

**Assam's Natural Gas**

\*126. { Shri Raghunath Singh:  
Shri Rameshwar Tantia:  
Shri Llladhar Kotoki:

Will the Minister of Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a possibility of turning Assam's still largely unutilised natural gas reserves into foreign exchange earner;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any step in this direction; and

(c) if not, the difficulties therein?

**The Minister of Mines and Fuel (Shri K. D. Malaviya):** (a) to (c). Possibility of export of products based on Assam natural gas cannot be ruled out. As any exports would be determined by internal demand, it is too early to say whether export of products based on gas would be a desirable or a feasible proposition. Steps that may be necessary will be taken at the appropriate stage.

**Royalty on Assam Oil**

\*127. **Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that following the dispute between Oil India Limited and the Assam Government over the question of royalty to be paid by the former to Assam, the Assam Oil Company also declined to make payment of royalty for exploration by that company at the rates prevalent hithertofore;

(b) if so, whether some arrears of payment had accumulated on this account and if so to what extent; and

(c) whether the differences have since been resolved and if so, what are the terms of the settlement?

**The Minister of Mines and Fuel (Shri K. D. Malaviya):** (a) No, Sir. Assam Oil Company has not declined to pay royalty at rates prevalent

hitherto. Assam Oil Company have however differences, with Assam Government regarding the basis of calculation of well head value for purposes of determining royalty. These differences do not follow from the dispute between Assam Government and Oil India Limited.

(b) Assam Oil Company paid Rs. 324,041 as royalty for the second half of 1961 whereas Assam Government have claimed Rs. 523,683.

(c) The differences have been referred by Assam Oil Company to the Governor of Assam for arbitration in accordance with provisions in leases granted to them by Assam Government.

**National Institute for Women's Education**

\*128. **Shrimati Maimoona Sultan:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up at Delhi a National Institute for Women's Education for research work etc.;

(b) if so, at what cost;

(c) what is the progress in the implementation of the project so far; and

(d) by what time it is likely to be established?

**The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrimali):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Approximately Rs. 20 lakhs during the Third Five Year Plan period.

(c) and (d). The proposal is under consideration of the Government.

**Steel Plant in Madras**

\*129. **Shri Umanath:** Will the Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries be pleased to state the present stage of the scheme to locate a steel plant in Madras State based on the Iron Ore of Salem and Neyveli Lignite?