

famine. That is why I would like to say that some of these projects at least should be cleared as soon as possible. We have them there for three or four years and the sooner you decide upon them the better.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I cannot say about individual projects. Notice will be necessary for that. So far as the sentiments expressed by the hon. Member are concerned, well, everybody agrees that they should be expedited. But I wish he could have suggested some effective methods by which we could force the State Governments to come to an agreement.

SHRI N. G. GORAY: Put a time limit of two years.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I wish that would have worked. There is no time-limit laid down for tribunals. Cases have been referred to tribunals, arbitrations have been done. All the methods have been tried. No new method has been suggested by the hon. Member—though I agree with the sentiments expressed—that the disputes arising between States are resolved to their satisfaction and work proceeds.

'MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. K. R. Ganesh- to make a statement.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Progress of drilling work at Bombay High

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH): Sir, I visited the Sagar Samrat on the 27th of November, 1974, and I consider it my duty to report to Parliament the good work that is being done in the Bombay High offshore operations.

As the Hon'ble Members are aware, the first well drilled by Sagar Samrat in February this year in the Bombay High structure, led to a discovery of oil which was described as "significant" at that time. The second well was spudded on 5th October and drilled to the main horizon. The preliminary tests confirmed the results obtained from the first well. The conventional production test was carried out from the 18th to 23rd of November and it showed a good flow of oil. Oil has been found in the limestone layers of the Bombay High Structure. It is a new feature of oil exploration in India that oil has been found for the first time in limestone. We have so far got oil in India in sand stone layers only in the onshore areas. The limestone pay zones have been prolific producers of oil in the Middle East. It was therefore decided to carry out an acidization test since acidization is one of the established techniques for well-stimulation in limestone reservoirs. The acidization tests were commenced on 25th November and were continued till the 30th. The tests confirmed the earlier hypothesis that acidization would substantially increase the productivity. Until some further wells are drilled, I would not like to hazard a guess about the potential of Bombay High, but I have no hesitation in saying that it is our biggest discovery so far, and should lead us well towards self sufficiency. The yield of oil from our offshore wells is several times more than that of our best onshore wells.

I feel confident that production from this well could be anything between 1500 barrels to 2,500 barrels a day although the quantity cannot be specified just now because several more days will be required for a stabilised testing. We do not wish to use up precious time on this. The Sagar Samrat is already jacked down and is immediately being moved to the next site.

[Shri K. R. Ganesh.]

But then, the development of an offshore discovery and production from an offshore field are much more arduous, time consuming and expensive as compared to similar operations onshore. To accelerate the tempo of exploration of the Bombay High Structure, Government have authorised the ONGC to hire a drilling vessel to begin with, and simultaneously to acquire two more drill-ships, thus increasing its offshore drilling fleet to three. After the tests at the present well are completed, Sagar Samrat would be shifted about 15 Kms West of the present location. The proposed location lies on the extreme flank of the Bombay High Structure. The (fourth well would be drilled at a location about 50 kms south of the present well. The wells at these two locations would help delineate the structure and it is at that stage that a reasonably correct estimate of the production potential of the Bombay High structure can be made.

During the monsoon of 1975, Sagar Samrat is proposed to be jacked up at a suitable location and operated through the monsoon period. That will give our ONGC experts and technicians who are already doing a fine job, greater confidence and also enable them to acquire experience of non-working.

While the complete delineation of the Bombay High structure and the full development of the field may take some years, ONGC has been asked to examine the feasibility of setting up the first stage of production pending completion of full development. ONGC is looking into the different technical aspects of this proposition and it is likely that the first stage production could be established by mid-1976, so as to yield about one million tonnes of oil per annum.

Our offshore areas can no longer be called unproven. Right from the Kutch Basin to the Bengal Basin as well as in the offshore areas around the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, there are good prospects of petroleum reserves and I can visualise a situation in which our continental shelf areas vibrate with activity. Time is of the essence and we have to discover oil reserves and develop production as quickly as possible. No effort should be considered too great for this. While we must develop our own capabilities for fabrication and erection of production platforms, construction of pipelines and other sub-sea structures, we will also go ahead fast by hiring the best available engineering and consultancy services world-wide. The ONGC would also need to be strengthened for its greatly enhanced responsibilities, and I shall very soon place before Parliament the steps that I propose to take for reorganising and restructuring it.

SHRI N. G. GORAY (Maharashtra): Will you please tell me at what depth you have struck oil?

SHRI K.R. GANESH: Well, Sir, I made a very long statement on this. The depth of the well is 1047 metres.

MESSAGE FROM THE LOK SABHA

The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1971

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report to the House the following message received from the Lok Sabha, signed by the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha:

"I am directed to inform Rajya Sabha that Lok Sabha, at its sitting held on Monday, the 2nd December, 1974, adopted the following motion