

certain respects. For instance, the magnetic equator passes through South India and we are making certain observations there. But I do not think that any country is making any special contribution in this particular field.

SHRI N. M. LING AM: May I enquire whether India is receiving all the data and the results of the observations made by other countries in all other fields of activity?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: There is provision for free exchange of information by all countries who are participating in the programme.

SHRI PERATH NARAYANAN NAIR: Is it a fact that the Geophysical Year has been extended up to December, 1959?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: For the present, it is up to 1958. But there is a proposal that it may further be extended.

DR. R. P. DUBE: May I know whether India has made any contribution?

AN HON. MEMBER: Towards peace they have made.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has said that India also in her own limited way is making some contribution.

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: Not only in a limited way, but we are making a fairly big contribution. It is one of the major countries working in this field. But the question is not clear. The study includes Meteorology, Geomagnetism, Ionosphere, the observation of the tides and the observation of cosmic radiation. All the countries are making observations. It would be absurd to expect that any one country will make observations which are without any parallel.

SHRI N. M. LING AM: What are the activities of the Scientific and Cultural branch of the Government of

India in the Geophysical Year? Will the report be placed on the Table as soon as the Year is over?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: Not as soon as the Year is out, but as soon as the report is ready, it will be so placed.

DRILLING OPERATIONS IN THE JWALAMUKHI AREA

*56. SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND FUEL be pleased to state the latest position regarding the drilling operations in the Jwalamukhi area?

THE MINISTER OF MINES AND OIL (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): The depth of the well at present is approximately 1,945 meters (6,380 ft.)

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: May I know if it is a fact that so far, no oil has been struck in this area?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: The preliminary test has indicated some presence of oil. It may or may not be found there after the final test. We are not sure about it.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: May I know whether it is true that gas also has been found in the course of these drilling operations?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: Yes, at one horizon or band, gas has been finally established.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: May I know, in connection with this gas, what proposals the Government have in view to utilise it industrially or otherwise?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: The position is like this. Even in this well, we have several other strata where we suspect that gas will be found. Unless we have the total picture before us from this well and the other surrounding wells which we are going to bore, it is premature to form any plan for the exploitation of gas.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: May I know, Sir, the estimated cost so far and the cost that is likely to be involved, in this drilling operation?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: This particular drilling operation has unfortunately cost us more than we expected or estimated. The other one might cost us less. But we spend about Rs. 20 lakhs or Rs. 25 lakhs, under such conditions, to operate programme of drilling a well 10,000 ft. deep.

DR. R. B. GOUR: Has the attention of the hon. Minister been drawn to the fact that approach roads, etc. have not been constructed properly and that the P.W.D. is not helping the authorities properly, so that the drilling operations are not according to schedule?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: No, Sir. It is not like that. Roads were properly built as far as we could under the conditions and circumstances. But the nature of the rocks was complicated and, therefore, the cost of drilling was more than what we expected.

DR. R. B. GOUR: Has his attention been drawn to the fact that the authorities who are engaged in these operations are facing certain inconveniences which could be removed?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: What inconveniences?

SHRI J AS WANT SINGH: The hon. Minister stated that the present operations have cost them much more than expected. I would like to know what was the estimate and how much it cost.

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: The cost estimates have not yet been finally checked up. So far as the actualities are concerned, we are still in the middle of drilling. Approximately, we have so far spent about Rs. 34 lakhs—it might be a little more or a little less. Our estimate was something about Rs. 28 lakhs for operations

DR. R. B. GOUR: May I specifically ask him whether the C.P.W.D. authorities are co-operating with the authorities engaged in this operation?

MR. CHAIRMAN: What answer do you expect? "We are all helping"—that is what he said.

REPORT OF THE SECOND PAY COMMISSION

•57. SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of work so far done by the Second Pay Commission; and

(b) when the Commission is expected to submit its report?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA): (a) The Pay Commission submitted an interim report on the 17th December, 1957 and sent out a questionnaire in January, 1958. The Commission has since then taken oral evidence from 322 representatives of 157 Service Associations [Unions, a few Members of Parliament and has also visited Calcutta to consult State Governments, Heads of Central Government offices and Chambers of Commerce etc. in the Eastern Zone. The Commission is simultaneously examining more than 700 replies to the questionnaire and studying literature and data relevant to the issues before it.

(b) As the Commission's programme of recording of evidence and discussions is not yet complete, it is not possible at this stage to indicate when the Commission will submit its report, but every effort is being made by it to complete its work, as early as possible.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: May I know if the Commission has submitted any interim report to the Government?

SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA: Yes, Sir. The Commission made some interim report in December 1957, recommending an increase of Rs. 5 in