

हैं उसके मुताबिक यह वाजिब दाम है। मैं यह मानता हूँ कि यह चीज हम तक श्रान्ती चाहिए थी। हमने उस समय नहीं देखा और कार्यालय ने यह कर दिया। इस मामले को सवाल के रूप में यहां लाने पर हमें बहुत लाभ हुआ है और इसके लिये मैं सवालकर्ता को धन्यवाद देता हूँ।

SHRI SITARAM KESRI: On a point of order. Sir, I have maintained the decorum of the House all these days, but till this day I have failed to catch your eye. I have been continuously raising my hand, but so far I have never been paid attention by the Chair. This is my complaint. You advised me to wait and obey the Chair. So I have obeyed your advice so long.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Next question.

Exploration for gas and oil

*454. SHRI NARASINGHA PRASAD NANDA:†

DR. V. P. DUTT:
SHRIMATI SAROJ
KHAPARDE:

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

(a) the names of the places in the country where there is possibility of finding gas and oil;

(b) whether exploration work at these sites has been started; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, by when the exploration work is likely to start there?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) The names of the areas with possibilities

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

of accumulation of oil and gas in the country both on land and offshore are as follows:—

(i) Siwalik foothills belt of Jammu

(ii) Himachal Pradesh

(iii) Punjab

(iv) Uttar Pradesh and the adjoining alluvial plains and the plains of Bihar.

(v) The Cambay basin and Kutch region of Gujarat and the adjoining off-shore areas

(vi) Jaisalmer area of Rajasthan

(vii) The Brahmaputra and Surma Valley area of Assam and Nagaland

(viii) Areas in the Tirap District of Arunachal Pradesh

(ix) Tripura

(x) Cauvery basin of Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry

(xi) The coastal areas of Kerala and adjoining off-shore areas

(xii) The South-eastern and Southern part of West Bengal

(xiii) Krishna-Godavari delta of Andhra Pradesh and the adjoining offshore areas

(xiv) The Mahanadi delta of Orissa and adjoining areas extending eastwards to Sunderbans

(xv) The Andaman-Nicobar islands

(b) Since its inception in 1956, ONGC has extended the exploration work to almost all the areas where possibility of accumulation of oil and gas exists, as indicated above, in the country. Exploratory drilling has been conducted in nine basins, viz., Cambay, Assam-Arakan, Cauvery, West Bengal, Ganga Valley, Punjab, Jaisalmer, Kutch and Tripura-Surma Valley, while in the remaining basins

exploration work has been of the nature of geological or geophysical surveys. Oil India Limited has been carrying out exploration work in its areas in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Mahanadi basin.

(c) Exploration for oil and gas is a continuous process.

SHRI NARASINGHA PRASAD NANDA: As the honourable Minister read out a two-page answer it was impossible for me to follow everything. It would have been better if he had given this reply in the form of a statement and laid it on the Table of the House so that I could have framed my supplementary in the proper form to elicit information. In any case I would like to ask one or two questions. The honourable Minister says that exploration has also been conducted in the Mahanadi delta. May I ask how many wells have been dug and what the result is of the exploration conducted in the Mahanadi delta particularly?

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA: In the Mahanadi delta basin no wells have so far been dug. Licences have been given for doing the necessary boring of wells in the Mahanadi delta also.

SHRI NARASINGHA PRASAD NANDA: My second question is when this exploration is likely to start. Then, since the answer given by the honourable Minister covers a wide range of places, I want to know whether the Government of India has carved out a national policy on gas and oil exploration as we have expected that they will achieve self-reliance within a particular point of time.

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA: The honourable Member is quite right in asking as to what the policy is. The policy is to find out all recoverable resources of hydrocarbons within the boundaries of this nation's sovereign limits, whether onshore or offshore. I hope that effort will prove successful. So far as the Mahanadi and other areas are concerned, all I can say is

that gas and oil will be produced in a manner so that they can be put to the best use in order to solve the country's energy problems.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: I support the point raised by Shri Nanda. I submit that you should give a directive to the Ministers that such long replies should be placed on the Table of the House. Otherwise, it is not possible for the Members to ask useful supplementaries. Apart from that, I would say that explorations are certainly important. What is equally important is utilisation of these scarce raw materials after these are explored. It has to come to our notice that in various parts of the country including Assam gas is flared day in and day out without being put to any use. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any national policy regarding gas. Secondly, what steps are being taken to see that natural gas is not wasted, but is put to some definite use. After all these are very scarce commodities.

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA: Sir, this Government has decided to put up a gas-based fertilizer plant at Namrup to make use of the gas that is flared. I could not have done this three or four or five years ago because I was not here. There has been lack of positive policy in regard to the uses to which oil and gas should be put to maximise the wealth of the country. This Government has decided to use natural gas, as a first priority, for developing chemical industries, such as, fertilizer and petro-chemicals. In that direction we are taking definite steps. So far as our future policy is concerned it is very simple, namely, not to flare gas except for technical reasons. To flare gas is, I think, very unjust to the nation. At the same time, we cannot now shut down the oil wells because of the time lag between the development of fertilizer plant and gas which is already coming out. I cannot now undo the past. But about future, I can assure the House that the Government propose

to use gas and oil so that the country's wealth is maximised.

SHRI N. G. RANGA: Now that we have more than 100 universities half of which have Geology faculties, is any effort being made to utilise the services of their staff and research scholars to aid, assist and co-operate with the Oil and Natural Gas Commission or *vice versa* so that we would be able to gain from each other's experience? May I also know why Mr. Bhanu Prasad who has done such distinguished service in developing this particular Commission throughout has been taken away from here and promoted or demoted—I do not know—and then appointed as Secretary to the Government to deal with files?

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA: So far as the Chairman's posting is concerned, I think it will not be fair to say that Mr. Prasad has been whisked away or taken away from the Commission. It is Mr. Prasad who has requested to be relieved from the Commission because he said: "I am a tired man. I have done terrible work and circumstances now do not permit me to do this job of running round the globe". The Chairman has to do lot of running about. He was so tired and unfortunately he developed some ailment also. He has not been thrown out. It is at his request that he has been shifted to the Ministry of Energy which is also very important. But, Sir, so far as the universities are concerned, the ONGC has certainly developed a programme of interaction between some of the universities and the ONGC, especially with the Institute of Mining Engineering at Dhanbad. It has some special courses and the ONGC people go there for taking up those courses.

SHRI T. BASHEER: Sir, I would like to know whether the off-shore survey for oil in Kerala will be pursued and I would also like to know what the present position exactly is.

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA: The present position is that our first

efforts to get hydrocarbons in the coast of Kerala have not proved successful. But we have not thrown up our hands in despair and we propose to pursue that and if some bores are to be dug, we are going to bore them.

SHRI U. R. KRISHNAN: Sir, I would like to know from the honourable Minister as to how many wells have been taken up in Tamil Nadu and what the results are.

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA: Sir, it is a matter of too much detail and I do not have those details just now.

SHRI GIAN CHAND TOTU: May I know from the honourable Minister as to what has happened to the drilling operation in the Solan district in Simla? What has happened to it? Has the Ministry closed the wells there, the drilling operation there?

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA: The HP drilling operations are still continuing. The only unfortunate thing is that not a single hopeful sign of getting oil or gas on a commercial scale has been found there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Next question.

Import of wheel sets

*455. SHRI BIR CHANDRA DEB BURMAN:

SHRI KALYAN ROY:†

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item published under the caption "Rail Board Move Resented" in the 'Patriot' dated the 26th July, 1978 regarding the decision of the railways to import wheel sets;

(b) whether orders for the import of wheel sets have been placed; if so, what are the details in this regard including price of each set;

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Kalyan Roy.