

SHRI M. S. GURUPADA SWAMY: And whether it is a fact that the issue of the merger with Maharashtra was not an issue at the time of the elections, and thirdly and lastly, Sir. . .

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: How many questions?

SHRI M. S. GURUPADA SWAMY: . . . whether this has become a bone of contention between Maharashtra and Mysore recently.

SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI: It is exactly this question which the hon. Member has asked which is relevant. That is why I counsel patience.

GUJARAT REFINERY

*388. **SHRI RAM SINGH:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state the scheduled date of completion of the Gujarat refinery project and the estimated cost thereof when finally completed?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR): The first million tonne capacity of the refinery is expected to be commissioned by about March, 1965 and the second million tonne about 6 months later. The cost of the refinery proper is estimated to be Rs. 22 crores. Up to Rs. 8 crores more will be spent on related facilities like Power House, water supply, township, etc.

SHRI RAM SINGH: May I know if Dr. Banney, an expert from France on petro-chemical industry, has reported that there should be development of petro-chemical industries in that area? And if so, what action has been taken by the Government?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: It is intended to develop a petro-chemical complex in that area and for that discussions are continuing.

SHRI C. D. PANDE: In view of the fact that crude oil extracted from the

wells in Gujarat at present is being fed to the Bombay refinery, after this refinery goes into operation, what quantity of crude oil will be imported from outside? May I know whether we will be self-sufficient in that also?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: At present roughly about 1 million tons of crude oil is being fed to the Bombay refinery. But we expect to increase the production of crude oil in Gujarat as soon as the Koyali refinery goes into operation. Therefore, the requirements of Koyali will be met in full and if there is any surplus it will go to feed the Bombay refinery. If not, we will continue to import crude oil as before.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know if any foreign assistance has been obtained for building this refinery and if so, how much and from what source?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: This refinery is being built with Soviet assistance. The Soviet Government has offered credit up to Rs. 10 crores for this project.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: May I ask if any proposal is under the consideration of the Government to place this refinery in the charge of the Indian Oil Corporation in the near future?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: It will naturally be a part of the Indian Oil Corporation.

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN: May I ask whether any negotiations are going on with any foreign countries for the purpose of starting petro-chemical industries in the neighbourhood of Koyali, and if so, what are the terms?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: Sir, the discussions are continuing. We have had two specific offers so far, one from a British-American concern, and the other from a primarily American concern, and both these are under consideration. The terms I cannot say at this moment since they are under negotiation.