

I will be the last person to get them modified, even if it means some expenditure to the Railways.

As I have said, there is a fundamental difference between the private road transport and the Railways. We have to function as a nationalised undertaking, functioning as a public utility service and even as a commercial undertaking to see that we set an example how an employer treats his employees who are common partners in a nationalised undertaking. Therefore I feel that there is no necessity for setting up such a committee.

Shri Braj Raj Singh has said something about pilferage of coal at certain stations. I will not claim that on the Railways there is no pilferage of coal at all. A few days back Shri Braj Raj Singh mentioned this to me and I welcome the fact that he offered some suggestions by which this pilferage of coal could be detected and those who are engaging in it could be punished. I am going to take certain action on that. I shall be grateful to hon. Members if they will bring any such incidents to my notice. As I have said, I do not deny that there is a certain amount of pilferage of coal on the Railways. Coal is a commodity in which there is a chance of pilferage in the way it is transported. There is pilferage of other things also. Whenever we detect this, we try to take precautionary measures and when people who are guilty of such lapses are detected, I take very serious notice of them. I give the maximum punishment that I can give whether he is an officer or a member of the staff; whether he is Class I, II or III it does not make any difference so far as I am concerned. I will be thankful to Shri Braj Raj Singh if he will bring, apart from this, other instances, so that I and the Railway Board may take action in such matters.

I have nothing much to say. Let us hope that the soundness of the Rail-

way finances will continue and the Railways will be able to serve the nation and in addition go in with its programme of development with renewed energy, efficiency and devotion. I am again thankful to the House for the good and encouraging words that they have said about the Railways.

Mr. Chairman: I will now put the substitute motion of Shri Naushir Bharucha to the vote of the House.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: He is withdrawing it.

Shri Naushir Bharucha: No, no.

The substitute motion was put and negatived.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

“That this House approves the recommendations contained in the Report of the Committee appointed to review the rate of dividend which is at present payable by the Railway Undertaking to General Revenues as well as other ancillary matters in connection with the Railway Finance *vis-a-vis* the General Finance which was presented to Parliament on 30th November, 1960.”

The Resolution was adopted.

Shri Naushir Bharucha: The Railways have won against the General Revenues.

16.27 hrs.

*DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS (GENERAL), 1960-61

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Minister.

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha): Now, the other Members will speak. I do not have to move the Demands.

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

Mr. Chairman: Move your Demands

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: We do not move the Demands. They are taken as moved.

Mr. Chairman: Whether you make a speech or not, move the Demands. You say, you move.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: We do not say that. The usual practice is that the Chairman announces and they are taken as moved.

Shri Naushir Bharucha (East Khandesh): I think the Demands have got to be moved.

Mr. Chairman: You must move them.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: They were formally moved by the Finance Minister. At present, there is no necessity for my moving them again. They have been moved originally.

Shri Naushir Bharucha: The Finance Minister presented the Supplementary Demands. He has not moved any Demand. If no Demands are moved, in that case, there is nothing before us.

Mr. Chairman: They will be taken as moved. There are cut motions.

Shri Tangamani (Madurai): I beg to move cut motions numbers 8, 9, 10, 12, 13 and 14.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): I move cut motions 15 and 16.

Shri Naushir Bharucha: My cut motions in List No. I are numbers 1 to 7, I move them.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao (Khammam): I gave some cut motions yesterday. They were received a little late. I gave at 4 P.M. I may be permitted to move those cut motions.

Mr. Chairman: All right.

Shri Warior (Trichur): I had also sent some cut motions. They have not come this morning. I do not know whether they have been accepted.

Shri Jaipal Singh (Ranchi West Reserved—Sch. Tribes): I am very sorry. I do not know what is being moved. We are not seized of what is being moved.

Mr. Chairman: You must have got the notices.

Shri Jaipal Singh: No, Sir.

Mr. Chairman: Those that have not been received up to now will be circulated now.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: These Demands were formally placed before Parliament on the 29th November, 1960. They are now for discussion. Hon. Members must have information about what is now before the House for discussion.

Shri Jaipal Singh: I am not disputing what the hon. Minister has said. I am talking about the cut motions.

Mr. Chairman: The cut motions received today will be circulated.

DEMAND No. 106—MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Mr. Chairman: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 15,00,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1961, in respect of Demand No. 106."

DEMAND No. 125—MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER

Mr. Chairman: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 8,27,47,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1961, in respect of Demand No. 125."

DEMAND NO. 129—MINISTRY OF STEEL,
MINES AND FUEL

*Failure to make out a case for urgency
of the expenditure*

Mr. Chairman: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 6,50,00,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1961, in respect of Demand No. 129."

DEMAND NO. 134—MINISTRY OF TRANS-
PORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Shri Naushir Bharucha: I beg to move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,50,00,000 in respect of 'capital outlay of the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel,' be reduced by Rs. 100." (3)

*Failure to give details of the sum
required namely Rs. 6.5 crores*

Shri Naushir Bharucha: I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,98,80,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1961, in respect of Demand No. 134."

*Failure to give a fuller summary of
agreement with the French firm for
photo film manufacture in India*

Shri Naushir Bharucha: I beg to move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 15,00,000 in respect of 'capital outlay of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1)

Question of payment of £ 62,060,000 to
Pakistan towards cost of replace-
ment works

Shri Naushir Bharucha: I beg to move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,27,47,0000 in respect of 'other capital outlay of the Ministry of Irrigation and Power, be reduced by Rs. 100." (2)

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,50,00,000 in respect of 'capital outlay of the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel' be reduced by Rs. 100." (4)

*Policy of acquiring shares in private
concerns with the object of gaining
control of undertakings in private
sector*

Shri Naushir Bharucha: I beg to move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,98,80,000 in respect of 'other capital outlay of the Ministry of Transport and Communications' be reduced by Rs. 100." (5)

*Failure to give details of valuation of
shares acquired by the Government
in the Mogul Line Limited*

Shri Naushir Bharucha: I beg to move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,98,80,000 in respect of 'other capital outlay of the Ministry of Transport and Communications' be reduced by Rs. 100." (6)

Failure to make out a case for the urgency of expenditure namely Rs. 2,98,80,000.

Shri Naushir Bharucha: I beg to move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,98,80,000 in respect of 'other capital outlay of the Ministry of Transport and Communications' be reduced by Rs. 100." (7)

Delay in setting up Hindustan Photo Film Manufacturing Company for the manufacture of raw film

Shri Tangamani: I beg to move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 15,00,000 in respect of 'capital outlay of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry' be reduced by Rs. 100." (8)

Slow pace of implementation of the 6½ crores project as per agreement with the French firm

Shri Tangamani: I beg to move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 15,00,000 in respect of 'capital outlay of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry' be reduced by Rs. 100." (9)

Need for acquiring land early and the setting up of Film plant at Ooty as per agreement with the French firm

Shri Tangamani: I beg to move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 15,00,000 in respect of 'capital outlay of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry' be reduced by Rs. 100." (10)

Need for early steps for setting up Teleprinter factory in Guindy on the basis of an agreement with the Italian firm

Shri Tangamani: I beg to move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,98,80,000 in respect of 'other capital outlay of the Ministry of Transport and Communications' be reduced by Rs. 100." (12)

Inadequate provision for purchasing shares of Hindustan Teleprinters Limited for setting up Teleprinter factory

Shri Tangamani: I beg to move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,98,80,000 in respect of 'other capital outlay of the Ministry of Transport and Communications' be reduced by Rs. 100." (13)

Failure to indicate quantum of construction work to be completed during current year for setting up of Teleprinter factory

Shri Tangamani: I beg to move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,98,80,000 in respect of 'other capital outlay of the Ministry of Transport and Communications' be reduced by Rs. 100." (14)

Need for expediting the setting up of the plant for the manufacture of raw films

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I beg to move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 15,00,000 in respect of 'Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry' be reduced by Rs. 100." (15)

Need for expediting purchase of drilling machinery

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I beg to move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,50,00,000 in respect of 'Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel' be reduced by Rs. 100." (16)

Mr. Chairman: The Demands and cut motions are before the House.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I would like to make some observations on Demand Nos. 84 and 106. I will first of all deal with Demand No. 84.

Here certain cases have been referred to. It is said:

"A sum of Rs. 30,966 is required to meet the expenditure on the payment of two amounts of Rs. 24,953 and Rs. 6,013 decreed/awarded against the Government in cases detailed below."

In dealing with the cases, it is said:

"(a) A postal clerk was dismissed from service on 19th January 1952 for misappropriation, abstraction of contents of insured parcels, etc. The official filed a suit that he had been wrongly dismissed from service. The court held the order to be invalid, and decreed a payment of Rs. 24,953 on account of arrears of pay and allowances to the official from 19th January 1952 (i.e., the date of dismissal) to the date of his superannuation and also the proportionate cost of the suit."

I do not stand for those who have misappropriated Government money. A man who is guilty should be punished, but here is a case of an employee who must have been suspended or removed from service. He went in appeal and took the protection of the court and ultimately he was awarded this by the court.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: On a point of order. This Demand relates to the Ministry of Communications. I do not find either the Minister or the Deputy Minister here. On several occasions the hon. Speaker has ruled that when the supplementary demands are being discussed in the House, all the Ministers should be present. There are not only cabinet Ministers and Ministers of State but also two Deputy Ministers in most of the Ministries. At least one of them should be here.

Mr. Chairman: There is no point of order in this. Any Minister is good enough.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: Formally the Finance Minister takes charge of all the supplementary demands.

Shri Jaipal Singh: I disagree with the hon. Member. I am fully satisfied.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I may bring it to your notice that during the recent strike many employees were arrested, suspended or removed from service for participation in the strike. As you are aware, all the cases pending in the courts under Ordinance No. 1, sections 4 and 5, have now been withdrawn.

16.33 hrs.

[**SHRI JAGANATHA RAO** in the Chair]

I am afraid that if these cases are not decided by the hon. Minister of Transport and Communications and if their cases continue pending, they may seek the protection of the court, and a day may come when in this very House, supplementary demands will be put up again and we will be asked to vote that particular amount.

I would mention for your information two typical cases. One is that of Gajanan Raut. With the calling off of the strike on the 17th July, 1960, a number of officials in P. & T. Mail Motor Service were placed under suspension. Shri Gajanan Raut, a driver was one among them. He

[Shri S. M. Banerjee]

continued under suspension till the end of November. During this long period of four and a half months, he was not served with any memorandum of charges, there being none. He has now been taken back to duty and the entire period of suspension has been treated as on duty. Government should have taken a decision at least four months back, but now he has been taken back and he has to be paid arrears of pay.

Another case which is very interesting is that of Ranjit Singh. On the 13th July, the official was on duty in Jullunder RMS from 17.15 hours to 00.30 hours. He was placed under suspension from the same date for his arrest by the police. He was tried in the court of Shri R. D. Sayal, P.C.S., Magistrate 1st class, Jullunder. The learned Magistrate acquitted the official and observed that the prosecution had failed to prove their case against the accused. In spite of this, the suspension order against the official was not revoked and he continues under suspension. The official has now been charged on two counts, viz., violation of rule 30 of P&T. Manual Vol. II, inasmuch as he has been absent from duty without leave and without intimation from 13th July, 1960, and contravention of rule 4-A of CCS (Conduct) Rules, 1955 inasmuch as he has been absent from duty from 13th July, 1960. The charges are not at all tenable since the official concerned was placed under suspension from 13th July, 1960. I have got with me here a long list, and I am sure the hon. Minister of Transport and Communications who is treating many cases very leniently will kindly take a lenient view of the entire cases pending before him. In Vijayawada and Kurnool in the Andhra Circle, in fact, in every circle, whether it be the Andhra Pradesh circle, or the Madras circle, or the Bihar circle, or the Rajasthan circle or the U.P. circle, there are many cases which are pending. The individuals have either been removed from service, or they have

been retired compulsorily under various rules. A day may come when if natural justice is denied to them by the Department, they may have to seek the protection of the court. So, my submission is that the hon. Minister must decide these cases as expeditiously as possible. I am not going to make capital out of this discussion because this deals with a Supplementary Demand for Grant, but I am referring to these cases because a case has been referred to specifically where Government have had to pay a sum of about Rs. 24,000 to an employee, and we are asked to vote for that sum. So, it is proper that those cases of suspension, removal or dismissal should be decided as early as possible. I would take this opportunity of making another fervent appeal to the hon. Minister to kindly finalise those cases.

Now, I come to Demand No. 106. You are aware that a raw film factory is going to be established probably in Ootacamund.

Shri Jaipal Singh: Why not in Darjeeling?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I do not mind, because I happen to come from West Bengal also. But it has been decided that it will be in Ootacamund. We find from the Explanatory Memorandum that:

"The question of setting up a plant for the manufacture of raw films for cinema industry as well as photographic paper, films and X-ray films was under consideration of the Government for a considerable time. After detailed consideration of the various proposals received, it was decided to accept the offer of a French firm and an agreement was signed with them on 25th April, 1960."

I may be a hundred per cent. wrong, and I wish I should be wrong. My

information is that this French firm has no capital in France. This French firm is going to Export certain junks to us. I would like to know what the position of this French firm is. I hope this will not prove to be another liability on us. I would like to know what the agreement is, and what the terms of the French company are. As I said in the beginning, I wish that my information is incorrect or wrong. But certain information was given to me that for the last four or five years, this particular firm has not produced anything, and now with the help of some people who negotiated, this firm wants to Export all junks to us, because they are of no use in France or they cannot do possibly anything with them there. So, my fear is this, and I would like to know from the hon. Minister what the terms of the agreement are, who negotiated with them, and whether the financial position of this firm is sound or not.

In conclusion, I would once again emphasise that the hon. Minister of Transport and Communications should kindly reconsider the cases of those who were removed, suspended or discharged or who still are suspended. He has dealt with those cases leniently, and I must thank him for taking this lenient view in many cases. But still, we must see that no opportunity may arise in the future when some people may move in a court of law, and may be reinstated under the orders of the court, and again, this House may be asked to vote for a further sum.

As for the second Demand on which I have spoken, I may make it clear that I have no grouse against this French firm, but I would like to know the financial soundness of this firm. I would like that a copy of this agreement is placed on the Table of the House, so that we know that we are not trying to produce raw films in this country with the help of a particular firm which is nothing but raw.

Necessity of giving more facilities and concessions to Raj pilgrims in the Mogul Line purchased by the Government.

Shri Warior: I beg to move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum of not exceeding Rs. 2,98,80,000 in respect of 'Other Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Transport and Communications' be reduced by Rs. 100." (31).

In doing so, I have only some brief observations to make.

As regards Demand No. 129, it is stated in the footnote that the procurement of drilling rigs and other equipment required for the Commission have to be imported from abroad takes considerable time. In this respect, I have to refer to one or two facts given in answer to a question asked sometime ago in this House itself. The Minister was telling us that three rigs were ordered from Rumania and only two were brought, the third being under negotiation. As far as I know, this is a very important matter because almost all our efforts should be channelised now for drilling in the Cambay and Ankleshwar regions in order to expedite the extraction of oil, so that we may get oil before the scheduled time. In this respect, the prototypes had been given to our Government very long ago. The experts concerned did not take a decision early enough so that firm orders could be placed. That is why the delay has come about. Now I understand that we can have this equipment—rigs and other equipment—from Rumania itself. I do not know why there has been so much delay on the part of Government here. Perhaps it may be due to red-tape. I would ask the Minister to expedite the matter. According to reports, this has also delayed drilling activity in the Cambay region. This needs attention from the Ministry.

Another aspect is about the refineries. In this connection, questions were asked here. How can we refine crude-

[Shri Warior]

oil and make use of it unless we have refineries to do so? But even now we are not taking as much care as we should to expedite this matter of establishing a refinery not only in the Cambay region but also in other regions. Sometime ago there was talk of establishing a refinery in the south, somewhere in Cochin or Madras or somewhere else. I do not know why that scheme was shelved afterwards. There is no talk of it heard now-a-days. I am told that we have even abrogated the agreement we were to reach with the Soviet Union for the import of crude oil. The oil refineries here which are more or less British-American concerns were not prepared to refine the crude oil imported from the Soviet Union. So the import of crude oil offered on very good terms from the Soviet Union was left out—in spite of the fact that it was available at a much lesser price than elsewhere.

Because we do not want to have a refinery in the south and because refineries to be established could be only in the public sector, I think some wire-pullings must have taken place so that the entire matter was left out. The Commission must take up this matter once more. It is highly necessary that the south should have an oil refinery, because it is a big region. Our transport requirements are so much. We are having bottlenecks; from Cochin port about 8 trains are running daily carrying oil only to the interior in the South. So if there is a refinery in the South—I do not mind whether it is in Cochin or Madras or any other place—that region can be easily supplied. This is a matter worth considering by the Ministry.

As regards Demand No. 134, I have to make only a brief observation. This Demand is for the purchase of the shares of Moghul Line.

Now, this Moghul Line is coming into the hands of Government. More or less, Government is going to have control over the affairs of the Moghul Line. This Moghul Line, particularly,

is taking pilgrims to the Haj, pilgrims from Bombay to Mecca and other places. About 20,000 pilgrims are going annually from Bombay to the Haj. Out of the 20,000, as far as I can understand, there are about 8,000 to 10,000 from the South, from Malabar especially. These are moplahs coming from Malabar coast. They are a very devout set of people. Most of them are illiterate and uneducated. Although they are very devout Muslims, they cannot understand the ways and means of going to the Haj. So, they depend upon other people. Those other people, I do not say invariably but in almost 70 per cent of the cases, are crooks; and these poor Muslims are cheated especially in procuring tickets and in reserving berths in the ships and other things. Not only that; they pay more than what is to be paid. I think the Moghul Line has fixed about Rs. 500 up and down. But, actually, they are paying more than that because these poor people are illiterate and they get squeezed by the hooks and crooks. I will appeal to the Ministry to see that these people get some concessional rates from the Moghul Line.

You will note that for the face value of the Rs. 100 per share of the Moghul Line we are paying Rs. 360. This appreciation of the share value itself, if there is no other evidence, because the pilgrims who go to Haj are paying all this money, shows that there is considerable traffic in that line. So, Government can naturally reduce the fare and give some concessions and conveniences to these pilgrims going to the Haj from Bombay.

Then there is another Demand, Demand No. 106. This is about the establishment of the film factory at Ootacamund. During the Budget Session, there was a question put by my hon. friend Shri Tangamani about this and there were supplementary questions also. I have not got the report which my hon. friend Shri

Banerjee just now mentioned here. But, from the replies that were given at that time we understand that this firm although it is not exporting much to India had large production there and almost 70 to 75 per cent. of the film world in France were making use of the production of this particular French firm which has now come for collaboration and entered into an agreement with the Government of India. There are many technical questions involved in this, as for instance, techni-colour films etc. I am not going into details.

This question is very important because, I understand, in the film industry there is so much of shortage. Not only that; the film licences are going into the black market at such high rates of premium that it has become almost impossible for genuine producers of films to get raw films.

Shri D. C. Sharma: Is there black marketing in films also?

Shri Warior: Black-marketing has become the general characteristic of our economy. I am not going into the general things. If I get a licence to get film for the cinematograph I can sell it with 120 per cent. premium in any market in India. That is the position today because of the dearth of film, the import restrictions and all these things. Not only for cinematograph but also for ordinary camera purposes, for ordinary photography also there is so much of dearth and we have import restrictions. Naturally, we have to restrict imports of certain things like this because this is considered, more or less, as luxury goods. There are many other things. The establishment of industrial production must be expedited at an early date so that we can overcome all these difficulties. I am glad that this is coming up in Ooty, because even though we hear and we also desire that a particular thing will come up in the south when the final thing comes out we find that it has been taken over to some other place, not exactly always to the north but to some place in the middle of south and north.

Then I come to Demand No. 72. Looking at this one will find that the Government spends more on technical grounds instead of coming to some sort of conciliation with the employees whenever disciplinary actions are taken. Whenever there is a loss of income the employees naturally resort to the court and get redemption there. Instead of sending them to the court and finally paying the whole amount or more than that, why should not the Government have a new approach in this respect. We find a similar item in every Supplementary Demand for Grant. The Demand is for Rs. 950. Finally the court ordered something like Rs. 520 or so to be paid to the claimant. What will be the court fee? The cost must be borne by both the parties. The Government will have to pay the legal cost also. A Government pleader will have to be engaged for this. Therefore it will be something more than Rs. 950. Therefore, whenever an employee is dismissed or suspended, why should not the Government approach the party and settle at least the amount payable so that the exchequer will not be a loser after all this process. The Government can do that with sufficient legal advice so that the Government is not drawn in future to any further compromise, conciliation or some other legal action. This is done by private parties whenever there is some dispute. They settle these things outside the court. The Government can also do it; only it must not be illegal and it must not be giving room for some other further action. If that precaution is taken, the Government can come to an understanding with the employee and settle the matter out of court so that it will ultimately be a gain to the exchequer.

Sir, I move my cut motions.

Delay in the drilling of wells in Cambay Region

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I beg to move:

"That the Demand for a Supplementary Grant of a sum not

[Shri T. B. Vittal Rao]

exceeding Rs. 6,50,00,000 in respect of 'Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel' be reduced by Rs. 100." (17).

Delay in the procurement of drilling rigs

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I beg to move:

"That the Demand for a Supplementary Grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,50,00,000 in respect of 'Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel' be reduced by Rs. 100." (18).

Immediate need for taking steps for the establishment of the refinery at Cambay

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I beg to move:

"That the Demand for a Supplementary Grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,50,00,000 in respect of 'Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel' be reduced by Rs. 100." (19).

Organisation for carrying out the hydrographic survey of the Gulf of Cambay

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I beg to move:

"That the Demand for a Supplementary Grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,50,00,000 in respect of 'Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel' be reduced by Rs. 100." (20).

Sir, the Demand No. 129, Capital Outlay, under the Ministry of Steel Mines and Fuel is for a sum of Rs. 6,50,00,000. In the last budget, a grant was given for a sum of Rs. 8.5 crores for this Oil and Natural Gas Commission. When such a huge amount is asked, there should be proper explanation given. Reading through the notes given in the Sup-

plementary Demands, one cannot make out anything out of this. If it is not possible to include it in the booklet, at least the Minister could make a introductory speech on this demand, because the demand is for Rs. 6.5 crores, and that too for one particular department in the Ministry. Unfortunately, the Minister has not done that.

My cut motion No. 20 refers to the hydrographic survey which will be carried out in the Gulf of Cambay. Who is to carry out this survey? Even the Ministry of Transport are not in a position to carry out such surveys for want of technical men in that Ministry. A few years ago, when the question of hydrographic survey of the Indian Ocean for the Sethusamudram project came up, Shri Rai Bahadur told us that this had been entrusted to the Indian Navy. So, I do not know whether this division has got any team with them; I do not know their number and qualifications. When the Ministry of Shipping itself does not possess under them an efficient team of surveyors for this hydrographic survey, I do not know who will carry out this survey in the Gulf of Cambay. I wanted to mention this specially because, I have an apprehension whether this survey is going to be conducted by our Indian personnel or it is going to be entrusted to any foreign expert, because in this oil business, we are collaborating with certain foreign experts.

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): Since my name has been mentioned, I should like to make a clarification. So far as hydrographic surveys are concerned, it is true that we entrusted the work to the Indian Navy. In fact, it properly comes under their purview of functions, because they are ultimately responsible to draw up what are called as Admiralty charts. It is necessary, therefore, that they should continue to deal with this particular thing.

Shri Tangamani: Are you utilising the services of the hydrographic surveyors who are available in the country?

Shri Raj Bahadur: That is a different question. I have already replied to that on a number of occasions. When the proper occasion comes, I will again reply to that.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: As stated by the hon. Minister for Shipping, if this hydrographic survey has to be carried out in the Gulf of Cambay by the Indian Navy, this demand should naturally go to the Defence Ministry. Then later on, the charges could be debited to the department which has asked the Indian Navy to conduct this hydrographical survey. That would be the proper procedure. Then this demand would not have appeared under the Ministry of Defence. But even now I am not very clear as to who will carry out this hydrographical survey in the Gulf of Cambay. If we have to go ahead with our programme of oil prospecting and oil exploration, that is very essential.

Mr. Chairman: Since the hon. Member is likely to take some more time, he might continue tomorrow.

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17 hrs.

*MINIMUM PRICES OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES

Mr. Chairman: The House will now take up the half an hour discussion on "Minimum Prices of Agricultural Commodities". Shri Braj Raj Singh.

Shri Sinhasan Singh (Gorakhpur): I want to put question on this.

श्री ब्रजराज सिंह (फीरोजाबाद) : सभापति महोदय, यह आवेदनों की चर्चा २८ नवम्बर को खात्व मंत्री द्वारा दिए गए प्रश्न संख्या ५१८ के उत्तरों के सम्बन्ध में

है। जो ग्रन्तप्राप्त सवाल उस दिन खात्व मंत्री महोदय से पूछे गए थे, उन भैं से एक के सम्बन्ध में श्री एस० के० पाटिल ने यह कहा था —

"I am more anxious than any Government in this country to see that the prices are fair to the farmers."

उस में और इस से पहले भी खात्व मंत्री महोदय ने विभिन्न समयों पर ऐसे वक्तव्य दिये हैं, जिस से ऐसा लगता है कि वह वास्तव में कृषि-जन्य पदार्थों के मूल्य कुछ इस तरह से बांधना चाहते हैं कि हिन्दुस्तान के खाद्यान्न पैदा करने वालों, किसानों, को उचित मूल्य मिल सके। १० मार्च को खात्व मंत्री महोदय ने कांग्रेस पालिमेंटरी पार्टी की स्टैंडिंग कमेटी में इस तरह के विचार प्रकट किये थे। २२ मार्च, १८६० को इसी सदन में बजट पर बोलते हुये उन्होंने इसी तरह का इशारा किया था। उस के बाद २३ मार्च को फिर एक प्रश्न के जवाब में भी खात्व मंत्री महोदय ने यह बात कही कि वह इस तरह की कमेटी बनाना चाहते हैं। उस के बाद फिर २३ अगस्त को इस सदन में प्रश्न-संख्या ५१२ के उत्तर में भी उन्होंने यह कहा कि अब वह दो कमेटियां बनाते के पक्ष में हो गये हैं—एक कमेटी तो कृषि-जन्य पदार्थों के लिये एक सलाहकार समिकृत के रूप में होगी, जो कि सिर्फ सरकारी अधिकारियों की होगी और दूसरी कमेटी, जिस को उन्होंने क्रामांक एड वाइजरी पैनल का नाम दिया था, ऐसे लोगों की होगी। जिस में गैर-सरकारी सोग भी था सरकारी आर्थिक विशेषज्ञ भी सकेंगे और जो दो तीन महीने में मिलेगी, जब कि पहली कमेटी के अधिवेशन लगातार होते रहेंगे और वह कृषि-जन्य पदार्थों के मूल्यों को तय करने के आधार तय करेगी। उस के बाद अब प्रश्न आया, तो उस में एक सीधा सवाल पूछा गया था कि जब इतने दिन हो जुके हैं, तो आखिर इस में देर क्यों

*Half an hour discussion.