

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): I hope not so; I do not know.

Mr. Speaker: Question No 86.

Shri S. V. Ramaswami: Question No. 97 is an allied subject.

Mr. Speaker: I am not going to allow any tagging.

Fertilizer Plant at Neiveli

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*86. { **Shri S. V. Ramaswami:**
Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:
Shri Narasimhan:

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

(a) whether any orders have since been placed for the supply of plant and machinery for setting up the Fertilizer Plant at Neiveli;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) when the same is likely to be placed?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) to (c). Orders have not yet been placed for the supply of plant and machinery for the Fertilizer Plant to be set up at Neiveli. The project scheme has just been considered and approved by the Neiveli Lignite Corporation. The scheme has yet to be sanctioned by the Government. Steps for placing orders will be taken thereafter

Shri S. V. Ramaswami: Are our foreign exchange difficulties in any way tending to slow down the implementation of this project?

Sardar Swaran Singh: May be, but I would not make a case one way or the other. As things progress it will become clear as to whether we can carry out all the various components of the scheme within the foreign exchange resources available.

Shri S. V. Ramaswami: In answer to question No. 97 it is stated in the statement that the project report of the fertilizer plant has been scrutinised. Have global tenders been invit-

ed? If so, what is the capital outlay proposed for the fertilizer plant?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I do not know why he should presume an answer to a question which has not yet been reached. However, the factual position is this. I have stated here that steps for placing the orders will be taken after the scheme is sanctioned by the Government.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether the plant and machinery for the fertiliser plant will be purchased out of the loan to be given by the Soviet Union?

Sardar Swaran Singh: No, Sir. The list of projects qualified for the utilisation of that credit has already been finalised. The thermal power station attached to the Neiveli project is one of the projects but not the fertiliser plant.

Shri P. C. Bose: Has it been proved by experiments that lignite coal produces sufficient heat necessary in a fertiliser plant for the production of chemical fertilisers?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I do not think that much of heat is necessary to produce fertilisers. It is a chemical combination where certain types of gases have, by the interaction of the chemical forces, to be converted into another substance. I do not think that the heat part is really important.

Price Structure of Petroleum Products

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*87. { **Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:**
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
Shri Narayanankutty Menon:
Shri Shivananjappa:
Shri H. N. Mukerjee:
Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan:
Shri Rajagopala Rao:
Shri Braj Raj Singh:
Shri Anirudh Saha:

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

(a) the existing basis for determining the prices of petroleum products;

(b) what changes are now sought in it by Government;

(c) the negotiations, if any, carried on with the Oil Companies to this effect; and

(d) the progress made so far?

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) Prices of Petroleum products are fixed by the Oil Companies on the basis of a formula agreed to by Government from 1st April, 1950 which takes into account the prices of imported products.

(b) to (d) Government have been considering for some time past the question of revising the present system of pricing of Petroleum products with a view to seeing that the most economic basis is adopted. Certain talks have taken place with the Oil Companies but it is not considered desirable in the public interest to disclose the same at present.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: On the 10th August 1956, the hon Minister of Mines and Oil told this House that the price of petroleum in India depends upon the Mexican Gulf price and the price is very high because the labour charges are high. May we know why the price of petroleum that is refined from the petroleum that is got from the Assam oil fields is the same as that imported from other countries?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: The price of petroleum product now, for sometime, is not connected with the Gulf of Mexico price when we shifted from the Gulf of Mexico to the Persian Gulf, but it is a fact that the prices are governed and linked up to foreign sources and not to our sources, because there is not, so far, any source here at present.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: May I know whether the Government have enquired into free market prices of oil in the Persian Gulf and, if so, what are the prices?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Government are informed about the price from time to time.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: What is the free market price of oil in the Persian Gulf?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I have not got the figures. If the hon. Member wants to know about it, he can put a separate question. I will try to answer it.

Shri P. C. Bose: There is a press report today that one of the companies has agreed to reduce the price of petroleum oil. May I know how far it is true?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I have not seen the news in today's paper, but it is a fact that one of the oil companies is considering to give some further reduction on some oil products distributed in Assam.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty rose—

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: In the Question Hour, questions are being put and asked without your calling upon anybody's name.

Mr. Speaker: Sometimes it happens.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know whether, besides the particular oil company which is proposing to reduce its prices, the other companies which are also trading in India are reducing the prices and whether negotiations have been carried on with them and, if so, what is their reaction?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: This question is being examined. In the prices of petroleum products, it is the attempt of the Government to see that they are revised in the interests of the nation.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: May I know whether it is a fact that in spite of the fact that the oil companies are making considerable profits even according to the present agreements, they are entitled to raise the prices?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: It is a question of opinion. The hon. Member is

thoroughly entitled to form any opinion about the question.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether the Government have asked the oil companies to bring down the prices of petroleum in the country?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Yes, Sir. Government are examining this proposal and are putting certain proposals to the oil companies and, as I said, it will not be proper just now to disclose all the talks that are going on.

Shri Achar: Has the Government really any voice in the determination of these prices or only the companies dictate these prices?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: The fact is that the prices are governed by certain agreements made in 1950. What we can do is only to examine this question and persuade the companies just now to modify the prices according to our suggestion.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: The hon. Minister has said just now that he has information about the prices of oil prevailing at other centres. Has he any source of information other than the oil companies themselves?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Yes, Sir. We try to get information of these prices from other sources than the oil companies also.

Shri Sinhasan Singh: May I know whether the new refineries opened in India have in any way affected the lowering of prices of petroleum?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Not so far.

दिल्ली में बम विस्फोट

{ श्री भक्त दत्त ने :
श्री वी० चं० शर्मा :
*दल. { श्री ब० स० मूर्ति :
श्री बाजपेयी
सरदार इकबाल सिंह :

क्या मु०-कार्य मंत्री १२ दिसम्बर, १९५७ के तारकित प्रश्न संख्या १७७४ के

उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) दिल्ली में हुये बम विस्फोटों के बारे में जो जांच की जा रही थी, उसके सम्बन्ध में इस बीच क्या प्रगति हुई है ;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि २१ जून, १९५६ को पहला बम विस्फोट हुआ था और उसके बाद लगभग २० बम या पटाखों के विस्फोट की घटनाएँ हो चुकी हैं ;

(ग) यदि हाँ, तो इन दुर्घटनाओं में कितने व्यक्ति मरे अथवा घायल हुये ;

(घ) प्रत्येक बम विस्फोट के सम्बन्ध में अब तक कितने व्यक्ति गिरफ्तार किये गये हैं तथा उनमें से कितनों को दंड दिया जा चुका है ; और

(ङ) भविष्य में ऐसी घटनाओं की रोक-थाम के लिये कौन से कदम उठाये गये हैं ?

मु०-कार्य मंत्री (पंडित गो० ब० पन्त):

(क) से (घ). मांगी हुई सूचना का एक विवरण सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है। [द्वैतिये परिशिष्ट १, अनुबन्ध सं० १३]

(ङ) पुलिस में एक विशेष दल बनाया गया है और विस्फोटक पदार्थ रखने की रोक-थाम के लिए कड़ी कार्यवाही की जा रही है।

श्री भक्त दत्त ने : श्रीमान्, इस विवरण से ज्ञात होता है कि पिछले लगभग एक वर्ष के अन्दर बम विस्फोटों की २५ दुर्घटनाएँ राजधानी में हो चुकी हैं जिनमें से १३ के बारे में यह कहा गया है कि कोई पता नहीं लगा, मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह बीज दिल्ली पुलिस के लिए प्रशंसा की बात है ?

पंडित गो० ब० पन्त : दिल्ली पुलिस के लिए यह तो सराहना की बात हो सकती है कि एक साल के अरसे में पिछले दिसम्बर से करीब १३ घटनाएँ हुई हैं और एक के सिवाय सभी