

Oil Survey

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*763. { Shri Bishwanath Roy:
Shri Subiman Ghose:

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

(a) the number of places where drilling for oil has been undertaken so far;

(b) the number of places where drilling was abandoned due to lack of success;

(c) whether Indian Engineers were consulted before drilling was abandoned; and

(d) whether Government propose to undertake survey for oil in any new area during 1958-59?

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) to (c). In the public sector, drilling has been undertaken only at Jawalamukhi, where a depth of 6050 ft. has been reached. This is still in progress. It is proposed to start drilling within the next month or so in other areas, such as Hoshiarpur, Cambay and Janauri.

The Indo-Stanvac Petroleum Project conducted drilling at the following places:

(i) Burdwan—upto 8,920 ft.

(ii) Galsi—upto 4,250 ft.

Both these wells were dry and were abandoned in consultation with the Government of India through their Liaison Officer. Drilling is in progress at the third site, i.e. Jalangi, which reached a depth of 9,205 ft. on 25th February, 1958. It is proposed to drill during 1958 at other places, such as Chakdaha, Debagram, Kandi and Ghatal.

The Assam Oil Company have done extensive drilling in various areas in Assam. As far as known, they have drilled nearly 1,000 wells in Digboi area, 30 in Naharkatiya and Hugrijan areas and 5 in Moran. Of these, 580 wells in Digboi, 19 in Hugrijan and Naharkatiya and 3 in Moran were

successful. Wells in Digboi and 1 or 2 wells in Naharkatiya Mining Lease area are in production. The information is not readily available regarding the number of wells drilled in other areas in Assam, where they had drilled wells in the past.

(d) The Oil and Natural Gas Commission is at present engaged in geological field work in Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, U.P., Cambay, Kutch and Jaisalmer. Geophysical exploration is in progress in Punjab, Rajasthan, U.P. and Assam. It is proposed to continue work in these areas. Parties are also likely to be sent in the next financial year to the Cauveri basin, and gravity-cum-magnetic survey may also be undertaken in West Bengal outside the concession area held by the Indo-Stanvac Petroleum Project.

Shri Bishwanath Roy: May I know the percentage increase in oil production as a result of the drilling of new oil wells since the beginning of the First Five Year Plan?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Crude oil has been discovered in Assam oil fields, but they have not yet started production. As soon as the agreement under the new Oil India Ltd. is concluded and the pipe-line laid, the oil production from these fields will commence. But if all these oil fields which have been discovered are taken into account, the increase in the production of crude oil since the first Five Year Plan has gone many times more—perhaps ten times more.

Shri S. V. Ramaswami: Is it not a fact that drilling for oil is much easier in river deltas than elsewhere and if it is so what steps are Government taking to expedite the work in the Cauveri and Godavari deltas?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Technologically, it will not be correct to say that drilling in river basins will be easier than at other places, but unless more geological information is available to us, we cannot locate a place for drilling.

Shri Karni Singhji: As a result of the oil survey in Rajasthan may I know if any test drills have been sunk?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Oil survey in Rajasthan is still going on. It is about more than two years that we have commenced work there, but we are still not yet quite sure whether possibilities of oil finds can be established there. As soon as we are in a position to say something more about it, I shall let the hon. Member know about it.

Shri Subiman Ghose: May I know whether it is a fact that while drilling at Burdwan, in between 6,000 and 7,000 feet oil was available?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: We have obtained some evidence in these areas and Galsi. The latest one is Jalangi. There are some evidences there which lead one to believe that there might be some encouraging results. That is why we are pursuing the results. Although we have bored three holes and we have not obtained oil, we hope to get oil some day.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: As regards the areas outside the West Bengal basin concessional area, may I know whether it is the Government which is exploring those areas and whether it is the policy of the Government to mine oil in those areas of its own, instead of bringing in other concerns in the private sector to do it?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: The areas outside the concession area in the West Bengal basin are to be prospected and surveyed by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission of the Government of India and we have not given those areas to anyone else; nor do we propose to give it to anybody else.

Shri Heru Barua: In view of what the Minister has stated about digging oil wells in Naharkatiya and other Assam fields, may I know the number of wells so far dug that have proved unsuccessful and so abandoned in those areas?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I gave some figures in this connection already. There were 1,000 in Digboi, 80 in Naharkatiya and 5 in Moran. Out of these, 3 in Moran, 19 in Naharkatiya and 580 in Digboi were successful.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know the period of concession given to the companies in West Bengal? May I also know whether Government has any information as to whether the companies have asked for extension of time for drilling in the concession areas?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: They are still pursuing in their efforts. If they ask for extension of time in order to complete their prospecting, it will all depend upon the results achieved. Government will certainly consider all aspects of this question and, if necessary, they might extend the time.

Shri B. S. Murthy: In reply to a previous question the Minister was pleased to state that the Godavari basin has possibilities of oil. May I know when drilling will take place?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I have not said that Godavari basin has shown possibility of oil. These areas are of interest for oil survey.

Foreign Credits for Steel Plants

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{ Shri Ram Krishan:
Shri Radha Raman:
Shrimati Ha Palchoudhuri:
Shri Kaghunath Singh:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
*764. { Shri Hem Barua:
Shri Nausair Bharucha:
Shri Assar:
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
Shri Sanganna:
Shri Heda:

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

(a) whether the negotiations for securing additional credits from the Governments of U.S.S.R. and West Germany for the Bhilai and Bourkela Steel Plants have been finalised; and