

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU : I don't control the extracts which the Indian press publishes. I don't know how we are to deal with the press here which publishes extracts from certain articles which appear in any periodical.

DR. R. B. GOUR : My point is whether the Government does not realize that this is an interference in our internal affairs by a foreign power ?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU : I don't think this is so. I would like to say—not particularly with reference to this matter, but generally speaking—quite a number of things appear from time to time which are on the verge of interference and which we don't approve of and whenever such a thing occurs, we take action in the sense that we draw attention to the matter that such a thing has appeared. I am not referring to this matter particularly and I am not referring to this particular Embassy but to a number of Embassies which are on the verge of interfering at the time.

DR. R. B. GOUR : In this particular article there are adverse references to China—with China we are very friendly—and when there are such references in this article, do they not affect the public opinion in India adversely against the policy of the Government of India in respect of China ? To that extent, is it not interference in our internal affairs ? Is it not interference in our relations with a foreign power ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is for China to protest.

CRUDE OIL REFINERY

*135. SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Will the Minister for PRODUCTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any foreign firm has been given a contract for constructing a crude oil refinery at Bombay ;

(b) what is the name of the firm, and to which country it belongs ;

(c) what is the estimated total expenditure for building this oil refinery ;

(d) when this refinery will start regular production ;

(e) whether tenders were called for before the contract was entered into ; and

(f) whether Indian technicians will be trained at this refinery for future construction ?

THE MINISTER FOR PRODUCTION (SHRI K. C. REDDY) : (a) and (b). Two oil refineries are being put up at Bombay as private enterprises, one by the Standard Vacuum Oil Company of U. S. A., and the other by the Burmah-Shell group of U. K. Government have not placed any contracts for building the oil refineries, in which they have no financial interest. Government have merely approved the projects. If the hon. Member's desire is to know to whom the oil refineries have entrusted the contract for "constructing" the refineries, the answer is that the work has been entrusted to the Lummus Company of New York and London.

(c) The two refineries are estimated to cost about Rs. 40 crores.

(d) The Standard Vacuum Refinery is expected to go into production towards the middle of 1954 and the Burmah-Shell Refinery towards the beginning of 1955.

(e) This is a matter for the oil refineries to decide and as such the Government have no information.

(f) No, Sir. What the companies will do is to train an adequate number of Indian personnel in *refining operations* for employment in the refineries.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : From where does the oil company import its crude oil requirements ?

SHRI K. C. REDDY : The crude oil will be imported from such countries where it is available but it is one of the

terms of the agreement with the companies that when crude oil begins to be available in this country, they will have to take it locally.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Is it a fact that Iran offered supplies of crude oil and petrol to India which the Government refused ?

SHRI K. C. REDDY : I am afraid I have no information on that.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : If Iran is prepared to supply crude oil before Indian oil is produced, will the Government make it a condition for these American and British companies to take it ?

SHRI K. C. REDDY : These companies have been given freedom to import crude oil from such countries where such oil is available. We have not laid down as a condition that it should be imported only from Iran.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Since Iran is our close neighbour is it not necessary, when the British companies put obstacles in the nationalisation of that company in Iran and tried to politically intimidate the Iran Government from exporting it, that before giving these terms to these American and British companies, we make it a condition that the oil which is available next to our doors should be given preference in importation ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : So many suggestions for action, Mr. Sundarayya. These are expressions of opinion.

SHRI S. MAHANTY : Is it a fact that there are no Indians on the Board of Directors of this firm ?

SHRI K. C. REDDY : I don't know. These companies have formed their Indian companies but I am not sure if there are any Indians on the Board.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Have the Government made a condition that there should be Indian Directors taken

on the Board of Directors of this company ?

SHRI K. C. REDDY : I am afraid no such condition has been laid down.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Is it not mentioned in the Government of India's industrial policy that when these industries are to be developed our management should also be there ? Is this not against that policy ?

SHRI K. C. REDDY : I don't think it is against the industrial policy of the Government of India. This is a very highly complicated industry and we had got to take all the aspects into consideration before finally agreeing to give permission to these oil refineries to set up their projects here.

BRITISH ENGINEERS ON C.W. & P.C.

*135. SHRI B. RATH : (a) Will the Minister for IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state whether there are any British Engineers working on the Central Water and Power Commission ?

(b) If the answer to part (a) is in the affirmative, who are they, what are their qualifications and previous experiences ?

(c) When were they appointed, and what work have they been doing since their appointments ?

(d) What is the total emoluments given to each ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR PLANNING & IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J. S. L. HATHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b), (c) and (d). A statement giving the required information is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, Annexure No. 29.]

SHRI B. RATH : Is it a fact that several Indian mechanical engineers were sent for foreign training when the