

Beyond that, I do not know what the Government is expected to do. There is no purpose in allowing any more discussion on this matter. All that can be done is being done. I refuse to give my consent to this adjournment motion.

OIL AGREEMENT WITH ITALIAN FIRM

Mr. Speaker: Next: Shri P. G. Deb. What is it?

Shri P. G. Deb (Angul): The reason why I gave this adjournment motion is this. Though the Minister of Mines and Oil did not agree to disclose the details of the agreement between the Italian Oil Company and India, the very same details of the agreement have come out in today's Statesman. It surprises me. It is a hit on the privilege of the House. Therefore, I would ask through you an explanation from the Minister of Oil to let us know his attitude on this.

Shri Hem Barua: There is a Privilege Motion on this.

Mr. Speaker: I will come to that later. How does it appear when we wanted some time?

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): I returned to the capital only this morning about 9 o'clock. Then I read this news in the Statesman. I made enquiries from my office, and I found out that they too knew nothing about it. Is there some journalistic arrangement between the correspondent of the Statesman sitting in Assam and the Italian capital that they get such information? Anyway, my secretariat is making enquiries into this. But, I would like to draw your attention, Sir, that what I read in the newspapers today—most of it has already been conveyed by me to the House some time in August or September. I do not remember the exact dates. The basis of the agreement arrived at between the two Governments was already indicated by me then. With regard to these details, I I do not know whether any points or details have been finally taken up or agreed upon between the two Gov-

ernments. Because, my secretariat too has no information. I would request you to allow me to say something finally tomorrow when I am going to make a statement on the basis of my discussion with you which took place yesterday.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I point out, the Statesman correspondent very clearly states the particular points which the Minister did not reveal to the House. Is that correct? He pin-points the two points on which there was some hesitation on the part of the Minister.

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I do not remember any particular point which I might have withheld from the House the other day. I made a general statement expressing my view with regard to certain advantages that would accrue to the Government if we did not make public all these agreements that are before us in view of the fact that some more are to be negotiated. There was no particular specific point which I tried to withhold from the House on that day. I read in the Statesman today that certain points have been made out by the correspondent which somehow they got. I still do not know anything about that.

Shri P. G. Deb: May I know whether the officials of the Oil Refinery at Gauhati had given out this news?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Some of our officials have gone to Italy in connection with discussion and disposal of the details of the schemes about which I also made a statement a few months ago. I do not know whether they have even come back or not. I do not know whether they have sent any intimation to us making certain enquiries or telling us as to what they have approved or what they have done or not done. That is why I made this request that tomorrow when I come with that statement on the general aspect of the whole ques-

[Shri K. D. Malaviya]

tion, I will also specifically refer to this question.

Mr. Speaker: Very well.

Shri Hem Barua: The news is from Shillong, from the special correspondent of the *Statesman*. All the terms of the agreement are given in detail, the utilisation of the 50 crore credit....

Shri K. D. Malaviya: All this is known to hon. Members if they will kindly recollect what I have said in the past.

Shri Hem Barua: The thing is this, There was secrecy about letting us know the terms and conditions....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. This will stand over till tomorrow. Let the hon. Minister state what he wants to state to the House. Then, I will allow an opportunity if necessary to the Members. There is also a Privilege Motion tabled by Shri Hem Barua. I am really surprised at one or two things. I will reserve that to tomorrow. What appears in the *Statesman* is this. I do not know whether the code of conduct that has to be observed by newspapers will extend to revealing in the newspapers what this House has reserved. The hon. Minister has said that there are certain delicate questions in the terms of the agreement which if disclosed will prejudice us and therefore he wanted to reserve it for himself, to keep it confidential even from the House. Then, the matter was raised that it must be disclosed to the House. Then, he agreed to show it to me. He came to me. I talked to him.

If, even when the House cannot be taken into confidence with respect to certain matters, a correspondent of a newspaper from Shillong—this is an important newspaper—should take it and expose everything, I do not know where we are, whether we are safe at

all. I do not know whether this is not a question of abusing democracy and our own privileges. I would like to go into this matter in detail. It is open to us as guardians of the rights of the country as a whole to ask the Minister to lay it before us or not. When the House is good enough to accept the statement of the hon. Minister and leave it to me to decide whether it ought to be disclosed to this House or not, unilaterally he goes on further to say—and he exults over this—

“The terms of the contract, which the Minister for Oil, Mr. K. D. Malaviya, refused to disclose to Parliament, contain the following crucial points:....”

I am really surprised at this. We need not function at all. This newspaper and the correspondent may function. I will reserve this Privilege Motion till tomorrow. We will proceed to the next item. I do not know where we are.

Shri Vasudevan Nair (Thiruvella): It is a scoop for the newspaper.

Mr. Speaker: Wonderful.

12.27 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INDIAN
 OIL CO., LTD.

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers:—

(i) Annual Report of the Indian Oil Company Limited, Bombay, for the year 1960-61 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon, under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956.

(ii) Review by the Government on the working of the above Com-