not, that this is totally unacceptable as these Indian companies would only be the subsidiaries of the international oil corporations and we would just be participants in the worldwide imperialist operations of the oil giants. At least so far as that aspect is concerned, we can straightaway tell them that we are not willing to do that. But he is considering it. So I want to know that are the specific proposals—at least some details, outline or contours of the proposal must have come to him—and what he is considering.

Secondly, one thing that has been agitating at least some of the hon. Members on this side of the House is the labour policy

of the foreign oil companies. It is well known that most of these oil companies are forcing their employees into resignation. They call it voluntary resignation. That has created a lot of problems and is causing considerable headache to union leaders, to his Ministry and to the Labour Ministry as well. Up till now no solution or no satisfactory answer from the foreign companies has been forthcoming. So long as the Government does not change its present policy, the oil companies should at least stop retrenchment. I want to know if he can hold out any assurance at least on that aspect of the matter.

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : Regarding his first question I can say that the oil companies have not come to us with any detailed outline of their proposal or with a written proposal ; they were just talking to the officers of the Ministry whether we could participate in this. I personally felt that, according to the present arrangement when we could fix the price of crude and could also determine the product pattern, it was no use thinking of this way or that. We are getting from them whatever we have wanted.

About their labour policy and the labour problems, I am aware of them. I referred this matter to the Ministry of labour also for their consideration. They considered it and asked the private oil companies not to retrench such personnel for one year. Now again it has been raised and my hon. friend, Labour Minister, is considering it. We are also discussing it with the labour leaders.

श्री योगेन्द्र शर्मा (बेगुसराय) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, पेट्रोलियम मिनिस्टर ने यह बयान दे कर के कि अभी तक मेजर पाटिसिपेशन का कोई फैसला नहीं किया गया है, एक हद तक हम लोगों को सांत्वना दी है लेकिन साथ ही साथ उन्होंने जो लिखित वक्तव्य दिया है उसमें रूपान्तर से यह स्वीकार किया गया है कि हमारे मंत्रालय के अधिकारियों और इन तीनों विदेशी कम्पानियों के अधिकारियों के बीच इस तरह की

[श्री योगेन्द्र शर्मा]

चीज पर रूपान्तर से बात हो रही क्योंकि इसमें कहा गया है :

“.....the suggestion of the foreign oil companies for the conversion of their companies to Indian Companies and the participation of the public sector in them to assist in the evolution of satisfactory arrangements.”

इस विषय पर दोनों पक्षों के बीच बात हो रही है। यह जो विषय है रूपान्तर से उस नतीजे पर हम को ले जायेगा जिस नतीजे पर मेजर पार्टिसिपेशन ले जायेगा क्योंकि इन कम्पनियों को इंडिया कम्पनियों में बदल देने से एक फायदा इन कम्पनियों को यह होगा कि इनको जो कुछ अधिक टैक्स भार लगता है उससे बचन हो जायेगी और दूसरी तरफ जो हमारे देश से अथाह मुनाफा लूट रहे हैं उस पर कोई बंदिश नहीं लगगी बल्कि उस पर हमारी नेशनल आयल कम्पनीज का एकसंरक्षण हो जायेगा। तो हम मन्त्री महोदय से आश्वासन चाहते हैं कि जिस तरह उन्होंने मेजर पार्टिसिपेशन के फैसले के सुझाव को अस्वीकार कर दिया है, इसको भी अस्वीकार कर देंगे क्यों कि इसका भी वही नीतजा होने वाला है।

दूसरी बात यह है कि तेल उद्योग का प्रश्न केवल आर्थिक और औद्योगिक प्रश्न ही नहीं है बल्कि हमारे सामरिक महत्व के लिए भी तेल एक बहुत ही विशेष स्थान रखता है। देश के औद्योगिक और आर्थिक हित के साथ साथ देश के सामरिक महत्व में यदि तेल की आशयकता हुई तो इन विदेशी कम्पनियों पर हमें निर्भर नहीं रहना पड़ेगा, इन दोनों हितों को ध्यान में रखते हुए विदेशी तेल कम्पनियों का राष्ट्रीयकरण करना राष्ट्रीय हित के लिए सर्वोपरि आवश्यकता

है—इसलिए क्या मंत्री महोदय इसका आश्वासन देंगे ?

हम उनसे यह भी जानना चाहेंगे कि क्या यह बात सच नहीं है कि इन तेल कंपनियों ने पिछले 14-15 सालों में जबकि हमारा एकरार-नामा इनसे हुआ था, हमारे देश से इतना अधिक मुनाफा भेजा है जितना मुनाफा, बाकी दूसरी जो विदेशी मैन्युफैक्चरिंग कम्पनियों हैं वे कुल मिलाकर भी नहीं भेज सकती है? क्या यह सच नहीं है कि सन 56 से लेकर 60 तक, चार सालों में इन तीन विदेशी तेल कम्पनियों ने प्रतिवर्ष 8 करोड़ रुपया मुनाफे के रूप में हमारे देश से बाहर भेजा है और इसी अवधि में दूसरी तमाम विदेशी मैन्युफैक्चरिंग कम्पनियों ने केवल तीन करोड़ रुपए भेजे हैं? दूसरी चीज यह है कि इन तीन विदेशी तेल कम्पनियों में अभी फिक्स्ड असेट्स केवल 40 करोड़ रुपए है लेकिन अब तक वे करीब 80 करोड़ रुपया मुनाफे के रूप में बाहर भेज चुकी हैं। अब इस के बाद कौन सा आर्थिक औचित्य है, कौन सा सामाजिक औचित्य है या कौन सा न्यायिक औचित्य है कि इन कम्पनियों का राष्ट्रीकरण न किया जाये जबकि इन्होंने जितनी पूंजी लगाई है उस पूंजी से दो गुना अधिक वे मुनाफे के रूप में अपने देशों को भेज चुके हैं? पहले इनकी क्षमता जो तीन मिलियन टन की थी उसको इन्होंने अब बढ़ाकर सात मिलियन टन कर लिया है। उसके बाद क्या औचित्य है कि उनका राष्ट्रीय - करण न किया जाये ?

तीसरी बात यह है कि क्या यह सही नहीं है कि तेल उद्योग का लाभालाभ मुख्यतः इस बात पर निर्भर है कि कच्चे तेल की क्या कीमत है। आज तक हमारी सरकार की लगातार कोशिशों के बावजूद भी और इस काम में हम अपने मन्त्री महोदय को

घन्यवाद भी देंगे कि वे पता लगाने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं कि किस कीमत पर ये तेल कम्पनियों कच्चा तेल खरीदनी है लेकिन ये कम्पनियां बताती हैं कि किस कीमत पर वे तेल खरीदती हैं और कहां से खरीदती हैं। फिर ये उनके साथ क्या बात कर रहे हैं ?

क्या यह सही नहीं है कि आज उन तेल कम्पनियों से निबटने के मामले में हम अधिक सुविधाजनक और सामर्थ्यवान स्थिति में हैं ? दो कारण से हमारा राष्ट्रीय तेल उद्योग खड़ा हो गया है जिसके जरिए से केवल हम रिफ़ाईनरी का काम करते हैं बल्कि विश्व मार्केट में भी निर्यात और आयात का अनुभव प्राप्त कर चुके हैं जोकि पहले हमारे पास नहीं था।

दूसरी बात यह कि क्या जो विश्व का तेल बाजार है वह बहुत मंदा जा रहा है ? इस समय कच्चे तेल की बहुतायत है दाम गिर रहे हैं ऐसी हालत में यह जो दो विशेष परिस्थितियां हैं अर्थात्, बहुतायत है दाम गिर रहे हैं और तीसरी बात यह है कि आज तक विश्व के तेल बाजार पर 7 तेल सम्राटों का साम्राज्य था, सैंवैन आयल कार्टेलस, खुशी की बात यह है कि उन का यह साम्राज्य टूट रहा है और विश्व के तेल बाजार में फ्रांस, इटली, सोवियट यूनियन भी बहुत ही अच्छी पोजीशन में आ गये हैं। ऐसी हालत में आयल प्राईसिंग कमेटी ने इन बातों की छानबीन करके क्या यह सिफारिश की थी कि बाहर से जितने भी तेल खरीदे जायं वह सब एक केन्द्रीय एजेंसी के जरिए से खरीदे जायं, ग्लोबल टैंडर बेसिस पर खरीदे जायं ताकि हमें अधिक से अधिक सुविधाजनक दरों पर तेल मिल सके हम अपने देश से जो मुनाफा बाहर भेज रहे हैं उस को हम कम कर सकें और अपने देश की समृद्धि बढ़ा सकें तथा अपने देश की आमदनी बढ़ा सकें ; क्यों नहीं सरकार ने आज तक आयल प्राईसिंग

कमेटी की इस सिफारिश को स्वीकार किया और यदि अभी तक उस ने नहीं किया है तो क्या सरकार यह अश्वासन देने के लिए तैयार है कि उस कमेटी की सिफारिश को स्वीकार करके एक सेंट्रलाइज्ड एजेंसी बनेगी जिसके द्वारा बाहर से तमाम कच्चा तेल देश के द्वारा ही खरीदा जाय, आयात किया जाय और देश में उस का वितरण किया जाय ?

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has asked many questions.

About his first question regarding collaboration, I have mentioned in my statement my hon friend must have a copy with him —

"It is true that one of the proposals under discussion has been the suggestions of the foreign oil companies for the conversion of their companies to Indian Companies and the participation of the public sector in them to assist in the evolution of satisfactory arrangements."

But I also said that no details have been worked out. The private companies have not submitted any written proposal to enable us to start negotiations with them. We just discussed about it and verbally made certain suggestions to the officers who are considering it. I agree that during an emergency we must be well equipped to meet our demands irrespective of private oil companies and my hon friend knows also that we are now better situated both in the production and in the refining and marketing. We are now in a dominant position in both. As we are going to expand and have another refinery, we will be in a far more dominant position to meet any such situation.

My hon. friend has quoted certain figures of profit that they have taken out during the last three years. The figures are not with me. May be he is correct. What they did in the past is known to us and known to you also and I do not ques-

tion that. But during the last one or two years, as I have said, we have fixed the price as it is obtainable in the world. Now, they are not in a position to make profits like that. We are regulating the product pattern of the refineries. So, it has gone down to a substantial amount.

Regarding the price of crude, Sir, as I said, now we are also in the market through IOC for having crude for our Cochin refinery and for Haldia. So, we know the price at which they are available in the world. And, as soon as we know that it is going down or up, it is also our bounden duty also to ask them to comply with the requirement and I do not think there will be any more hitch on this. What I said in my statement is this: I want to evolve a system by which I can be determined. It is very difficult to determine the prices at which they are available in the world because nowadays—for the last 7 years or so—there is the posted price, which is something, but they pay, what is called, under-the-table a discount, which is known to us. But since we are purchasing in the world market we know now what the pattern of the crude price is.

About the Centralised Agency, by and by, we are going into the market in the public sector. The IOC is contacting. In these ways, we are trying to take over the purchase of crude oil.

About the Agreement, as I mentioned though it is in the Agreement that they can bring their own crude from their own sources, one of the points of discussion is whether when we change the Agreement, they would agree to certain systems of purchasing oil. We prefer to purchase oil ourselves. They have a right to quote for it and we will see whether their price is favourable to us. We can only then allow them the price structure or whatever they suggest.

I think, Sir, there are the five questions which the Hon. Member has raised, which I have answered.

SHRI VISWANATHA MENON (Ernakulam): I attentively heard what the hon. Minister said just now. I have also very carefully gone through his statement. One basic point comes out. It is this. Whenever the foreign capital question comes up, the Government are always very averse, whether it is about foreign banks, plantations owned by foreigners or oil companies. The Government do not dare to take any effective step. All these days they are discussing about the agreement. Even while discussing they are not prepared to touch the basic question. For the last so many years these oil companies have been exploiting the nation, and even now the Government are not prepared to go to the root of the question by nationalising these companies without paying compensation. Now also he is discussing about taking majority shares. But as yet, he has not gone in to the public problem.

He is always talking about the interest of the nation. I do not know what is the interest of the nation he is talking about. If it is the interest of the nation which alone is the criterion, the only way is to nationalise these oil companies without paying even a single pie of compensation. He is evading that problem. He is simply saying 'I am acting in the interest of the nation. 'May I know whether the Government is prepared to at least negotiate on this point, this basic point, of nationalising the oil companies without paying even a single pie as compensation?

Also, I have got some other information. Sir, I want this point to be clarified by the Minister. One of the Ministers in his Ministry has got his son appointed to a convened post in a foreign oil company. It is a fact or not? That kind of posting has influenced the Ministry officials.

I want to have the reply on the questions. I want to have the answers from, the hon. Minister.

DR, TRIGUNA SEN: What is the second question?

SHRI VISWANATHA MENON : One of the sons of one of the Ministers in his Ministry has been appointed to a covenanted post in one of the foreign oil companies. It is a fact.

DR. TRIGUNA SEN: The first question is whether it is in the interests of the nation to nationalise oil companies without paying compensation. I am sorry, perhaps, it is not the policy of the Government to nationalise without paying any compensation. (*Interruptions*) Let me repeat, it is not the policy of the Government, as I know it, to nationalise without paying compensation.

Secondly, the hon. Member has said that one of the sons of the Ministers has got a covenanted post in the oil companies. Firstly, I have no son....

SHRI VISWANATHA MENON: I know that he has no son. I was referring to a Minister in his Ministry.

DR. TRIGUNA SEN: I do not know about any of my colleagues, but far as I have heard from them, whether it be Shri D.R. Chavan or Shri Nitijaraj Singh Chaudhury, they have not got any of their sons in a covenanted post.....

SHRI MADHU LIMAYE (Monghyr): Let him make inquiries.

DR. TRIGUNA SEN:.... in the oil companies. So, I deny this.

MR. SPEAKER: Is it not better to have no sons at all?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS, AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN): For the information of the hon. Member, I may say that I have got only one son who is continuing his education in the USA.

12.41 hrs.

RE: UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION
IN THE COUNTRY

SHRIMATI ILA PALCHOUDHURI

(Krishnagar) : I have an urgent submission to make?....

SHRI VASUDEVAN NAIR (Peer-made) : I should like to make a submission. Today, all over this country, tens of thousands of young men and women are observing day of unemployment and right of youth. We have already sent to you a calling-attention-notice on the subject.

As far as you are concerned, in Delhi also, they are observing this day. But as we have pointed out on many earlier occasions, whenever some people want to come to Parliament to meet the Prime Minister or the Minister concerned, or you, Sir, there is an army of policemen surrounding this building and they are not allowed to come and meet you or the Minister or the Prime Minister. Today, you should see what is happening in Delhi. Is this country being turned into a concentration camp or what else? There are people coming to make their representations...

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Alipore): They are not tackling the basic problem of unemployment. But every day they come and say that Naxalites are growing in the country are breeding Naxalites by doing this kind of thing. Why don't you receive them and hear them? They are all young people, students and youth....

SHRI VASUDEVAN NAIR : You should see what is happening in Parliament Street and Patel Chowk.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Where are they to go? If they have got no place to make their representations, where are they expected to go ?

DR. MAITREYEE BASU (Darjeeling) : In Russia, are they allowed to go to the Supreme Soviet?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : There is no unemployment in Russia. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE (Calcutta North-East): When Parliament is in session, and people have come from all parts of the country, have they not got access to you?