

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. I have passed on to the next question. Yes, Question No. 385. Hon. Members not here. Yes, Question No. 386. Hon. Members not here. Yes, Question No. 387.

*385. [The questioners (Shri B. Satyanaryan Reddy and Shri Ladli Mohan Nigam) were absent. For answer vide col.—39 infra.]

*386 [The questioners (Shri Ram Lakhan Prasad Gupta and Shri Lal K. Advani) were absent. For answer vide col.. 39 to 41 infra.]

Oil and Gas found near Andamans Islands

*387. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE:†
DR. LOKESH CHANDRA:

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

(a) the estimated commercial potential of gas and oil found in eastern Andamans recently; and

(b) by when production of oil and gas is likely to start there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Only gas was struck in a well drilled in the eastern shelf of Andamans in June, 1980. The commercial potential of the gas find is yet to be fully assessed.

(b) More assessment wells are planned to be drilled, and depending upon the results of these wells, further development of this field will be considered. It is, therefore, too early to indicate a date for starting of production.

SHR' PILOO MODY: Now, Sir, the filibustering will start.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Lokesh Chandra. No filibustering.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Bishambhar Nath Pande.

DR. LOKESH CHANDRA: Sir, the Minister has said that no date can be given for the production of oil. I think an approximate date, by which production can start, can be given.

SHRI P. C. SETHI: Sir, the operations were stopped because of monsoon and we will take up the operations, operation of drilling, again and it is only after ascertaining that gas in commercial quantity is available there that the question of production can come.

DR. LOKESH CHANDRA: What is the estimated commercial production in this strike?

SHRI P. C. SETHI: Sir, as far as gas is concerned, it is estimated that 3 to 5 billion cubic meters of gas is there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Pandey.

SHRI NARSINGH NARAIN PANDEY: Sir, I would like to know whether it is a fact or not that he has not got the modern equipment for knowing the various strata at which gas and oil are available in off-shore and on-shore areas and that they are available only in America. I would also like to know whether he is contemplating purchasing the equipment so that gas and other things below 6,000 metres can be easily located.

SHRI PILOO MODY: Equipment and technology.

SHRI P. C. SETHI: Sir, the seismic survey was done by one of the ships that we had hired from the United States and the geophysical survey has been done by ourselves. The Explorer which was used in 1977, from January to May, was a foreign ship.

SHRI NARSINGH NARAIN PANDEY: Sir, my question has not been answered. I put a question and the reply has not reached me.

SHRI PILOO MODY: The reply is incomplete.

SHRI NARSINGH NARAIN PANDEY: Sir, my question was whether the honourable Minister would inform the House that drilling below a depth of six thousand metre either off-shore or on-shore, is not possible and locating the strata of gas and oil is also not possible, because the instrument required for this purpose is available only in America? And that instrument so far was not obtained in the country, with the result that many off-shore and on-shore drilling is getting delayed and is not getting according to the schedule.

SHRI P. C. SETHI: I have already replied, that as far as the seismic survey is concerned, it was done by one of the vessels known as 'Dresser Explorer' of M/s Dressers Alempic of U.S.A. The cost incurred was about Rs. 5,72,000. As far as going below 6000 metre is concerned, we will take the necessary measures to obtain assistance for that if it is considered necessary.

SHRI NARSINGH NARAIN PANDEY: Sir, I seek your protection. My question has not been replied to. I asked this. There is an instrument in America. About six or ten years before some order was placed. So far that instrument was not available to the technicians in our country, with the result that we cannot know the strata where gas is available, where oil is available. If that instrument could be obtained, then the drilling process could be accelerated. That is my question. The Minister has said something else.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you able to get it?

SHRI P. C. SETHI: As I said, we have gone below a depth of 3710 metre. And if necessity arises and if gas or oil or both are established and we have to go below a depth of 6000 metre, then the necessary equipment and other assistance which may be required for that will be taken.

Imported power equipments in Andhra Pradesh

*388. **SHRI NARASINGHA PRASAD NANDA:** †
SHRI PRAKASH MEHROTRA:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item which appeared in the Indian Express of 29th November, 1980 to the effect that power equipments of the value of Rs. 24 crores imported from Japan and Switzerland are lying idle in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for its lying idle; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) Equipment for Units III and IV of the Nagarjunasagar Pump Storage Scheme have been ordered from abroad. Some of the components of this equipment are due to be supplied by BHEL. While the imported components have arrived, there has been delay in the supply of indigenous portion, as the technology involved in the manufacture of the pump storage turbines is sophisticated and being undertaken for the first time in the country. BHEL is expected to complete their supplies by March, 1981 and August, 1981.

SHRI NARASINGHA PRASAD NANDA: Sir, the hon. Minister says that the technology is sophisticated and therefore the imported equipment is lying in Andhra Pradesh. May I know whether the Minister was aware of the fact that this technology was sophisticated and when they placed order for the import of this

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Narasingha Prasad Nanda.