

due to the application of the oil price formula for the price of crude oil under which they are charging Rs. 30 to 40 extra for crude oil sold to IOC. In this way crores of rupees are going to foreign countries every year.

SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH : When they hold 50 per cent shares naturally 50 per cent of the profits would go to them. The oil price policy is being considered by a committee whose constitution was announced in Parliament recently.

EXPLORATION OF OIL IN GULF OF
CAMBAY

- *3. **SHRI P. P. ESTHOSE :**
SHRI MOHAMMED ISMAIL :
SHRI SHARDA NAND :
SHRI BANSH NARAIN SINGH :
SHRI ONKAR SINGH :
SHRI D. C. SHARMA :
SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA :
SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI :
SHRI OM PRAKASH TYAGI :
SHRI R. K. AMIN :
SHRI D. N. DEB :
SHRI S. P. RAMAMOORTHY :
SHRI P. N. SOLANKI :
SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE :
SHRI C. JANARDHANAN :
SHRI A. SREEDHARAN :
SHRI DHIRESWAR KALITA :
SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 37 on the 22nd July, 1968 and state :

(a) whether the negotiations with Tencoco, Zapata and other U.S. Oil firms for the exploration of oil in the Gulf of Cambay have since been completed;

(b) if so, the details of the agreements made by the firm;

(c) whether it is a fact that U.S.S.R. and Japan are ready to help for exploration of oil in the Gulf of Cambay;

(d) if so, what are their terms and conditions;

(e) whether Government have considered their terms;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The USSR have offered help in designing a fixed platform for drilling in shallower waters. The Japanese have offered to supply on sale a drilling outfit for deeper waters, to help operate it initially and to train Indian personnel. The terms & conditions in both cases are still under negotiation.

(e) and (f). The proposals made by the USSR and Japan are under consideration along with those received from others.

MR. SPEAKER : There are 18 names and it is not that all the 18 Members should ask a supplementary.

AN HON. MEMBER : I want to ask one, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : I am requesting the 18 hon. Members, who have given notice, that they need not all ask a supplementary. I am obliged to call them but not you. I would appeal to them that all of them need not get up and ask supplementaries; it is not compulsory. Now, Shri Esthose.

SHRI P. P. ESTHOSE : Offshore drilling of oil involves a great deal of foreign exchange. In view of the serious foreign exchange position and the grip of the foreign monopolists over India's oil industry, may I know whether the Government will consider the proposal of exploiting the vast underground resources within the country before thinking about big offshore drilling?

SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH : Both can go on parallel lines.

SHRI P. P. ESTHOSE : May I know whether the Government is considering the US proposal favourably because of the advice given by the World Bank or US AID; if so, what was the nature of the advice and whether the advice was with any strings attached to it?

SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH : I am not aware of any such advice.

श्री मुहम्मद स्माइल : अमरीकन कम्पनी को जो बहुत नीचे समुद्र से तेल निकालने की इजाजत दी गई है उस में आखिर हमारे देश का कितना अधिक पैसा खर्च हो रहा है और इस के अलावा हमारे देश में जो जमीन से तेल निकालने का इन्तजाम था वह क्या पूरा हो गया है ? उस के पूरा होने के बाद यह जरूरत पड़ी है या उस के रहते उस को पूरा न करके चूँकि आप को अमरीकनों से अधिक प्रेम है इसलिए उस अमरीकन कम्पनी को बुला कर उन से गहरे समुद्र में से तेल निकलवा रहे हैं ?

SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH : I think, there is a misunderstanding. We have not allowed any Americans to go into deeper offshore drilling yet.

श्री शारदा नन्द : क्या भारत सरकार के पास अपने साधन हैं और इस कार्य को करने के लिए वह स्वयं सक्षम है जिससे यह विदेशी व अन्य लोगों पर हमें निर्भर न रहना पड़े ?

SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH : I am afraid, we do not have the trained personnel or equipment to do deep sea drilling.

SHRI D. C. SHARMA : On the floor of this House several times we have been told that we are becoming self-sufficient so far as the know-how of drilling underground or deep ground is concerned. May I know why it has happened that still we are negotiating with other countries for this drilling and also how far we have progressed in this direction so that we can attain to self-sufficiency in this line?

SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH : Of course, we are quite efficient in drilling on the surface or the ground, but when it comes to offshore drilling, even the Russians have offered to help us only with shallow water drilling; they do not, I believe, have the capacity or the equipment to do deeper water drilling. So, no wonder that we ourselves do not have the experience or the equipment to do drilling in deeper waters below 30 metres.

SHRI D. C. SHARMA : When shall we have proficiency in drilling in deeper waters ? That is what I wanted to know.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Kanwar Lal Gupta.

श्री कंवर लाल गुप्त : अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह मामला भी पिछले एक साल से पड़ा हुआ है। यह सरकार निर्णय न लेने की जो बीमारी है उस में हमेशा फंसी रहती है। अब जब रूम के पास गहरे पानी से तेल निकालने का टेकनिकल नोहाऊ नहीं है और यह ज्वाइंट वेंचर का जो काम है वह केवल अमरीकन कम्पनी ने ओफर किया है और अभी तक जापानीज और दूसरी वैस्टर्न पावर्स ने केवल कंट्रैक्ट गिभ पर गवर्नमेंट आफ इंडिया के साथ केवल ठेके पर काम करने के लिए तय किया है। अगर यह बात ठीक है तो क्या सरकार ने यह निर्णय ले लिया है कि वह कंट्रैक्ट बेसिस पर काम करवायेगी या ज्वाइंट वेंचर बेसिस पर काम करवायेगी ? क्या यह बात भी सही है कि करीब 15 करोड़ रुपए का फौरन एक्मचेंज खर्च होगा और यह निर्णय न लेने से करीब 35 करोड़ रुपया इस साल में नुकसान हुआ है ?

SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH : There have been various offers. There is the collaboration offer like that of Tenneco. Then, we have got the offer of contract drilling. The Japanese firm Mitsubishi have suggested that. There is one offer of an offshore company of Houston who have suggested drilling on the basis of equipment to be fabricated here. Then there is one German firm who has come out with a new offer. All these offers will have to be evaluated.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA : May I know whether any decision has been taken by the Government to have the drilling by joint venture or on contract basis?

SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH : Only when the whole picture is viewed and the advantages are determined, one can come to a decision.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : So far as the present estimate of production of crude in the country is concerned, it has been estimated that by 1975 the production of crude and our requirement of petroleum products will fall short by 9 million tonnes. I would like to know from the hon. Minister

whether there is any programme to achieve self-sufficiency in crude and other petroleum products by 1975 so that we can stop importing crude and other petroleum products to the tune of 9 million tonnes which is a huge drain on foreign exchange. The O.N.G.C. have gone into Iranian collaboration. We shall get crude from our collaboration arrangements. Taking into consideration all these things, will the Government allow our own technicians and engineers who are well-equipped to go even 30 metres deep to do the shallow drilling near Cambay. The shallow drilling can be done by our own technicians and engineers.

SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH : So far as the shallow drilling is concerned, the O.N.G.C. propose to do it. We are trying to take advantage of the Russian offer of the equipment.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : How are you going to make up the short fall of 9 million tonnes of crude?

SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH : We have the programmes to meet certain targets. We have to view the whole picture.

श्री ओम प्रकाश श्यामी : क्या सरकार का ध्यान उन वैज्ञानिकों की सम्मति की ओर गया है कि खम्बात की खाड़ी में वही पेट्रोल की धारा है जोकि क्वैत और ईरान में है और यहां का घरातल ज्यादा नीचा होने की वजह से वह तेल यहां से बहुत बड़ी मात्रा में भारत में मिल सकता है और इसी चीज को ध्यान में रख कर अमरीकन आदि कम्पनियों ने ज्वाएंट वेंचर का आप के पास प्रस्ताव किया है जिससे स्थाई रूप से वह बहुत बड़ा हिस्सा भारत का ले जायेंगे ? मैं सरकार से यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि जब जापान आदि कम्पनियों ने आप को यह प्रस्ताव दिया है कि वह ठेके के आधार पर आप के यहां पर ड्रिलिंग करके पेट्रोल पैदा कर देंगे और प्रकट है कि यह भारत सरकार के लिए ज्यादा हितकर है तो क्या भारत सरकार इस सम्बन्ध में अपनी नीति स्पष्ट करेगी कि हम अपने ही द्वारा इस तेल को निकलवायें और ज्वाएंट वेंचर में इस कार्य को हम न करें ?

SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH : It is true that the seismic survey discovered several interesting structures in the Gulf of Cambay. That is why various offers are coming. We are also anxious that something is done. Whether it should be collaboration or contract drilling or owner drilling is a matter which will have to be decided.

श्री ओम प्रकाश श्यामी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मन्त्री महोदय ने क्या जवाब दिया है ? मैंने स्पष्टीकरण प्रश्न पूछा है और वह उस का सीधा जवाब नहीं दे रहे हैं। मैं पुनः अपना प्रश्न दुहराते हुए कहना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार का ध्यान उन वैज्ञानिकों की सम्मति की ओर गया है कि खम्बात की खाड़ी में बहुत बड़ा तेल का भंडार है और यह वही पेट्रोल की धारा है जोकि क्वैत और ईरान में है और यह भारतवर्ष के लिए एक बहुत बड़ा एसेट बन सकता है तो क्या सरकार ज्वाएंट वेंचर में काम न करके अकेले अपनी ओर से वहां से तेल निकलवायेगी ?

SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH : I have already said about the seismic survey. I think, people do it on a scientific basis. They have discovered several structures. Whether we should do it ourselves or do it in collaboration or give it on contract to somebody, these are all points that have to be decided. We are awaiting information in regard to some and as soon as we can decide, we will decide.

SHRI R. K. AMIN : I am not concerned whether the Government joins hands with the USA or Japan or Russia in order to make the exploration of oil in the Gulf of Cambay. What I am concerned is with this. There is already a good amount of oil and gas available; Government should have the availability of these as early as possible and also their utilisation as early as possible in the interest of the country. So far, we have found that Government have been slow in exploration work and also in their utilisation in Gujarat as well as in Assam. I want to know whether shifting from deep sea to Aliabet and from Aliabet to shallow water exploration is a technique for delaying the work. Secondly, I want to know whether we have found oil and gas and whether they have got immediate plans to make the utilisation.

SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH : It is not true that we are not doing our best for drilling. Actually we are producing about 6 million tonnes of oil. We are one of the largest oil-producing countries in this part of the world, and we should be proud of the work of our engineers etc.

SHRI D. N. DEB : Is it true that, so far, only the Americans have developed the technique for deep-sea drilling and now, the Japanese are also in the process of developing this technology, and if so, why is it that the Government are prevaricating? Has there been any pressure, Soviet or Soviet-Indian, and if so, by whom?

SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH : I have already refuted with all the emphasis at my command any suggestion of any pressure from any quarter.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : In view of the fact that the Government has to spend about Rs. 33 lakhs per day to import of crude oil and according to an estimate made by the Yojana Bhawan that the foreign exchange involved annually is about Rs. 603 crores—I am subject to correction here—and in view of the fact that deep-sea drilling involves huge capital outlay and technical knowhow and a considerable risk is also involved, may I know whether the exploration will be done on economic considerations or it will be done on ideological and socio-political considerations....

MR. SPEAKER : He has already answered that.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO :and secondly what is the wisdom in delaying finalisation of exploration.

SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH : The only criterion is what will be in the best interests of the country.

PURCHASE OF FERTILIZERS

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*4. **SHRI NAMBIAR :**

SHRI P. GOPALAN :

Will the Minister of WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 38 on the 22nd July, 1968 and state:

(a) whether Government have since completed negotiations for the purchase of Fertilizers with their manufacturers;

(b) if so, the names of the fertilizer firms and details of the agreements; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to see that the negotiated prices are lower than global tender prices?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SHRI IQBAL SINGH) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

SHRI NAMBIAR : There was an unstarred question, namely Unstarred Question No. 38 on 22nd July, 1968 and this referred to Q. 866 on 22nd April, 1968. The answer to all these questions has been the same. I do not know whether they have cyclostyled the answer and kept it ready for being read out here or whether they have discussed the question of the price of the fertilisers to be imported. If they have not discussed it, then what stands in the way? May I know whether they have given the global tender and whether the global tender more or less stands in the way of finalising this?

SHRI IQBAL SINGH : The question was not on 22nd April, but it started much earlier than April. It was repeated in March and it was repeated in April. It was regarding long-term contract for purchase of fertilisers. To that question I have said '(a) No,' and '(b) and (c). Do not arise'.

SHRI NAMBIAR : May I know whether Government are at all considering the question? We find that a certain quantity of fertilizers is being imported. Is that done piece-meal or is it being done otherwise? Has any global tender been invited? If so, on what conditions? The country wants to know these things.

SHRI IQBAL SINGH : The question was regarding the long-term contract for the purchase of fertilisers and in that connection it was asked whether there was global tender or negotiation. When we are considering the question about long-term contract and it has not been finalised we can only reply in that manner.