

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: What are the reasons for associating the Government with this programme of the Quiet Sun, what exactly does it mean? That is what I want to know.

Shri M. C. Chagla: I am in a position to explain it to the hon. Member. We had a similar scheme in 1957-58 when the Sun was very active. In contrast with that, the Sun is quiet now, and that is why the present year is called the Quiet Sun Year.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Has scientific research so far disclosed a cyclical phenomenon with regard to solar activity and so-called inactivity or quietness, and if so, has it also disclosed a connection, coincidental or otherwise, of such cycles with terrestrial calamities and events such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and even political upheavals? (*Interruptions*). I will explain it. I have been a student of science myself.

Mr. Speaker: He has put the question.

Shri Tyagi: It is astrology.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: It is not astrology. I have read science and kept pace with developments.

Mr. Speaker: Sun's activity or quietness—has it any connection with political upheavals?

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Please, Sir, my question is: Does this cyclical phenomenon disclose any connection with terrestrial events and calamities such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and even political upheavals?

Shri M. C. Chagla: May I clarify one matter so that there is no misunderstanding in the minds of hon. Members? This investigation scheme is purely scientific; we are not investigating into political upheavals.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: He has not followed the question. I did not ask only about political upheavals.

Has this cyclical phenomenon any bearing on or relation to volcanic eruptions and earthquakes and—I said—even political upheavals.

Mr. Speaker: When politics is drawn in, everything else is drowned.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: That comes at the end—the tail-piece.

Mr. Speaker: Because it comes at the end, it drowns everything.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: All right; you may omit politics if you like. Does this cyclical phenomenon show any bearing or relation, co-incidental or otherwise, with terrestrial events such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, etc.?

Shri M. C. Chagla: We shall know when the report is out.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: What about the studies made so far? (*Interruptions*).....

Shri R. S. Pandey: With the difference of behaviour of the sun, a great invention was done in Bombay by Devi Dayal Sons, and they produced a solar cooker to cook food and save fuel; a big function was organised and a Cabinet Minister inaugurated that function. What is the achievement of the solar cooker? Is it popular?

Shri M. C. Chagla: This has no connection with solar cooker.

Oil Concession for India

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Shri Dinen Bhattacharya;
Dr. U. Misra;
Dr. Ranen Sen;
Shri Onkar Lal Berwa;
Shri Umanath;
Shri P. C. Borooah;
Shri Surendra Paj Singh;
Shri Subodh Hansda;
 *315. **Shri P. R. Chakraverti;**
Shri Anjanappa;
Shri Rameshwar Tantia;
Shri Mohan Swarup;
Shri Bibhuti Mishra;

{ **Shri K. C. Pant:**
Shri N. R. Laskar:
Shri R. S. Pandey:

Will the Minister of **Petroleum and Chemicals** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the negotiations with the Iranian Government for securing oil concessions for India have been concluded; and

(b) if so, the result thereof?

The Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) Not yet, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Dinen Bhattacharya: Is the Government contemplating to negotiate in that respect, and if so, by what time is it going to be undertaken?

Shri Humayun Kabir: Negotiations are continuing and have not yet been concluded.

Dr. Ranen Sen: Is there any truth in the report that the Government of India is trying to have some negotiations with the Governments of Iran and Kuwait for oil concessions?

Shri Humayun Kabir: The first part of the question has already been answered. So far as Kuwait is concerned, we are having negotiations.

Shri Hem Barua: Is it not a fact that the foreign oil companies operating their oil refineries in this country, are getting crude oil from the Middle-Eastern countries particularly at concessional rates, and if so, why is it that the same facilities are not available to the public-sector concerns in our country?

Shri Humayun Kabir: We did not have any agreements with them till now and we are therefore negotiating with them for this.

Shri Tulshidas Jadhav: What is India's requirement for consumption and how much of it is imported and how much is produced in India?

Shri Humayun Kabir: Petrol consumption has been increasing at a very fast rate. At the end of the Third Plan, it is expected to be about 16-17 million tons; it is an increase more than two-fold during the last 7-8 years. Of this, the crude production at present is over one million tons and by the end of the third Plan we expect it will be over five million tons. And naturally the difference between the two has to be covered by imported crude from outside.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Housing Problem of Harijans

{ **Shri Harish Chandra**
***305. { Mathur:**
Dr. L. M. Singhvi:

Will the Minister of **Home Affairs** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Harijans have any grievance regarding their housing problem and whether any threat of all-India struggle has been given; and

(b) if so, Government's attitude in this regard?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) Government are doing everything possible to push the housing programme in the Backward Classes sector of the Plan. The problem is, however, big; and the pace of progress depends on a large number of factors. Any deficiency or grievance in the implementation of the programme brought to the notice of Government is carefully attended to. Government are not aware of any threat of an All-India struggle, apart from some newspaper reports which appeared some time back.

(b) Does not arise.