

*579. [The questioner (Shri P. C. Bhanj Deo) was absent. For answer, vide col. 3362 infra.]

AGREEMENT WITH RUMANIA FOR SETTING UP ASSAM OIL REFINERY

TSHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: f SHRI RAM SAHAI: •580. «j SHRI M. VALIULLA: MOULANA M. FARUQI; SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO:

Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND FUEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have concluded an agreement with the Government of Rumania for the setting up of an oil refinery in the public sector in Assam; and

(b) if so, what are the terms of the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF MINES AND OIL (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement detailing the salient features of the Agreement with the Rumanian Government is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The Agreement with the Government of the Rumanian People's Republic *inter-alia* includes the following: —

(i) Offer of a long term credit of Rs. 52,380,900 to cover the value of supplies to be made and technical and other services to be rendered by them;

(ii) the credit will bear an interest of 2-5 per cent per annum;

(iii) 15% of the total credit will be repaid in six instalments in non-convertible rupees;

(iv) 85% of the total credit will be repaid in ten instalments, in

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Maheswar Naik.

Indian rupees, with the first two commencing on 31st December, 1961 and the last one ending on 31st December, 1965;

(v) the Rumanian Government will buy Indian goods as far as possible against the payments made. The unutilized balance against these payments may be converted into transferable free currency after 1st April, 1961, if so desired.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know, Sir, the total capital, as also the share of the Government of India in that capital?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: Government have got a full share in the capital. It is a scheme of about Rs. 10 crores or Rs. 11 crores, and one-half of it will be foreign exchange.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know, Sir, when the refinery is expected to go into production, and also whether the payments, as laid down in the agreement, are to be made when the refinery goes into production, out of its produce?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: Yes, Sir. About 85 per cent, of the payment will have to be made after the refinery goes into production.

*581. [The questioner (Moulana M. Faruqi) was absent. For answer, vide col. 3362 infra.]

*582. [The questioner (Shri M. Valiulla) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 3362-63 infra.]

SHORTAGE OF SAFETY EQUIPMENT FOR COLLIERIES

*583. SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA IYER: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND FUEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the import restrictions have resulted in the shortage of safety equipment for collieries; and

(b) if so, how far the mining operations have been affected thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND FUEL (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): (a) and (b). Yes, shortage has been experienced to some extent. Mining operations, however, have not been seriously affected thereby, as imports against licences issued in the previous periods are still arriving. Government are taking care to prevent dislocation of the industry due to shortage of such equipment.

SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA IYER: May I know, Sir, if there is a threat to close the units, if they fail to instal the safety equipment?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Threat from whom, Sir? I do not follow it. There is no threat from any party.

SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA IYER: Will the Government say that the units should be closed down, if they do not have their full complement of safety equipment?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Surely, Sir, if the equipment is not according to the statutory requirements, then those units cannot work.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: May I know, Sir, whether Government are exploring the possibilities of manufacture of these machineries by some Indian firms?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Yes, Sir. Some of these items are proposed to be manufactured in the country itself.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: May I know, Sir, by what time we should expect this country to be self-sufficient in the manufacture of these machineries?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : It is difficult to answer that question.

DR. R. B. GOUR: Is it a fact that the Government are insisting on purchasing the safety-measure machinery,

for example, coal-cutters or pump-sets, etc. from the U.S.A., in view of a certain agreement with that country, whereas the machinery that we are already using comes from the U.K.? May. I also know, Sir, whether the Government are not allowing imports from the U.K., West Germany and the Soviet Union, where this machinery is being manufactured?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: There is no compulsion on the part of the Government with regard to such purchases from any particular country, provided certain credit facilities are available from that country. If they happen to be available from the U.S.A., then it is suggested to the prospective buyers that those credit facilities could be utilised.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no compulsion to buy from any country, but since there are some credit facilities offered by the U.S.A., the prospective buyers are encouraged to utilise those facilities.

DR. R. B. GOUR: My contention, Sir, is that the machinery which is in use already, has been purchased from the U.K., and spare parts, etc., will have to come from that country. The parts that come from the U.S.A. cannot be utilised. Therefore such credit facilities are of no use for that particular purpose.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: They won't be used for the purpose for which they are useless.

SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA IYER: On account of certain import restrictions, Sir, there seems to be some paucity of spare parts. Is it a fact that some of the equipment has been rendered idle on account of the paucity of spare parts?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Unless, Sir, some specific unit is mentioned to me, I cannot answer that question.

सकते हैं कि क्या सरकार इन चीजों के बारे में इम्पोर्ट पालिसी को रिलैक्स करने का सोच रही है ?

सरदार स्वर्ण सिंह : इम्पोर्ट पालिसी तो पालिसी है। उसको रिलैक्स करने का सवाल तो पैदा नहीं होता क्योंकि कोयले का खानों की मशीनरी के लिये तो इम्पोर्ट करने की काफी सहूलियत है।

*584. [The questioner (Moulana M. I Faruqi) was absent. For answer, vide col. 3363 infra.]

INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION IN OIL EXPLORATION

*585. SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND FUEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Rumania has sponsored a resolution in the U.N. General Assembly urging international participation in oil prospecting, drilling and exploitation in under-developed countries; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Government of India thereto?

THE MINISTER OF MINES AND OIL (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): (a) A resolution has been jointly sponsored by Albania and Rumania in United Nations General Assembly regarding international economic co-operation for the development of petroleum industry in the under-developed countries. The operative part of the Resolution requests the Secretary General, after the experience of ECAFE. Symposium has been available to him, to study the possibilities of international co-operation in this sphere, including the desirability of convening meetings of experts from countries concerned.

(b) It is premature to indicate India's reactions to this resolution at this stage.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know, Sir, whether the Rumanian I

participation in the matter of oil exploration in India is as a result of this Resolution which has been sponsored by it?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: No; not at all.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know, Sir, the extent to which certain safeguards in the under-developed countries are going to be maintained in case this international participation is undertaken?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: That is a separate question. We do not know anything about the recommendations as yet.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: May I know, Sir, whether the Government is aware of the reactions of the United States Government to this Resolution?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: No, Sir. The Government is not aware of any such reactions.

DR. R. B. GOUR: If this international collaboration in the matter of oil exploration is in the interest of the country, as I presume it is, then how is it that the Government of India says that it is premature to gauge any reaction, instead of its pursuing it further?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: Sir, some resolution is reported to have been moved in the United Nations General Assembly, and we are still waiting for a report which they have to receive from the ECAFE. Now, Sir, the ECAFE has not yet sent its recommendations with regard to that resolution, and therefore, Sir, it is premature to say anything about that now.

अहिंसा गवेषणा संस्था के लिये भूमि

*५८६. श्री नवाबसिंह चौहान : क्या शिक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने अहिंसा गवेषणा