

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, August 10, 1966/Sravana
19, 1888 (Saka).

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of
the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Drilling in the Gulf of Cambay

+

- *360. Shri Nambiar:
Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia:
Shri Kishen Patt Nayak:
Shri Maurya:
Shri Ram Sewak Yadav:
Shri Madhu Limaye:
Shri Vishwanath Pandey:
Shri Dighe:

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

(a) whether there is a proposal to
grant rights to a few American Oil
Companies to drill oil in the Gulf of
Cambay area;

(b) whether this area was explored
recently by the experts from U.S.S.R.
as to the availability of oil by seismo-
graphic studies; and

(c) if so, the result of their studies?

The Deputy Minister in the Minis-
try of Petroleum and Chemicals (Shri
Iqbal Singh): (a) Offers from some
American Oil Companies for collabo-
ration in the off-shore areas of Cam-
bay are under negotiation.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Indications of geological condi-
tions favourable for occurrence of oil
and natural gas fields were found in

some parts of the gulf of Cambay and
the adjoining area of the Arabian Sea.

Shri Nambiar: If it is a fact that the
Russian Oil Companies Department
have found out oil in this area, may
I know why it is not possible for us
to get the assistance of Russians to
see that oil is drilled here by the
Government directly?

The Minister of Petroleum and
Chemicals (Shri Alagesan): Sir, there
are two things. One is that we under-
took surveys first. We asked the
Russians and they helped us with a
survey ship which surveyed the Gulf
of Cambay and found structures. Even
earlier than that, our own people, the
Oil and Natural Gas Commission,
fitted out a ship for this purpose and
surveyed the same area. They have
also found some structures. So both
the ONGC on their own efforts and
the Russian Survey ship which was
brought in for this purpose, have
found structures. Finding of structures
is one thing and drilling operations is
another thing. As far as drilling ope-
rations go, it is not because they have
found the structures that we should
go to them; it is a question as to
whether they have the techniques
and other facilities to help us here.
The Russian technique can be used
only in depths of 50 feet to 60 feet
water. Here we have got greater
depths. That is why we are taking
other foreign collaboration.

Shri Nambiar: May I know whether
it is a fact that the Ashland Company
with whom we are going to enter
into an agreement or are negotiating
it, have asked for the inclusion of a
term that we must allow more than
50 per cent of the produce to be taken

out, or are we in a position to get the entire produce for ourselves?

Shri Alagesan: We are still in the negotiation stage, but I may tell the hon. Member that Government will hold 51 per cent—that is, a majority—of the shares and they will hold only 49 per cent. As far as oil is concerned, we will have the first right to get the oil at prices that will be settled.

श्री विश्वनाथ पाण्डेय : अभी मंत्री महोदय ने बताया है कि कुछ अमरीकन तेल कम्पनियों के साथ खम्बात की खाड़ी के क्षेत्र में तेल निकालने के सम्बन्ध में बात-चीत हो रही है और रूस के विशेषज्ञों ने तेल की खोज के लिए उस क्षेत्र की भूकम्पीय जांच की है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या इन अमरीकी कम्पनियों और रूसी विशेषज्ञों के अतिरिक्त भारत सरकार के आयल एंड नैचुरल गैस कमीशन के अध्यक्ष से भी खम्बात की खाड़ी के क्षेत्र की जांच की गई है; यदि नहीं, तो क्यों नहीं।

श्री इकबाल सिंह : पहले गवर्नमेंट आफ इंडिया की आर्गेनाइजेशन, ओ० एन० जी० सी० ने यहां पर सर्वे किया और उसके बाद रशियन मदद से सर्वे किया गया। दोनों ने किया।

Shri S. M. Banerjee: The hon. Minister said, in reply to the first part of the question, that it is under negotiation with a few American oil companies. I would like to know what are the terms of negotiations and whether they will have their own controlling authority here or there will be the system of equity shares where 51 per cent of the shares will be with the Government and so on?

Shri Alagesan: As I said, we are still in the negotiation stage but the understanding is that all the risk ex-

penditure will be undertaken by them; that is, they will bring the mobile platform, they will drill and until the stage when we strike oil is reached, all the expenditure will be borne by them. Once oil is struck, we will share the expenditure in the ratio of 51:49.

Shri Joachim Alva: In all these operations, Government is aware, the powerful Anglo-American-Dutch combines never permit us to have self-sufficiency. That had been so all these years. On the other hand, it was the Russians and the eastern countries that first showed us the way that there is oil beneath our feet. I want to know why we are still tagging on to these powerful cartels and what is the policy of the Government for the future.

Shri Alagesan: There is no question of any combine of any nationality preventing us from discovering oil in our own area. That stage is long past. We are in the year 1966 when we have undertaken exploration on our own and are meeting the crude oil needs of the country to the tune of 25 to 30 per cent. So, the hon. Member need not be in that past age. As far as the present is concerned, it is a question of going and combining with people who not only have the technical know-how but who will also spend money in foreign exchange.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether before deciding to negotiate with a few American companies for drilling in the Gulf of Cambay Government invited any global tenders from other countries and other parties for this purpose or not?

Shri Alagesan: I am glad that the hon. Member put the question because this effort at finding collaborators to

drill not only in the off-shore areas but even in land areas started as far back as 1959-60 and the then Minister made a statement in Parliament that because we want crude we need the assistance of foreign oil companies. So, it is not only to American or one nationality companies but it was an invitation to all the companies who have the know-how and the money to spend and want to come and help.

Shri Hem Barua: Can it become a sacred thing by now only because of the fact that the previous Oil Minister made a *bandobast* with these companies in 1959-60? Can this be an argument?

Mr. Speaker: Shri Daji.

Shri Daji: Was there any comparable offer from any other country or firm regarding the development of this area in the public sector and was that offer set aside by the Government in preference to the private sector?

Shri Alagesan: No, Sir; that is not the case.

श्री राम सहाय पावडेय: क्या यह सच नहीं है कि खम्बात की खाड़ी में जो छिद्रण-कार्य अथवा ड्रिलिंग कार्य हो रहा है, उस के संबंध में हम ने ड्रिलिंग मशीन्ब के लिए बहुत से राष्ट्रों को, और विशेषकर उन राष्ट्रों को, जो कि तेल-शोधन कार्य में पारंगत हैं, लिखा लेकिन उन्होंने मशीन देने से इनकार कर दिया, जिस से हमारे काम में बाधा पड़ी है?

श्री इकबाल सिंह: जहां तक गल्फ आफ कम्बे का सम्बन्ध है, वहां अभी तक ड्रिलिंग नहीं हो रहा है। 1964 में एक इटालियन फर्म, ई० एन० आई० से इस बारे में समझौता हुआ था कि वह कंट्रैक्ट ड्रिलिंग करेगी। जिस प्लेटफार्म से उसने ड्रिलिंग करना था, वह प्लेटफार्म इटली के

समुन्दर में तबाह हो गया। उसके बाद उसने गवर्नमेंट आफ इंडिया को बता दिया कि वह इस काम को नहीं कर सकती है। बाद में कई और कम्पनीज की आफरज आई हैं और उनके साथ नेगोशिएशनज हो रही हैं।

Vigyan Mandirs

+

*361. **Shri Maurya:**
Shri Ram Sewak Yadav:
Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia:
Shri Kishen Pattnayak:
Shri Madhu Limaye:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered the question of the pattern of Central financial assistance to the State Governments for setting up of Vigyan Mandirs during the Fourth Plan period; and

(b) if so, the particulars of the assistance proposed to be given to the State Governments?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Education (Shrimati Soundaram Ramachandran): (a) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

श्री श्रीरथ : श्रीमन्, चूंकि विज्ञान का विकास ही आज की दुनिया में सबसे अधिक महत्व रखता है, इसलिए क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार ने प्रान्तों को विशेष रूप से कोई सहायता देने की कोई योजना बनाई है ?

Shrimati Soundaram Ramachandran: There was a phased programme of starting one Vigyan Mandir in each district from the Second Five-Year Plan, but after the completion of the Third Five-Year Plan, of course, the Finance Commission has given such sanctions to the State Governments so that the existing Vigyan Mandirs should be looked after by the State Governments and some money is provided for the fourth Five-Year Plan which awaits finalisation.