

[Smt. Sushika Rohatgi]

sent a statement showing Demand for Excess Grant in respect of the Budget (General), for 1973-74.

12.20 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. ACQUISITION OF REMAINING SHARES OF ESSO IN HINDUSTAN PETROLEUM CORPORATION, LTD.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): As the Hon'ble Members are aware, Government are considering restructuring of the oil industry with a view to making optimum utilisation of the existing assets and facilities and improving the standard of service to the public. In order to achieve this goal, we have been actively engaged in completing negotiations for the acquisition of foreign oil companies. The House is aware that negotiations are in progress with Caltex and Assam Oil Company for taking over their assets in India. Meanwhile, Government had approached Exxon for acquisition of their 26 per cent holding in Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited. In accordance with the Agreement signed in March, 1974 those shares would have been transferred to Government only in 1981. However, negotiations with Exxon have recently been completed and an understanding has been reached that these shares will be transferred to Government on the 1st October, 1976 on payment of an amount of \$ 3,096,600 net of taxes. The formal Agreement in this regard will be signed in September, 1976. This will not in any way disturb the existing arrangements for payment of principal and interest amounts relating to acquisition of 74 per cent share of Exxon in 1974. Exxon will continue to supply crude oil till 1980-81, as agreed earlier. I would like to take this opportunity for placing on record Government's appreciation of the co-operative spirit shown by Exxon during these negotiations.

12.22 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. KORBA FERTILISER PROJECT

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): Members of Parliament have been expressing from time to time their concern over the fate of the Korba Fertiliser project and several questions have been put in both Houses of Parliament on the subject. I am, therefore, making this statement to clarify the position.

The Korba Fertilizer project has not been abandoned. The project has only been slowed down and the expenditure thereon staggered due to resources constraint. The project was taken up for implementation in 1974 and an amount of Rs. 11.87 crores has already been spent upto March, 1976. I wish to assure this House that work on the project will be resumed with vigour shortly.

12.24 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: CONTINUANCE IN FORCE OF PROCLAMATION IN RESPECT OF TAMIL NADU—Contd.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up further discussion of the following Resolution moved by Shri K. Brahmanada Reddy on the 20th August, 1976, namely:

"That this House approves the continuance in force of the Proclamation dated the 31st January, 1976, in respect of Tamil Nadu, issued under article 356 of the Constitution by the President, for a further period of six months with effect from the 10th September, 1976."

Three hours were allotted and only five minutes were taken. So, we have 2 hours and 55 minutes. Shri Dinan Bhattacharyya.