

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, 17th December, 1957

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair.]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Drilling for Petroleum in Jawalamukhi

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Shri D. C. Sharma:  
Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:  
Shri Narayanankutty Menon:  
\*1190. Shri Warrior:  
Pandit J. P. Jyotishi:  
Sardar Iqbal Singh:  
Shri Hem Raj:  
Shri Daljit Singh:  
Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1085 on the 23d August, 1957 and state:

(a) the further progress made and results achieved in the exploration for petroleum in Jawalamukhi area;

(b) the maximum depth to which drilling was undertaken upto the 30th November, 1957;

(c) whether any delay is being experienced in the drilling operations;

(d) if so, causes thereof and the steps Government propose to take to overcome the delay; and

(e) the total cost incurred in the drilling work so far?

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) Jawalamukhi

well No. 1 has already reached a total depth of more than 5200 feet. In spite of some encouraging observations made it is still premature to make any report on the nature of exploration. It can, however, be stated that Jawalamukhi drilling has given informations of far reaching significance to the possibilities of oil deposition in the foredeeps of the Himalayas. A full assessment can be made only when we have crossed the 10,000 feet depth limit beyond which the subathus or the oil bearing rock is expected

(b) 4930 ft.

(c) Considering the conditions of very hard rocks and clayey soil alternating, the drilling is progressing fairly satisfactory and its rate is not less than the average speed of drilling recorded elsewhere under similar conditions.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Rs. 24·80 lakhs.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if the hon Minister can give us any idea of the approximate time that will be required to reach a depth of 10,000 feet to which he referred in his reply?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: If we maintain the present speed of drilling, it is expected that by the end of April, we may reach 10,000 feet limit or cross it.

Mr. Speaker: May I suggest that the hon. Members may put the questions straightaway instead of saying: 'Will the hon. Minister be pleased to say' and so on? How many feet or how many rupees etc.? That will be easy-

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know.....

Mr. Speaker: Old habits die hard.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know how many wells are being used for drilling

purposes because the hon. Minister spoke about well No. 1?

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** After we have completed Jwalamukhi No. 1 drilling or after we have come to a satisfactory level where some assessment could possibly be made, we shall take decision about another site right or left. Probably, one or two holes may have to be put in order to finalise whether there is any oil there.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Is there any danger that the Jwalamukhi will disappear after the exploitation of oil starts in full swing?

**Mr. Speaker:** The question will be: what is the quantity that will be available and how long can you work it?

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Is there any danger that the Jwalamukhi will disappear after oil exploitation starts in full swing?

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** So far as the exploitation is concerned, I am sure it is not going to be wild.

**An Hon. Member:** Oil exploitation.

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** When the question of oil exploitation comes we may be able to give a correct answer to the question whether Jwalamukhi flames will disappear or not.

**Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:** May I know if the Government intends to commence drilling operations in the adjoining area where the gases have been observed to appear in larger quantities?

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** No. The drilling site has been selected after taking into account all technological aspects of the whole question. We have taken into account the fact that there are such areas near about.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** The hon. Minister has said that they will consider the problem after the drilling operation is over. May I know, when the drilling operations are over and it is found that the Jwalamukhi has disappeared, whether Government will stop drilling and oil exploitation work?

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** No, Sir. We are not likely to stop or conclude drilling after the first hole. We shall only get more information. Then, we shall decide whether to drill at some other place or places. Only then we shall be enabled to reach a decision whether something has happened to these flames or not.

**Shri Narayanankutty Menon:** I have to ask a question.

**Mr. Speaker:** It has been sufficiently answered. Why did he not get up earlier?

**Shri Narayanankutty Menon:** I have been getting up. I just want to know how the cost of drilling at Jwalamukhi compares with that of Naharkotiya?

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** I think the cost of drilling at Jwalamukhi will be cheaper.

**Engineering College at Durgapur**

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\*1191. { **Shri R. C. Majhi:**  
          **Shri S. C. Samanta:**

Will the Minister of Education and Scientific Research be pleased to refer to Starred Question No. 1224 asked in the Lok Sabha on the 27th August, 1957, and state:

(a) whether any final decision has been taken by Government about the establishment of an Engineering College at Durgapur;

(b) if so, the details of the decision; and

(c) whether any other new Engineering College or Colleges are going to be established in the country during the Second Plan period?

**The Deputy Minister of Education and Scientific Research (Shri M. M. Das):** (a) and (b). No, Sir.

(c). The matter is under consideration.

**Shri R. C. Majhi:** When was the application of the West Bengal Government received and when is a final decision about the establishment of this college likely to be taken?