

## RAJYA SABHA

Monday, the 27th April, 1964/the 7th  
Vaisakha 1886 (Saka).

The House met at eleven of the  
clock, Mr. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

### MEMBERS SWORN

Chaudhary A. Mohammad (Bihar).

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

#### OIL IN WEST BENGAL

\*87. SHRI RAMPRASANNA RAY:  
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND  
CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the petroleum pros-  
pects in West Bengal have been  
revalued subsequent to the explora-  
tion activities of the Indo-Stanvac  
Petroleum Project which was wound  
up some years ago; and

(b) if so, whether any drilling for  
oil is contemplated in the near future  
in West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM  
AND CHEMICALS (SHRI HUMAYUN  
KABIR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The  
Oil and Natural Gas Commission has  
studied the data obtained by the Indo-  
Stanvac Petroleum Project, and has  
come to the conclusion that some fur-  
ther exploration work is necessary for  
fuller evaluation of petroleum pros-  
pects in West Bengal.

SHRI RAMPRASANNA RAY: May  
I know precisely from the hon. Min-  
ister if any decision has been taken  
to drill in West Bengal and, if so,  
when the drilling is expected to start?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: Yes, Sir.  
It has been decided to undertake a  
deep well in the Port Canning area  
and steps are in hand for having the  
rigs there and it is expected that  
drilling will start in November 1964.

205 RSD—1.

SHRI RAMPRASANNA RAY: Sir,  
some survey was going on for search  
of oil in the district of Malda in  
West Bengal. May I know whether  
the hon. Minister has been told any-  
thing about the prospect of oil being  
found there?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: I have  
no information about Malda so far.

SHRI RAMPRASANNA RAY: What  
about Purnea, Sir?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: Some  
surveys are continuing in Purnea,  
Sir.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know  
how long these Stanvac people have  
been exploring in West Bengal and  
how long will they continue to do so  
before they produce satisfactory  
results?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: I am  
afraid my hon. friend did not follow  
the answer. The Stanvac Petroleum  
Project is over. It continued from  
1953 up to 1960. It is the Oil and  
Natural Gas Commission which is now  
carrying on the work.

SHRI A. D. MANI: From the geo-  
logical data so far collected, are there  
any hopeful signs that there might be  
prospects of oil in Bengal?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: Sir, un-  
less there were hopes, we would not  
undertake a fresh survey and under-  
take this expensive business of a deep  
well.

#### OIL FOUND IN CALCUTTA REGION

\*88. SHRI BIREN ROY: Will the  
Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMI-  
CALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any truth in  
the newspaper report about the find  
of 'oil' in the Calcutta region;

(b) whether drilling operations in  
this region have started; and