

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**DEPOSITS OF PETROLEUM IN ASSAM**

*611. SHRI L. BOROOAH: Will the Minister for NATURAL RESOURCES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH be pleased to State:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a large deposit of petroleum in Nahar Katia area of Dibrugarh subdivision of Assam; and

(b) if the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether licence for prospecting petroleum in the above area has been issued to any party; if so, to whom?

THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION & NATURAL RESOURCES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (MAULANA ABUL KALAM AZAD): (a) and (b). Prospecting licence for petroleum for the Naharkatiya area of Dibrugarh Sub-Division of Assam has been granted to the Assam Oil Company who are conducting prospecting operations.

RECOVERY OF LOANS FROM THE DISPLACED PERSONS

117. SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: Will the Minister for REHABILITATION be pleased to refer to his answer to my Unstarred Question No. 92 dated the 28th July 1952 and state:

(a) the names of the State Governments which have represented to the Central Government their inability to bear the losses on account of loans which are not likely to be recovered from displaced persons;

(b) whether any decision has been taken as to the period up to which the Central Government is likely to advance loans to the State Governments for the rehabilitation of displaced persons from (i) West Pakistan and (ii) East Pakistan; and

(c) what steps have so far been taken by the State Governments and the Government of India to ensure the recovery of such loans?

THE MINISTER FOR DEFENCE ORGANISATION (SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI) : (a) Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Bombay, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Assam, Bihar, Orissa and Saurashtra.

(b) No decision has yet been taken.

(c) With a view to ensure recovery of the loans thus advanced the Government of India have issued the following instructions to the State Governments: —

(i) to obtain from the loanee two sureties for the repayment of the loan, and if such sureties are not forthcoming, the borrower should be required to furnish a certificate of good character and his past solvency in Pakistan.

(ii¹) where other forms of security cannot be furnished by the borrower, Cash Certificates are accepted as security.

(iii) In every case the borrower is required to hypothecate to Government the assets purchased out of the loan.

(iv) In cases of default, loans are made recoverable as arrears of land revenue.

STAFF UNDER THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE

118. SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: Will the Minister for FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officers and staff in various categories (both gazetted and non-gazetted) employed in the Ministry of Finance in 1938-39, 1946-47 and 1952-53;