

SHRI MOHAMMAD SHAFI QURESHI: We are paying about seventy-five lakhs of rupees per year as rent to this Company and, as I have already stated, there has been no cheating in this case. There was a paragraph in the PAC Report and it was about taking over of these computers from the IBM. That matter was looked into and a reply has been given to the satisfaction of the PAC.

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA: What about the computers from the ECIL?

SHRI MOHAMMAD SHAFI QURESHI: These are all second generation computers and we are planning to replace them by third generation computers and that will be considered when we think of replacing these computers.

SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI: Sir I understand that there are quite a number of vacancies in the various departments of the Railways. I would like to know whether it is the policy of the Railways to have many more computers in the near future and that is why these vacancies have not yet been filled up.

SHRI MOHAMMAD SHAFI QURESHI: Sir, this is not linked with the present question. But the point is that there are no vacancies which are to be filled up specifically by staff who are to be rendered surplus due to any future computerisation on the Railways.

SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI: Sir, what is his reply? I could not hear him.

SHRI MOHAMMAD SHAFI QURESHI: No excess staff is there now

SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI: Sir, my question was not that. My question is this: In the various service units and departments of the Railways there are many vacancies just now which have not yet been filled up. Has this got anything to do with

this that since the Railways are going to have more computers in the near future, they are not filling up these vacancies? This is my question.

SHRI MOHAMMAD SHAFI QURESHI: Sir, there is a ban on filling up of these posts, and it is the Government's policy and we are adhering to this policy this has nothing to do with the future computerisation on the Railways.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister says that there is a ban and, therefore, they are not filling up these vacancies. Next question.

Crude oil from Bombay High

*4. **SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA:**†

DR. RAJAT KUMAR CHAKRABARTI:

SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN:

SHRI KRISHAN BAHADUR CHETTRI:

SHRI RABI RAY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) whether commercial production of crude oil from Bombay High will start according to schedule; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons for the delay and what steps are being taken to expedite production?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): (a) and (b) Production of oil from Bombay High is expected to commence more or less according to schedule before the on-set of the monsoon this year.

SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA: Sir, how many barrels these wells are expected to produce per day? . . . (Interruptions).

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Shrikant Verma.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Speak a bit loudly, please.

SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA: How many barrels these wells are expected to produce per day?

SHRI KESHAV DEO MALAVIYA: Sir, according to the present production programme, we will be producing from two wells and the quantity of production just now is like this. I was there yesterday and it will be about eight thousand barrels per day. After the other wells start producing, it is bound to increase. By how much it will increase, I cannot say. But it will be increasing from fifty per cent to a hundred per cent.

SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA: Sir, it has been reported that the ONGC was expected to build all the platforms by December last. I would like to know the cause of the delay and whether it is true that the ONGC was expected to complete them by December last.

SHRI KESHAV DEO MALAVIYA: I do not think that the ONGC ever claimed that they would build all the platforms, complete the installation of the whole system, the sub-sea system, etc by themselves. We are taking the help of the contractors in this and there has been some slip undoubtedly and it is because of shore production is an entirely new technique for us. We have discovered oil and we are quickly learning the techniques of the production system and I suppose that these four or five weeks delay that has occurred will not affect the routine production programme that we have undertaken.

DR. RAJAT KUMAR CHAKRABARTI: Sir, as I understand crude oil from Bombay high will be transhipped through pipes to the Mathura refinery. Now, is there any chance that if suddenly there is a leakage in the pipeline on the way there will be any fire hazard on the way? Since the pipelines are running overland, there

may be a chance of leakage of the crude oil. What are the precautions which the Government is taking in order to prevent such happenings... (Interruptions).

AN HON MEMBER: The question relates to crude oil.

DR. RAJAT KUMAR CHAKRABARTI: Refined oil is transhipped from the refinery to the port.. (Interruptions).

SHRI KESHAV DEO MALAVIYA): It is not always like that. Crudes are also transported to refineries by pipelines. And this crude, along with other crude, will be transported from Selio to Koyali, and then afterwards from Koyali to Mathura when the refinery will be ready. And all these technical problems of safeguarding against any leakages and all that are obviously taken care of.

SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN: In view of the fact that good number of off-shore areas like the Bombay High, Calcutta and others have been found is there any proposal to set up any institute to impart training in drilling and oil exploration technology and also geophysics and geology relating to such technology and, if so, which is the site fixed for this purpose?

SHRI KESHAV DEO MALAVIYA: The technology involved in the oil geology or geophysics related to oil drilling and oil exploration in its composite way is already known to the Oil and Natural Gas Commission, and they have a fairly good advanced knowledge of the entire gamut of this problem of off shore exploration. The off-shore exploration does present some problems of a different nature from those relating to on-shore in that too, we are quite advanced now. As and when we have a structure for this, then after due consideration we shall pick out as spot.