

equipment coming and when are the drilling operations in the Rann of Kutch going to be finalised?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, has the work stopped on account of lack of hired equipment or for any other reason?

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN: We have got as many as 43 rigs. Some of the rigs have been deployed. What I said in the beginning was, because there are no drillable structures there, therefore no drilling could be done.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question has been answered.

SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN: I would like to know from the hon. Minister in how many places in the Madanam area in Tamil Nadu the drilling work has been done and with what results?

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN: In that area, in what is called the Kaikal structure we have put in a certain number of structural wells, shallow wells and about 10 deep wells. Unfortunately, after drilling and spending quite a lot of money, no hydrocarbon has been located there. Further exploratory work drilling will be taken up in Saliangalam, Chidambaram and Pamban in Tamil Nadu.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: May I know if it is a fact—it appeared in the press at least—that off-shore drilling near Bombay suffered a set-back recently and that set-back was due to some defect in the equipment that has been installed there? I would like to know in that context if the Government can enlighten us as to which country has got the most developed technology in off-shore drilling, if it is the USSR or if it is any other country. And secondly, in this collaboration, will the Government assure us that the collaboration agreement would be of a type in which our people are enabled to become self-supporting and self-sufficient very soon and it does not become a sort of permanent crutch for us, whereon we lean for all time to come?

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN: I had answered the question in part (b) and I invite the attention of my hon. friend to it. The question (b) is: "whether

any foreign collaboration for the purpose has been concluded and, if so, what are the terms of collaboration and the countries involved? I mentioned in reply to this part (b): "No. Sir. However, ONGC have entered into a contract with V/o Technoexport of USSR for technical assistance in designing, construction and installation of the fixed platform used in this off-shore drilling." I may mention for the information of the hon. Member that an engineering firm in Bhavanagar fabricated this platform and the name of that firm is Messrs. Alcock Ashdown. The only thing that we have done is we have taken some designs from the USSR. The rest has been done by our engineers and technicians.

SUBSIDIARIES OF BEECHAM GROUP (LONDON) IN INDIA

187. SHRI M. V. BHADRAM:
SHRI BALACHANDRA
MENON:
SHRI S. G. SARDESAI:†

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Beecham Group (London) has two subsidiaries in India one manufacturing Horlicks and the other manufacturing items like fruit salt, Brylcream, Silvikrin, Maclean's tooth paste etc.;

(b) whether these two subsidiaries operating in India had been making excessive profits by selling their products at exorbitant prices;

(c) if so, what are the profits made by these units in the last three years;

(d) what is the cost of production of the items manufactured by these units and what are the prices at which these items are sold by them; and

(e) whether Government have taken any steps to control the prices of the products of these two subsidiaries operating in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN): (a) Beecham Group Ltd., U.K. has a fully owned subsidiary in

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri S. G. Sardesai.

India called Beecham (India) Ltd. who are manufacturing drugs and cosmetics. Horlicks is manufactured by Hindustan Milk Manufacturers Ltd. in which Horlicks Ltd. of U.K. have investment.

(b) and (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

(d) The cost of production of particular unit is a trade secret and is normally not made available to outsiders. As regards, selling prices, the information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

(e) Prices of drugs are, at present regulated by the Drugs Prices (Display and Control) Order 1966. There is no price control on cosmetics and food products.

SHRI S. G. SARDESAI : The answer is unsatisfactory. At least, so far as question (c) is concerned, some information should be available.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do you want to put a question? What is the question?

SHRI S. G. SARDESAI : My impression is that part (c) has not been replied to at all.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is not the question.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : He wanted a reply...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Minister, do you want to add anything about it?

SHRI S. G. SARDESAI : Sir, the Minister's answer is that he has no answer. That is no reply.

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN : Sir, I said that the information is being collected. After we get the information...

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : On a point of order. He said, it is being collected. We cannot understand it.

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN : ... it will be laid on the Table of the House.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : The notice for a question is minimum ten days. In this case, a longer notice has been given.

DR. Z. A. AHMAD : Much longer.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Surely, the Government was in a position to collect the information. It is not a very difficult job. You can easily find out from the Company Law Administration, from their papers. Was any communication sent to the Company Law Administration to find out as to their profits, asking for their balance-sheets? Why should it not be found out when it is well known that they are making enormous profits. The Government itself could have found out without any notice being given as to what profit they were making. Therefore, I say, we take serious notice. My friend, Mr. Sardesai, said that he wanted the answer, but the answer has not been given.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have heard you.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : You have heard me. Has he heard me?

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : This is the way in which most questions are killed by the Government—"The information will be collected and will be laid on the Table of the House."

SHRI KALYAN ROY : In reply to the question asked by Mr. Sardesai...

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Question Hour will be over.

SHRI KALYAN ROY : Sir, I make a submission. In respect of most of the Ministries, particularly the Labour Ministry, even when we give questions two months before the session starts, we often hear that the information is being collected.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right. The Question Hour is over.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : All right. No questions. You kindly consider as to what type of notice is needed. Normally the ten days' notice rule is there. But we give notice for a month and this information should be readily available. You can ask your Secretariat and if they write a letter to these companies, they will immediately send the balance sheets and other things. What is the difficulty about it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Government has heard you.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Government is in possession of all the information. Memoranda have been submitted to them.

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : I have got something to say in reply to the question of my friend...

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question Hour is over.

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : Because the Government is being accused, so I wanted to say. It is not fair...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Calling Attention—Mr. Chitta Basu.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF INDIAN COUNCIL ON MEDICAL RESEARCH

*180. SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Council of Medical Research Expert Groups and Advisory Committees approve and recommend research schemes;

(b) whether it is a fact that several junior doctors are nominated on the Expert Groups and Advisory Committees ignoring several top professors in Medical Colleges throughout the country ;

(c) whether it is a fact that majority of these "Experts" belong to a particular State and several other States are totally ignored; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to remove such disparity?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI K. K. SHAH) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Expert Committees scrutinise the technical as well as financial components of the research schemes and recommend these to the Scientific Advisory

Board for their acceptance or rejection. The schemes approved by the Scientific Advisory Board are sanctioned by the Governing body of the Indian Council of Medical Research.

(b) and (c) The members to the Expert Committees are appointed solely on their contribution to medical research. The age, the State and the region do not play any consideration in the selection. Attempt is also made to bring in fresh blood and avoid, by and large, re-nomination of the same people.

(d) Does not arise.

INJUNCTION ON LAND LINKING INDRA-PRASTHA ESTATE WITH EAST OF JAMUNA

*182. SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state whether any steps have been taken by Government to vacate the injunction on land through which a road has to be constructed to facilitate the opening of the bridge linking the Indraprastha Estate, New Delhi with the colonies east of the river Jamuna?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI K. K. SHAH) : Eleven Writ petitions were filed by different parties in 1966 and 1967. Stay orders were issued by the Delhi High Court in all these cases. Five of these writ petitions were subsequently dismissed. In another four cases pertaining to 1966, an application was moved in the High Court in November, 1967 for an early hearing. Since the cases have not been taken up for hearing so far, the Delhi Administration are taking steps to move special applications in the High Court for an early hearing of the remaining six cases.

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

*184. SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether a new Director has recently been appointed to the Indian Institute of Public Administration, Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : No, Sir.