

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) and (b). A letter on the subject had been received by the Finance Minister from the Industries Minister, Assam. In reply he has been informed that his suggestion could not be accepted.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Shri P. C. Borooah rose—

Mr. Speaker: I have called the next question I looked to him twice. He did not rise.

Natural Gas from Pakistan

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*1362. { **Shri D. C. Sharma;**
Shri Raghunath Singh;
Shri Maheswar Naik;
Shri P. C. Borooah:

Will the Minister of **Mines and Fuel** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 309 on the 27th November, 1961 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two months ago Pakistan replied to the enquiries regarding the sale of natural gas to India;

(b) if so, whether any reply has been sent to Pakistan; and

(c) the nature thereof?

The Minister of Mines and Fuel (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) to (c). A communication has been received from the Government of Pakistan which covers some of the points on which information was sought from that Government. This matter is being examined. No reply has been sent to the Government of Pakistan so far.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know on what points information was sought from the Pakistan Government?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: The information sought was on the following points:

Firstly, the quantity of gas that they could supply.

Secondly, the pressure at which such gas would be supplied at the Indo-Pakistan border.

Thirdly, the time that would be taken to construct the various gas supply facilities.

And, fourthly, the price at which such gas would be supplied on the basis of demands varying between 50, 100, 150 and 200 million cubic feet per day for periods of 15, 20 and 25 years.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know what necessitates the India Government to go in for supplies of this natural gas from Pakistan and whether our own natural gas resources are not going to be sufficient in the next one or two years?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Not it is no, likely that we will get this quantity of gas in our own country in the next one or two years. Quite close to the borders there is plenty of natural gas available, and the Government of India naturally were anxious to find out from the Government of Pakistan whether they could consider it feasible to supply the gas on suitable terms.

Shri P. R. Patel: May I know how much quantity of gas we are intending to buy from Pakistan and further, when we are having gas at Ankleshwar and we have still gas at Cambay, why we intend to buy gas from Pakistan?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Gas must have a range so far as its consumption is concerned. Ankleshwar and Cambay gas are going to be utilised in the neighbourhood. They cannot be brought to Rajasthan or Delhi or Punjab for exploitation. The idea is to negotiate with the Pakistan Government to find out if it is feasible and desirable to purchase gas at the borders in order to use it as fuel and otherwise in Punjab Rajasthan and other suitable places.

Shri Maheswar Naik: May I know whether the Government of India do not propose to explore ways and means to utilise the gas which is available at Ankleshwar before we enter into negotiations with Pakistan about the purchase or the import of gas from Pakistan?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I have already answered this question. We are going to utilise all the gas that we are going to get in Ankleshwar and Cambay. We shall still require additional gas for utilisation in other parts of the country.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know what success has been achieved in the exploration of the natural gas in the Indian areas adjoining Pakistan?

Mr. Speaker: That is a different thing—what success has been achieved on our side of the border near Pakistan where this gas is available.

Shri K. D. Malaviya: We are already making efforts to discover more gas over and above what we have found in Ankleshwar and Cambay—it is not in very great quantity—and we are also searching for gas elsewhere. So serious efforts are being made to discover more gas.

Shri S. N. Chaturvedi: Is the gas intended to be utilised for industrial purposes and, if so, is it desirable to have this gas from Pakistan?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I personally do not see any harm if we can get the gas from Pakistan on terms which are acceptable to us.

Shri P. K. Deo: The hon. Minister replied that Sui gas from Pakistan would be utilised in Rajasthan and Punjab. May I know if any attempt has been made to investigate our gas potential in Jaisalmer and what action has been taken?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I have answered this question generally. We are making all efforts to discover more gas.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether any assurance is sought from Pakistan so that because of our strained political relations with that country and because of development of industries in Pakistan, the supply might not be stopped all of a sudden?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: All these questions, naturally, are considered at the time of the negotiations. They will all be taken into consideration.

Shri K. C. Pant: Has the Government examined the feasibility of pumping Jwalamukhi gas to Rajasthan?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Unfortunately, adequate quantity has not been found in Jwalamukhi.

Search of premises of New Central Jute Mills Company

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*1363. { **Shri Daji:**
 { **Shri S. M. Banerjee:**

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

(a) whether Special Police Establishment has searched the premises of New Central Jute Mills Company;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) how many times these have been searched;

(d) whether some documents have been recovered; and

(e) if so, what are those documents?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar):
(a) Yes.

(b) The search was made in the course of investigation of an alleged offence of criminal breach of trust of the funds of the New Central Jute Mills by persons connected with its management.

(c) Once, but the search continued for 3 days.

(d) Yes.

(e) Vouchers, Account Books relating to the transactions which are the subject matter of the investigation.