

RAJYA SABHA

Monday, the 15th December, 1980|
the 24th Agradayana, 1902 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the
clock, Mr. Chairman in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*381.[The questioner (Shri Robin Kalkati). was absent for answer vide col. 37 and 38 *infra*.]

Supply of Crude to India by Iraq

*382. SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT:
DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA:†

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Iraq has intimated its decision to resume export of its agreed quantity of crude to India; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) and (b) It would not be in national interest to divulge an information.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA: Sir, if I ask any question about any other country, will that also be not in the national interest?

SHRI P. C. SETHI: If the hon. Member puts the question, I will try to answer it.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA: Sir, there was a newspaper

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. (Shrimati) Najma Heptulla.

report on Saturday that Bulgaria has offered to supply us some oil....

MR. CHAIRMAN: But you were asking about Iraq

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA: But he said, it is not in national interest to answer it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member will realise that the hon. Minister is perfectly right.

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI: When the Minister says that he cannot divulge, she is taking him round so that some information can come up.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not fair. It is known to everybody that there is a war going on between Iraq and Iran. We had supplies from both and I think the Minister is perfectly right and wise in not commenting on this.

AN HON. MEMBER: He is right.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA: May I seek information about some other countries where there is no war?

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you were sitting here and I were sitting there, the same answer would be given. (*Interruptions*). I think we will have to do that Mr. Pandey, there is no point.. इसको कुरेदने में कोई फायदा नहीं।

SHRI NARSINGH NARAIN PANDEY: I will pass on to the other supplementary and then you will appreciate.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will join issue and we shall have our usual round on some other occasion.

*383. [The questioner (Shri C. Haridas) was absent. For answer vide col. 38 *infra*.]