

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): I would have called another Member but I think, we will take up the statement of the Minister. We will again take up this subject tomorrow. After the statement, we can take up Half-an-Hour discussion and finish that.

STATEMENT BY MANAGEMENT

Recent Discoveries Of Oil And Gas By ONGC

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : Sir, I have great pleasure in informing the House of some recent discoveries of oil and gas by ONGC. Oil has been struck in the exploratory well, RBC-1, in the Ratnagiri Sector of Bombay offshore. The well is located 100 km. southwest of Bombay.

The exploratory well, RBC-1, located in a water depth of 61 m was spudded on 28-4-1991 with the jack up rig, EXPLORER and drilled upto 3425.5 m depth in basement. Object-III tested in the interval of 1990-91 m has produced oil at 1684 barrels per day through 1/2" choke and at 2177 barrels per day through 5/8" choke. The oil has an API gravity of 42.7 and a GOR of 114 V/V. The Hydrogen Sulphide (H_2S) content varies from 12000 to 19000 ppm. production testing of the zone started on 29-7-1991. The producing interval forms the lower part of the Bassein Limestone which is the main oil and gas bearing zone in Heera, panna, Ratna, Bassein and other fields in Bombay offshore. Oil indications have been obtained in some other layers also from this well.

The presence of oil in the well RBC-1, which is 2.5 km. north of oil bearing structure R-13, indicates the possibility that these two structures may merge into a bigger

oil pool with an aerial extent of the order of 20 sq. km. This is to be ascertained by drilling a few more wells.

I would also like to inform the House that Gas has been discovered in two structures in the Krishna-Godavari Basin in Andhra Pradesh. Exploratory wells at Penumadam and Banda-Murlanka have on testing produced gas in commercial quantities.

Penumadam-I well situated 18 kms. North East of Narasapur Town, was spudded on 26-2-1991 and drilled to a depth of 3000 mtrs. During testing the intervals of 2477-2471 mtrs. and 2466-2462 mtrs. with 20/64" choke, gas flowed at the rate of 2,13,348 m³/day. The well also produced 54 barrels of condensate per day.

The Banda-murlanka N-1 well lies 10 kms. south of Amalapuram. This well was spudded on 14-12-1990 and was drilled to a depth of 3531 mtrs. During testing in the interval of 3138—3135 mtrs. with 10/64" choke, gas flowed at the rate of 27,036 m³/day. The well also produced 203 barrels of condensate per day.

In both wells, further, testing is in progress to ascertain other reservoir characteristics.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal) : Sir, this is very good news that we have been able to find sources of oil and gas in some parts of the country because that will enable us to increase our production and that at the same time will enable us to curtail our spending of hard currency. It will also make us a little more self-reliant than what we had been in the past. At least another dose of devaluation may not be necessary because we will have enough reserve or enough source of oil and we will have to spend much less of foreign exchange. While complimenting ONGC for the hard work they have done in

[Shri Gurudas Das Gupta]

this respect, I draw the attention of the Minister to a number of forecasts that have been made by a number of eminent geologists of the country. The Minister may be aware that a number of eminent geologists have complained that a proper exploratory work has not been done with regard to the potential oil reserve that seems to be there in West Bengal and Gujarat. There is one Mr. Chowdhury, an eminent geologist, long associated with the work of exploration. Some more eminent people along with him have decisively made a decisive complaint that the ONGC had defaulted in the exploration of sources of oil in West Bengal and Gujarat. I do not know ; if proper exploration had been done, it would have done a great relief not only to the people of West Bengal, but to the people of India also because according to their estimate, oil reserve in West Bengal and Gujarat seems to be quite large and huge.

Therefore, my first question to the Minister will be : What are the steps the Minister is going to take to ensure that this exploratory, work done by ONGC is expanded more seriously and to ensure that we are able to find out the potential oil reserves and gas reserves in the country ? And if necessary, would the ONGC and the Government of India take the help of other foreign experts. In this connection, Sir, I submit that there are people in the world, there are countries in the world who would not like India to become self-reliant so far as petroleum and gas products are concerned. They have their own interest in making India dependent on others. Therefore, if you bring experts from those countries it will not be possible for us to really find out where the sources of oil lie. Therefore, my second question to the Minister will be . Is he ready to take the help of foreign geologists and; oreign coun-
ties who are friendly to us, who

want India to be self-reliant, who don't want India to be dependent on others ? It is quite good that new oil reserves are being located. But, what about the existing oil wells ? Sir, I am told that oil production is not up to the capacity. Oil production in the country is down by at least 30 per cent, particularly oil production in Assam is suffering heavily. Production of oil can be increased in Assam. Therefore, my third question will be : What are the steps the Government would like to take to augment the oil production in the existing oil wells ? While seeking to improve the oil production, does the Government intend to sit with the trade unions ? It is not by activating the management only that you can augment the production. It is essential to enlist the support and cooperation of the trade unions. Therefore, my fourth question will be : Does the Government intend to sit with the trade unions and evolve some sort of a joint strategy and a common work norm on the basis of which there will be efforts from the trade unions and management to improve the oil production ? This has become very important because oil not only constitutes the life-line of our progress but it is the main sector where we are spending our foreign exchange and it is because of this stringency in the foreign exchange that the country has to take a different turn. There are a number of complaints about the functioning of the ONGC. There are a number of complaints about the way in which the work is done. Arbitrarily the work is decided and arbitrarily the work is given up. Therefore, my fifth and last question to the Minister will be : What are the steps the Government would like to take to streamline the working of the ONGC and his own Department ?

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज (हरियाणा) :
उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, सबसे पहले तो मैं
मंत्री जी को बधाई देना चाहूंगी कि

ओ.एन.जी.सी. द्वारा जो तेल और गैस के नये भण्डारों का पता लगाया गया है, उसकी सूचना उन्होंने सबसे पहले सदन को दी। इसके साथ ही मैं कुछ सवालालात उनसे पूछना चाहती हूँ। मेरा पहला सवाल यह है कि उन्होंने इसके पहले पैराग्राफ में कहा है कि :

"The oil has an API gravity of 42.7 and a GOR of 114 V/V."

इसके बाकी कंटेंट क्या हैं, किस प्रकार का तेल है, इसके बारे में उन्होंने बताया है। मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहती हूँ कि जिस किस्म का तेल यहां खोजा गया है और प्राप्त हुआ है क्या उस तेल को शोधित करने की क्षमता हमारी किसी मौजूदा रिफाइनरी में है, क्योंकि हर रिफाइनरी हर तरह के तेल को शोधित करने की क्षमता नहीं रखती और हर रिफाइनरी का एक स्पेसिफिक पैरामीटर होता है। कहीं गाढ़ी किस्म का तेल निकलता है और कहीं दूसरी किस्म का तेल निकलता है जिस किस्म का तेल यहां से प्राप्त हुआ है क्या उसको शोधित करने की क्षमता हमारी किसी रिफाइनरी में है या किसी रिफाइनरी के मौजूदा ढांचे में फेर बदल करके इसको शोधित करने की बात की जा सकती है क्योंकि...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJIM ASODKAR): With the leave of the House I would ask Shri Sukomal Sen to take the Chair.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA Kindly ensure that no voting is taken under his stewardship.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJIM MASODKAR): He will carry on with clarifications.

[The Vice-Chairman (Shri Sukomal Sen) In the Chair.]

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : आपके अध्यक्ष के आसन पर बैठने की बधाई देने के बाद, मैं उस प्रश्न को जारी रखना चाहती हूँ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सुकोमल सेन) : धन्यवाद।

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : मैं जो सवाल पूछ रही थी कि क्या किसी मौजूदा रिफाइनरी में इसको शोधित करने की क्षमता है या किसी मौजूदा रिफाइनरी के ढांचे में फेर बदल कर के इसको शोधित कर सकेंगे? क्योंकि तेल जब शोधित नहीं होगा तब तक इस्तेमाल नहीं किया जा सकता है। अगर शोधित नहीं होगा तो जो यहां का आयात का बिल बढ़ रहा है उसमें कोई कमी नहीं आएगी। इसके बारे में मैं जानना चाहती हूँ क्योंकि रिफाइनरीज के बारे में पेट्रोलियम मंत्रालय में यह स्थिति है कि 12-12 वर्षों तक डिसेजन नहीं होते हैं, अनिश्चितता की स्थिति में पड़े रहते हैं। मैं प्रमाणिक के आधार पर बता रही हूँ कि मैंने अपने प्रदेश में कर्नाल में एक रिफाइनरी लगनी है जिसके बारे में निर्णय हुआ हुआ है लेकिन मान मालों ने जिलान्यास कर के पड़ा हुआ है और वह रिफाइनरी अब तक बनी नहीं है। अगर किसी मौजूदा रिफाइनरी में इस तेल को शोधित करने की क्षमता न हो तो क्या कर्नाल रिफाइनरी में इस तरह की मशीनें या संयंत्र लगाए जायेंगे जहां इस तेल को शोधित करने की क्षमता आ सके? वह मेरा दूसरा प्रश्न है। यह जो तेल खोजा गया है इसका रिजर्वर कितना बड़ा है, इसका पूरा विस्तार क्षेत्र कितना है? यह सवाल मैं इसलिए पूछ रही हूँ कि ओ.एन.जी.सी. अतीत में इस बात के लिए बहुत विख्यात है कि एक किलोमीटर के क्षेत्र में यदि तेल खोजा जाता है तो वह उस में 10 बार ड्रिलिंग कर के 10 बार अपने प्रचार तंत्र के बल पर यह घोषणा करता है कि तेल का नया भंडार खोज लिया गया है। एग्जाम्पल वही होता है लेकिन कहा जाता है कि तेल का नया भंडार खोज लिया गया है। उसी रिजर्वर में 10 बार ड्रिलिंग कर के 10 बार श्रेय लिया जाता है कि तेल का नया भंडार मिला गया है। इसलिए मैं यह जानना

[श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज]

चाहती हूँ कि यह बताया जाए पहली बार में कितना बड़ा रिजर्वरियर है जिसके अन्दर यह तेल खोजा गया है। तीसरा सवाल है, आपने कहा है कि गैस भी मिली है। लेकिन गैस तो हमारे यहां पहले से बेहद मौजूद है। जहां गैस मिल गई है वह उड़ रही है। उसको उपयोग करने का कोई साधन संयंत्र देश में उपलब्ध नहीं है। यह जो गैस मिली है क्या इसका उपयोग करने की क्षमता हमने पैदा कर ली है या यह गैस भी उसी तरह उड़ेगी जिस तरह से बाकी गैस के भंडारों में उड़ रही है? उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, यहां कुछ इंडियन कम्पनीज़ ने रिजर्व के लिए कंट्रैक्ट लिये हुए हैं लेकिन अभी तक उन में से किसी का कंट्रैक्ट रिन्यू नहीं किया गया है, वह वैंड के बैसे पड़े हैं। मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहूंगी कि क्या आपका मंत्रालय पुनर्विचार कर रहा है या आप नीति में तबदीली करने जा रहे हैं? आप उसके ऊपर क्या निर्णय लेने वाले हैं, कब तक लेने वाले हैं? यह मेरा चौथा सवाल है। मेरा अगला सवाल बहुत अहम सवाल है। उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, तेल हमारी राष्ट्रीय सम्पत्ति है और भारत सरकार इसकी मलकियत रखती है। ओ.एन.जी.सी. भारत सरकार की एक एजेंसी है जो भारत सरकार की तरफ से तेल का दोहन करती है। शायद आपको भी जानकारी होगी कि भारत सरकार ओ.एन.जी.सी. का डेप्लीशन अलाउंस देती है। डेप्लीशन अलाउंस के पीछे कनसेप्ट यह है कि किसी भी संसाधन का दोहन करने के बाद वह संसाधन धीरे-धीरे कम होता जाता है इसलिए डेप्लीशन अलाउंस दिया जाता है। लेकिन अपने एजेंट को डेप्लीशन अलाउंस देने का औचित्य समझ में नहीं आता है। जिस चीज की मालिक स्वयं भारत सरकार है और अपने एजेंट के माध्यम से उसका दोहन कराती है उस संसाधन के लिए डेप्लीशन अलाउंस देने का क्या औचित्य है, मंत्री जी यह बतायेंगे? इसी के साथ लगता हुआ सवाल यह है कि यही ओ.एन.जी.सी.

इतनी लाभप्रद संस्था रही है कि इसने 1200 करोड़ रुपये के आय कर की देनदारी भी निभाई है लेकिन पिछले सालों से इसकी देनदारी घट कर के शून्य रह गई है। मुझे यह भी जानकारी है कि पेट्रोलियम मंत्रालय के कुछ अधिकारियों ने और ओ.एन.जी.सी. के अधिकारियों ने मिल कर एक ऐसा प्रावधान करा दिया जिससे एक झटके में 500 करोड़ की आय कर की देनदारी समाप्त हो गई है। इसके बारे में मंत्री जी क्या कर रहे हैं? क्या उनके मंत्रालय ने इसके बारे में विचार विमर्श किया है? ये ही सवाल तो मुझे मंत्री जी से करने थे। बहुत बहुत धन्यवाद।

SHRI MD. SALIM (West Bengal): Mr. Vice-Chairman, we have got tired of hearing the balance of payments crisis and now we are glad to hear that oil has been discovered. I must congratulate the Minister and the ONGC for it. Coming to the question, Mr. Das Gupta has already mentioned that there is a possibility that during the Eighth Five Year Plan the ONGC is planning to reduce the number of rigs in the eastern region in general and West Bengal in particular. I would like to know from the Minister whether this is a fact. From the statement we find that the ONGC has drilled up to 3425.5 m dep h. Now, there is an allegation made that in the eastern region the ONGC just fulfils the target set out by the Ministry mechanically without scientifically analysing the data available from the exploration work. We have been hearing that there is a possibility of finding gas in the Cauvery and Godavari basins. As the hon. Member Ms. Sushma Swaraj has already said that most of the gas is just wasted, I would like to know from the Minister what he is planning to do in this regard. There was a proposal for a gas bridge linking Tripura, West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Assam and most of the North Eastern

regions so that these areas can have gas and gas-based industries. I have been told that ONGC has already submitted this proposal to the Ministry. I would like to know from the Minister whether he is pursuing with the Planning Commission for inclusion of this project in the Eighth Five Year Plan. Recently, I have heard that a second refinery would be started in Haldia. I am putting this question though it is not strictly related to the statement. What has happened to it?

What is the use of discovery and exploration if we can not have a project like the one I suggested? Is there any proposal, if it is not possible to have it through Assam, to build up a sub-sea pipeline from Tripura to Bengal. These are my questions.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA (Gujarat): Sir, it is very good news that oil and gas has been discovered and I congratulate the Petroleum Ministry and also the engineers who have been engaged in the drilling and exploration work. My question is regarding distribution and utilisation of gas. Fourteen million cubic metres of gas is burnt per annum. The cost would come to, even according to your own calculations, Rs. 2,500 crores! The reserves of gas amount to 686 billion cubic metres, that is what I read in the Press reports and also from the official sources. The point is that we are not able to utilize this gas. Even though we have invested in HBJ line about Rs. 3,500 crores, this line is very much under-utilised. We are wasting the gas not utilizing it properly and yet we are increasing the price of gas. You have raised the price of gas. Twenty years back the price of gas was Rs. 50/- per one thousand cubic metres. Today, it is around Rs. 2,200/- or so which means it is 44 times more. In the USA and the USSR, the price of gas is about Rs. 1,200/- where it is easy to pay. Here the price is Rs. 1,800/- to Rs. 2,400/- depending upon the

usage. On the one hand you go on finding out reserves and, on the other, you are not in a position to use it for the common man, for the industry, because of such a high price and so, you flare it. My question, therefore, is this: Will you please consult the State Governments where gas and oil are produced and sit with them, because they are also consuming gas and oil, and talk to them as to what should be the price fixation formula, how oil and gas should be explored, etc. Sir, you will be surprised to know that during the last one decade, the Central Government got earnings from the oil is around Rs. 48,000 Crores....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SUKOMAL SEN): Please put your question now.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA : ...and then you gave only Rs. 4,300 crores to the States! Is this the way to deal with the States? Therefore, I am putting the same question in a different form: In view of the new reserves that you have found and in view of the non-utilization of the gas and in view of your desire to use this gas, will you call a meeting of the State Governments concerned so that it can be decided as to how this can be properly utilized?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SUKOMAL SEN): You have to conclude now.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA : My questions are not many. Now, what do you think of the standard of living of the Indians as compared to the people in America or the USSR? When they themselves charge only Rs. 1,200/- for 1,000 cubic metres, you charge about Rs. 2,400/- per one thousand cubic metres of gas. Are you going to

[Shri Chimanbhai Mehta]
reconsider this or not? Of course, today, you have come here with your new discoveries. But these are relevant issues. If you can enlighten us on these points, it would be helpful and we can discuss this issue in this House after August, when we meet again, and in the Lok Sabha also it can be discussed. But kindly enlighten us on this vital point. Thank you, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN
(SHRI SUKOMAL SEN): I will now call only one speaker and then we will take up the Half-an-Hour Discussion. Yes, Mr. Swell.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA
(Uttar Pradesh): I also want to ask some clarifications.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN
(SHRI SUKOMAL SEN): You can ask later. Now, Mr. Swell.

SHRI G. G. SWELL
(Meghalaya): Sir, it is good to hear that we have discovered three more oil wells. If this announcement is meant to be a relief to us in the context of the gloomy picture of the oil industry where one-third of our wells are closed down or dry and our annual production has gone down to 27 million tonnes as against the targeted 34 million tonnes, then, I am afraid, the relief is not very much. Now, I would like to ask just two questions.

In the first well, you are drilling at 61 m water depth. But I am told that more of oil is at 200 m water depth. What are you doing about exploration of that oil at that depth? How long does it take for these wells to go into commission? These are the questions which are important in the context of the very serious situation in which we find ourselves today when our production is going down more and more by the year.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN
(SHRI SUKOMAL SEN): This discussion will be taken up tomorrow. Now, we will take up Half-an-hour Discussion.

6 P.M.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: No-body has been called from this side, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN:
(SHRI SUKOMAL SEN): No. I have called according to the list.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA : You might allow one question from each.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SUKOMAL SEN): Many names are pending. They will be called tomorrow. The list is prepared by the Secretariat. And accordingly I have called.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Tomorrow, at what time, Sir?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN
(SHRI SUKOMAL SEN): That will know tomorrow. It will come in the List of Business.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: You might allow one question each. That will suffice.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN:
(SHRI SUKOMAL SEN): It is not my discretion. There is time constraint. At 6 o'clock, we have to take up the Half-an-hour Discussion. Yes, Dr. Sivaji.