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LOK SABHA

Saturday, 8th March, 1958.

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven
the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Money Order Remittances

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*754. { Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Barman:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs
be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints that some cheats are operating in Delhi who invite money order remittances at fictitious addresses from persons at far off places with the false promise of selling sewing machines, radio-sets etc. in instalments and keeping quiet after receiving one or two instalments of remittances;

(b) if so, the number of such cases reported during 1957; and

(c) in how many cases culprits were apprehended and punished?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) No.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether such cases were referred to the Ministry before 1957?

Shri Datar: We have made enquiries in respect of such events and we find that there were no such complaints

at all. There were only two complaints. One was against the firm itself for having supplied indifferent material and the other was against certain agents who had taken away the sewing machines and disappeared from the scene.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I remind the hon. Minister that I myself referred a case to him and he was kind enough to enquire about one association. May I know what happened to that enquiry?

Shri Datar: I do not remember exactly; if the hon. Member kindly points out when he referred the case to me, I shall try to find out.

Oil and Natural Gas Commission

*755. Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to reorganise the Oil and Natural Gas Commission; and

(b) if so, the object behind it and the progress made so far?

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

(b) The Oil and Natural Gas Commission was set up by a Resolution of Government dated the 14th August, 1956 and certain powers were delegated to it by that Resolution. Experience of the working of the Commission during the last year and a half has, however, shown that for proper discharge of the duties entrusted to the Commission, greater autonomy is needed for the Commission to reach decisions and to implement them quickly. With this end in view, the question of reorganising the Commission is being examined; the matter is still under consideration.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: While delegating powers, may I know whether power of negotiation for taking certain decisions will also be given to this Commission?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I cannot commit myself to any specific functions of the Commission. The Commission have already begun the work which has been assigned to them. They are examining how best to expedite the work and make them more efficient in working.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether in the reorganisation the question of having separate units at State levels is being thought of?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: No, Sir. So far as the Oil and Natural Gas Commission is concerned there is neither the concept of any autonomy given for sections nor for any autonomy at the State level because there is no organisation at the State level.

Shri Pattabhi Raman: May I know whether this Commission would be directed to supply annual reports or periodic reports to the House regarding the work done and data collected?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Yes, Sir; they are preparing an annual report of the work which has been handled by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission and we hope we shall soon distribute it among Members of Parliament.

Shri Joachim Alva: Is there any proposal to recruit highly qualified university science graduates in this Commission or is it only a question of putting old wine into new bottles?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: As and when technicians are needed, we search them from the whole of the country—the universities are included in it—and we select and appoint them and take work from them.

Shrimati Benuka Ray: Is it a fact that, in spite of the delegation of powers, this O. & N. G. Commission is not consulted when Government issues licences to oil companies for prospecting and other work and if so, will the reorganisation improve matters?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: No, Sir; it is not a fact. Whenever any question of giving any concession according to the policy of Government is before the Government for issuing licences for oil prospecting, the O. & N. G. Commission is the first to be consulted.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Is it a fact that requests are pouring in from State Governments for the survey of oil and gas deposits in the States and if so, what are the steps that are being taken by the Central Government to concede the requests of the States?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: It all depends on the resources at the disposal of the O. & N. G. Commission and also the priority from the point of view of possibilities of oil finds. As and when we see that there is a greater possibility of oil finds in any region, we do include them.

Shrimati Benuka Ray: Was the O. & N. G. Commission consulted when Government entered into agreement with the Caltex refineries?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: When the Caltex refineries came into being, the Oil and Natural Gas Commission was not born.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know from the hon. Minister along what lines this reorganisation is to take place, because it is not clear from the answer?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Yes, Sir; I admit the answer does not make it clear on what lines the reorganisation is going to be made. That is the question which is precisely under consideration.

Control over Banks

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*756. { Shri Mohan Swarup:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Raghunath Singh:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state the steps taken so far to have greater control over Banks?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. E. Bhagat): The Banking