

नियंत्रण और जनसंख्या की समस्या के बारे में तो हम सब वाकिफ हैं ही और इस दृष्टि से एक से संबंधित दूसरी समस्या है। यदि गरीबी को समाप्त करना चाहते हैं तो रोजगार चाहिए। तो शिक्षण और प्रशिक्षण चाहिए। तो सबसे बड़ी जरूरत है देश में शिक्षण करने की। यदि हमने आवश्यक रूप से सब बच्चों को शिक्षा देने के काम की नीति को कार्यान्वित करने के लिए जो आवश्यक धनराशि है उसके जुटाने का काम किया तो निश्चित रूप से इस बारे में एक बहुत बड़ी मदद हो सकती है। जहां तक आपने गर्ल चाइल्ड लेबर के बारे में कहा है, मैंने जैसा कि अभी बताया है कि इसके बारे में मंत्रालय विशेष कुछ उपबंध करने के लिए विचार कर रहा है और यह विचार हमारा जारी है। जैसे ही इस बारे में हम कुछ निष्कर्ष पर आएंगे इसको अवगत कराने में मुझे प्रसन्नता होगी।

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question No. 543.

Oil and Natural Gas Reserves in Andhra Pradesh

*543. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of places in Andhra Pradesh where oil and and natural gas reserves have been found during last five years; and

(b) the steps taken to further explore to make the country self-reliant in oil and natural gas?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) During the last five years i.e. 1995-96 to 1999-2000 oil and natural gas have been found in twelve new prospects in the State of Andhra Pradesh, viz. Lankapalaem, Adivipalaem, Mulikipalle, Mahadevapatnam, Enugapalli, Kesanapalli-West, Rangapuram, Magatapale, Gokarnapuram, Kesavadasupalaem, Laxmaneswaram and Sirikattapalle.

(b) Steps taken to increase the degree of self-reliance in oil and natural gas through exploration efforts include:

- (i) Implementation of the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP). In the first round 25 blocks were awarded and Production Sharing Contracts for 22 blocks including 7 deep water blocks, were signed in a time bound manner.

- (ii) Intensification of efforts by National Oil Companies (NOCs) in the existing basins and also in unexplored areas, including deep waters of East and West Coast.
- (iii) Encouragement of the participation of private/joint venture companies in exploration activities.
- (iv) Targetting of alternate hydrocarbon resources, i.e. Coal Bed Methane (CBM) and Gas hydrates, through measures like recent award by Government of a block in Raniganj area in West Bengal to a private company for exploration and production of CBM.

SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to the Minister and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for their efforts to find oil and natural gas in Andhra Pradesh. The hon. Minister stated in his reply that "to increase the degree of self-reliance in oil and natural gas through exploration efforts, the Ministry is encouraging private participation and joint ventures". I want to know from the hon. Minister whether any response has been received from private companies, so far as Andhra Pradesh is concerned. Secondly, I would also like to know whether the Gas Authority of India Ltd. is taking measures to increase the availability of gas at the offshore Ravva fields in Andhra Pradesh and, if so, the time by which the gas supply would be doubled.

SHRI RAM NAIK : So far as Andhra Pradesh is concerned, in the 12 prospects which have mentioned in part (a) of my reply, we have been successful in drilling 22 wells and, out of those, 10 wells have been connected to the Gas Authority of India Ltd. So, as and when the GAIL would have completed the laying of pipes, more gas would be expected and made available.

SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Sir, I had asked about the Ravva fields in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI RAM NAIK : We are trying to increase the production from there also. Wherever we found oil, earnest efforts are being made to explore it in a big way. After exploration, we take out oil. We are doing that. In general, must say, so far as Andhra Pradesh is concerned, this year, we are spending about Rs. 200 crores for further exploration. So far as the whole country is concerned, we would be investing Rs. 300 crores, specifically for oil exploration work.

SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY : My second question is

on the action proposed to produce LPG up to the full capacity in Vishakhapatnam Refineries and other refineries to fully meet the domestic demand. Part (b) of my question is, whether the GAIL has taken measure to meet the full LPG demand in Andhra Pradesh; if so, the details thereof.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, so far as LPG is concerned, I am exceedingly happy to inform the House, the last year, we have released 89 lakh new connections. This year, we would be releasing one crore new connections. In doing so, the entire country would have no waiting list, as per the present requirement. It is not only in Andhra Pradesh, but everywhere, this is being done. So far as Andhra Pradesh, is concerned, they have a well received scheme, called 'Deep Scheme,' under which they are giving LPG connections to persons below the poverty line. We have agreed to give Andhra Pradesh 10 lakh such connections as and when they demand.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : My question arises out of part (b) of the question, self-reliance by exploration of gas. Sir, it has been reported that India is going to import natural gas from Iran through a pipeline via Pakistan. It is a hazardous proposal. May I know, Sir, from the Minister that since it is reported that Bangladesh has massive gas reserves, would you explore the possibilities of entering into some agreement with Bangladesh and abandon the project with Iran and import gas from Bangladesh?

SHRI RAM NAIK : It is true that there is sufficient gas in Bangladesh. But Bangladesh is yet to decide on the export of its gas. Unless that country decides to export, we are not in a position to take gas from that country. As of now, though we have made efforts, it has not agreed to supply gas to us.

The second point you raised was about the Iran project. I also read some newspaper report saying that the gas line is coming through Pakistan, and Pakistan has raised some objections. Officially, no such information is with me.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : It is in the air. Is it not?

SHRI RAM NAIK : That is why I said that I too have read in the newspaper, As you have read, I too have read it, but there is official communication, so far as Pakistan or Iran is concerned. They have agreed. Ultimately, this will have some other considerations also; with regard to safety,

security and all those things. They will have to be looked into. After that only the proposal would come. There is no proposal as of now.

प्रधान मंत्री (श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी) : सभापति महोदय, यह गैस का मामला बड़ा महत्वपूर्ण है। हमारी अनेक समस्याएं हल हो जाएं अगर हम बड़ी मात्रा में गैस प्राप्त करने में सफल हों। गैस के बारे में ईरान और बांग्लादेश दोनों से बातचीत हो रही है। ईरान के मामले में कुछ व्यावहारिक कठिनाइयां हैं जिनको सुलझाकर हम आगे बढ़ना चाहते हैं। बांग्लादेश हमें गैस दे, इस बारे में बातचीत काफी आगे बढ़ चुकी है। वहां के प्रधान मंत्री जी ने भी इस संबंध में अपनी रुचि दिखाई है और मुझे विश्वास है कि थोड़े दिनों बाद बांग्लादेश के साथ इस संबंध में कोई समझौता हो जाएगा।

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE : My question pertains to (b) part of the question, regarding the degree of self-reliance. As per my information, 60% is your imports and 40% only is your self-reliance component. After taking all these steps, what is our estimated degree of self-reliance *vis-a-vis* imports after the 9th Plan? What are the milestones we have set for ourselves, so far as self-reliance is concerned? Is it going to be from 60% dependence to 50% and then 40%? What is your estimate?

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, it is very difficult to say precisely in figures. We are trying our best to ensure that more and more gas is explored. So, we are giving internationally also new exploration licences. This scheme has been provided and under this scheme very recently we have entered into 25 blocks and 22 contracts were signed on a single day. Probably that would be a record in the world. Now, with that unless we get exploration of gas and crude it is very difficult to quantify it. So, quantification at this stage would be difficult. Sir, the Tenth Plan is yet to be formulated. So, it is very difficult for me to say as to what will happen in the Tenth Plan.

SHRIM. VENKAIAH NAIDU : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in certain places of Andhra Pradesh reserves of natural gas have been found. I would like to know whether it is a fact that the Government of Andhra Pradesh has made a representation to the Government of India requesting that the gas which is locally available in those places may be allocated to some of the power plants which have already entered into an agreement and we have already incurred expenditure for the creation of infrastructure also. Sir, as the naphtha prices have gone up, they have requested for converting it into a gas-based industry like to know whether the Government is looking into

the same. If so, I would like to know whether the Government is willing to consider it positively because that will help in reduction of transport cost because in and around these places as many as six power plants are coming up in Andhra Pradesh. That being the case, will the Government consider this seriously?

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, it is true that the Government of Andhra Pradesh and along with that many Members of Parliament from Andhra Pradesh have requested for allocation of gas. We are examining it because whatever gas is presently available has already been distributed. Then we are deciding the priorities. Sir, when more and more gas becomes available its distribution would be made in consultation with the Government of Andhra Pradesh. They have given some royalty also. Many times it does happen that a particular firm is given allocation but the projects do not come up. That is why the gas cannot be taken out. We are examining this point also that those who have done advance investment and who are likely to complete the erection of their projects quickly, probably we will think of giving them some preference.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : Sir, I only wanted to correct the Minister. But the Prime Minister has already corrected him because talks with Bangladesh.....(*Interruptions*)..

SHRI T. N. CHATURVEDI : The Prime Minister has only supplemented it.(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : He said that he had read it in the newspapers.(*Interruptions*)... Actually talks took place about which he did not inform Mr. Salve.

SHRI RAM NAIK : I do not follow whether this is a question or this is a comment.(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : Mr. Minister, you read your paper. Otherwise, there was no need of an intervention by the Prime Minister. You told that hon. Member that you had read it in the newspapers. Actually talks of getting gas from Bangladesh were going on....(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, I mentioned this with regard to Pakistan.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : He told this about Bangladesh.

SHRI RAM NAIK : I am sorry you should have been a little attentive ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : You please read your paper. Otherwise, do not provoke me to bring a privilege motion against you ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU : He made a mention about Pakistan ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : I am sorry he referred to Bangladesh. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, he can move a privilege motion ...*(Interruptions)*... I am not scared. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : He referred to Bangladesh. That is why the Prime Minister had to intervene. I also wanted to raise this issue because talks with Bangladesh are going. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please correct this ...*(Interruptions)*... Read your own statement tomorrow and there you will find what you have said. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAM NAIK : I responded to this question in connection with Pakistan. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am sure he was referring to that. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : Sir, about Bangladesh I was told that they are not willing to sell. That is how I understood his answer to me. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : Mr. Minister, you said that there is no proposal. Please check up the records. ...*(Interruptions)*... You said that there is no proposal, formal proposal ...*(Interruptions)*... The Prime Minister has clarified the position. That is why I do not want to raise this issue.

श्रीमती कुमकुम राय : सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूंगी कि एल.पी.जी. गैस गोडाउन बनाने या रखने के न्यूनतम मापदंड क्या हैं ? क्या उन मापदंडों का पूरी तरह से निर्वहन हो रहा है ?

श्री राम नाईक : सभापति जी, यह प्रश्न मूल प्रश्न से संबंधित नहीं है लेकिन नए गोडाउन निर्माण करने के जो मापदंड हैं, मैं आपको लिखित रूप में उनकी गाईडलाइंस दे दूंगा जिसके आधार पर यदि कहीं इस प्रकार की कमी है, तो आप मुझे उस कमी से अवगत कराएं। फिर हम उसमें सुधार कर सकते हैं।

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question Hour is over.