

be wishing them to do. The question is that they have got refineries here. They have been helping us in importing crude oil and in reducing the drain on foreign exchange. Now we are setting up our own refinery. It is a question of negotiating with them and persuading them to see our point of view and we hope we shall succeed in making them see our own point of view. The ultimate object is that we like to get our own oil refined.

SHRI ABDUL RAHIM: May I know at what stage oil exploration is in the Cauvery region in Madras?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is another question. He is asking you about oil exploration in the Cauvery region and Mr. Lingam will ask him about the Nilgiri region.

SHRI N. M. LINGAM: I am putting a more relevant question. May I enquire if the production of excess gasoline in the refineries is the cause for levying additional duty on diesel oil?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: I have not got that figure. I require notice for that question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you prepared to answer the other question?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: I am prepared to answer but I thought it was a supplementary.

OIL EXPLORATION IN INDIA BY FOREIGN COMPANIES

*479. **SHRI K. S. CHAVDA:** Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND FUEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign companies who have applied for oil exploration work in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that they link up exploration rights with refining and marketing also; and

(c) if so, whether Government have agreed to the proposals?

THE MINISTER OF MINES AND OIL (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): (a) to (c) Proposals from six oily companies are under negotiation at present. Refining and marketing rights are sought by a few of them. As the proposals are under negotiation, it is considered inadvisable in the public interest to disclose further details.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know—even if they won't give the details—whether the companies which have made offers or with whom they are negotiating are private companies or Government-owned companies and, if so, whether any companies from the United States are there?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: The answer to the latter part of the question is, yes. There are American companies also. What is the first part of the question?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Whether they are Government-owned companies or private companies? That is the question.

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: They are both private companies and public sector companies.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know, in view of the fact that oil exploration in the Bengal basin given to the Standard Vacuum Oil Company was a colossal fiasco, whether the Government have decided again to start exploration there through any other company?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you admit that it is a colossal fiasco or failure?
No. 1 . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Cut out 'colossal', if you like.

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: I have noted the question. I have from time to time made an attempt to clarify the position. Far from being a colossal failure, the work in the

Bengal basin has been very informative in its results. We have got valuable information. It has been a failure no doubt just as oil explorations have been at many places.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I agree that we have got information. I come from that place. But have we got . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Don't monopolise all the questions.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know whether any private companies are at work in the exploration of oil at the moment and, if so, whether Government have assessed the results of the exploration work of these companies as compared with the results of the Government undertakings?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: I thought the hon. Member knew about it that for decades the Assam Oil Company which is associated with the Burmah-Shell Oil Company has been working in Assam and we have entered into a partnership with them on minority party basis—33 1/3 per cent. ours and 66 2/3 per cent. theirs. This Company is known as Oil India Limited. They are producing crude oil, they are doing exploration of oil in a part of Assam and they are doing their work fairly well.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Are the Government going to undertake exploration of oil in the Bengal basin again? If so, . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: When?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Yes, if so, when and through which type of companies, Government-owned or private-owned companies?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: Yes, Sir, we have a programme to start searching for oil in the Bengal basin also. The programme is being examined and perhaps in the Third Plan period we might start drilling at one or two places.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: He has not answered the point.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF COLLEGE

*480. SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: Will the Minister of SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the financial assistance given to the Administrative Staff College by the Government of India in the year 1958-59 was given on *ad hoc* basis or *per capita* basis; and

(b) the contribution made by the various industries to the College in the year 1958-59?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS (SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR):

(a) The basis was that the Central Government should give a block grant of Rs. 3.00 lakhs to meet 50 per cent. of the anticipated recurring expenditure. The balance should be met by the College from its own resources.

(b) Rs. 3,16,800.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know, Sir, the number of trainees trained so far?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: The total up to the ninth Session was 392.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: Which are the industries which have made this contribution mainly?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: It is a fairly long list, but I can give the number. The number of patrons in the current year was 11, who paid Rs. 20,000 a year. The number of ordinary members was 104, and associate members 47. Now, Sir, it is a very long list.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know, Sir, if these industrialists are making these contributions on an *ad hoc* basis or on a *per capita* basis?