16.15 hrs.

[SHRI ISHAQUE SAMBHALI *in the Chair*]

For the last one y ar, oil prices have been rising and the Government has not been able to take any steps to make our country self-reliant as regards production and distribution of oil. We may have many differences with the People's Republic of China which we have not hidden. But the China of 1949 when Chiang Kai- hek left and the China of 1974 are totally have been able to stand on their own feet as far as supply and distribution of oil and petroleum products are concerned. Because of the correct policies adopted by them. they have been even able to export a certain amount of oil. Of course, I do not say we should blindly copy others. But whereas the Prime Minister and other leaders of India ha e talking about self-reliance in actual practice, what has been happening? ESSO, Burmah-shell and Caltex have been operating here for a long time. To a certain extent, we have been able to curb their profit , but that is not adequate. Not only our party but even the Congress member, have been demanding on the floor of this House that within a very short time, we should become self-reliant in oil and not allow the e multi-national companies to take away hundreds of crores of rupees to USA, Great Britain etc. to fatten the monopolists there.

This Bill will serve no purpose. It is a self-defeating measure. I demand that the Government's oil Policy should be changed. These foreign companies should not be allowed to reap rich harvests on our soil. We should take positive teps to stand on our own legs as far as naphtha and other petroleum products are concerned. We should take the assistance of other countrie who are willing to give technical know-how without any interest. The operations of these foreign companies hould be totally stopped and there hould be cent per cent nationalisation of the oil industry. Not other half-hearted measure would solve the country's problems in regard to oil and petroleum products.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Tellicherry): Mr. Chairman, Sir. whil introducing the Bill, the hon. Minister had stated that this is an innocuous Bill only seeking to extend th period of six months to one year. But it is not that innocuous or innocent as the hon. Minister tried to depict it.

Today, when the Government is seeking to extend the period from 180 days to 1 year for finally deciding about the contract entered into by Esso, the main question is, what was the Government thinking while it introduced the Esso (Acquisiti n of Undertakings in India) Bill this year. When that Bill was introduced most of us f lt that it was a half-hearted measure taken after a lot of vaccination to control the activities of Esso in our country. What the entir country demanded was the complet nationalisation of the foreign-owned oil companies in our country. It is not that the people wanted to shout a slogan when they demanded that. It is in the very interest of our country to stop the drain of our economy by way of loot by the foreign oil companie for which they are quite well known.

The Multi-National Corporation was working in the field of oil, like, Esso, Caltex and others. They hav been reaping enormous harvest of profit from our country all these years. The Government, at last, after a lot indecision and vaccilation, came with a Bill allowing Esso to continue in our country with 26 per cent equity capital even today. Then, the Government said, within 180 days, that is, six months, they would finally decide regarding the termination of the contract entered into by Esso. They had to process it. But this is an admission today that the

Government has failed so miserably in calculating the assets and liabilities and all that and, after taking into account the interest of the country, to terminate the contract entered into by Esso. It is a well known fact that E so will not enter into a contract keeping our national interest. It is after all a foreign company.

Now, what we understand today, when the Government is seeking an extension of period, is that at the time when the Bill was introduced, they were not clear what to do. They thought, within six months, everything will be done. Today, when they seek another extension of six months, this i an admission that they have failed to process to complete all t e necessary formalities and to put an end to contract which is not in the interest of the country.

Is this the way the Government should deal with a matter in which the interest of the country versus the multi-national corporations are involved. We feel rather very concerned that it is a very casual manner in which the Bill was introduced and it is the same manner in which the Government is seeking for another extension of period. Can the hon. Minister say that in another six months, he will complete all the formalities? He will not be able to do that. I am sure, he will come again for another extension of time. He should kindly tell us what is the reason for this delay, what prompted the Government not to act expeditiously so that all these contracts could have been terminated within the time they themselves fixed, not fixed by us. What happened? today, the Government should also make it clear what they mean when they say that another extension of six months is required. It means that, for another six months, we will be looted by the contractors who were brought in here for ales or service by ESSO. That means, even after Esso (Acquisition of Undertakings) Bill has been adopted, for another year this country will be mercilessly looted by the contractors who were brought into our country by the old company, ESSO. Will that not be the fact?

Another aspect is that this will hamper he prospects of nationalising other foreign-owned oil companies. The Government stand committed—they have said this in the House as well as outside; they have declared from housetops that this is their policy—to nationalise all foreign-owned oil companies. And in today's context when international cartels are in he dock of world public opinion for their exploitation and developing countries are taking the bold step of nationalising these companies, as has been done by Iraq, by extending the period from six months to one year, I am very sure, we will further slow do vn this process. If at all there is something in their mind, nationalising foreign-owned oil companies here the process will be slowed down because you could not process their contracts and all that. They could not decide which are the contracts which are in the interest of our country and which are the ones to be terminated. So, for another six months, the fate of the country in relation to foreign-owned oil companies and the programme of nationalisation will be sealed. This is the meaning, as we understand from the attempt of the Government in seeking extension for another six months.

Now I request the hon. Minister to make these points clear: first, what is the reason for the failure of the Government in completing the formalities within six months; secondly, what will be the consequences of giving extension for another six month, whether it will not allow the contractors brought into our country by ESSO to loot our country for another six months; and, lastly, whether this measure will not hamper the prospects of nationalising all foreign-owned oil companies in our country. If these are satisfactorily answered, one will understand what is the programme of nationalising the

foreign-owned oil companies in country.

श्री डी० एन० तिवारी (गोपालगंज) : सभापति जी, जो मूल बिल इस सदन में आया था उस वक्त हमने इस के सिद्धान्त, इसमें क्या क्या कमी है,क्या क्या होना चाहिए, आयल कम्पनियों का राष्ट्रीयकरण होना चाहिए या नहीं होना चाहिए यह सारी बातें डिस्कस की थीं। अब उन्हीं मुद्दों में फिर जाना मैं समझता हूं उचित नहीं होगा। यह तो एक बहुत ही मामूली और सादा बिल है। केवल तीन धाराओं का, जिसमें टाम एक्सटेंशन की बात कही गई है।

विरोधी दलों की ओर से कहा जाता है कि गवर्नमेंट काम करने में अक्षम रही है, क्यों फेल्योर हुआ उसका कारण नहीं बताया गया है। हम लोग अक्सर देखते हैं इस हाउस के द्वारा सेलेक्ट कमेटी बनाई जाती है और उनको समय दिया जाता है कि अमुक तारीख तक बिल पर विचार कर के उस को सदन में पेश करें लेकिन अक्सर इस हाउस में उन लोगों का भी अनुभव है कि उनको दो तीन बार एक्सटेंशन मिलता है।

इतनी बात तो उसमें आ जाती है कि उतने समय में ही नहीं सका है। सरकार भी इतने थोड़े समय में विचार नहीं कर सकी और फाइनेलाइज़ नहीं कर सकी और इसीलिये समय बढ़ाने की बात आ रही है। 6 महीने का समय और बढ़ा दिया जाय ताकि सरकार सोचसमझ कर और अच्छी तरह जांच कर के उस काम को कर सके।

रही बात लूट की। वह कम्पनी के समय में सम्भव था। अब सब मामला सरकार के हाथ में है। और मैं नहीं समझता कोई सदस्य यह समझे कि सरकार लूट करा देगी। लूट रोकने के लिये ही ऐक्वोज़ीशन हुआ है और राष्ट्रीयकरण हुआ है। इसलिये लूट की सम्भावना नहीं है। हो सकता है इस अवधि में सरकार कांट्रैक्ट के सम्बन्ध में जिन पर विचार करना था, कार्यवाही करनी थी उनकी वजह से समय लग सकता है। इसलिये घबराने की बात नहीं है। इसलिये इस बिल को पास करना चाहिये, और यह सब सवाल कितना रुपया गया, कितना रुपया आया यह सब पहले हो ही चुका है। अब सवाल नहीं उठता है। हां, मंत्री जी बता देते तो अच्छा होता कि किन कारणों से वह इस काम को नहीं कर सके? उससे मेम्बरों को कुछ सन्तोष हो जाता। ता यह मांग सदस्यों की जायज है, उसको बता देना चाहिये।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय (मुरैना) : सभापति जी, जो बिल ऐसो के सम्बन्ध में हमारे सामने आया है मैं इसका विरोध करता हूं। वैसे यह बिल लाने की सरकार को आवश्यकता नहीं थी। क्योंकि सरकार ने जो समय मांगा है समझ में नहीं आता कि सरकार इतना लम्बा क्यों खींचना चाहती है? क्या कम्पनी वालों को और अधिक मौका देना चाहती है कि नाना प्रकार का घोटाला करें? यदि इस प्रकार की कोई बात है तो आपने जो निर्णय पहले लिया है उसी पर कायम रहिये और अधिक समय न मांगिये। आप कहते हैं कि काफी कठिनाइयां हैं। आपके पास सब प्रकार के विशेषज्ञ हैं, योग्य व्यक्ति तथाकथित हैं, तो क्या प्रारम्भ में इस बात पर विचार नहीं किया कि हमें समय बढ़ाने की जरूरत पड़ेगी?

तेल के उद्योग के अन्दर आज सारे देश में कमी महसूस की जा रही है। और इस क्षेत्र में एक क्रान्तिकारी कदम की आवश्यकता है। आज ऐसा लगता है कि तेल के बिना जीवन सुरक्षित नहीं है। चाहे मिट्टी का तेल हो, मोटर का तेल हो या गैस हो। दिन प्रति दिन इसकी कमी ही होती जा रही है, इसको हमें