

**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 Nausahir 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 Rourkela Steel Plants have been finalised; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) For the Bhilai Steel Plant, the Government of U.S.S.R. has agreed that the cost of training of engineers and technicians in the U.S.S.R. may also be included in the credit under the principal agreement. In other words, the cost of training will be repayable in 12 equal annual instalments, interest being 2½ per cent.

The agreement reached with the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany enables the Government of India, with the co-operation of the German firms and banks concerned, to postpone by three years outstanding payments for the Rourkela steel plant, upto a maximum of Deutsche Marks 680 million. This is equivalent at present rates to about Rs. 75 crores. Interest will be six per cent.

Shri Ram Krishan: May I know the total amount of loans secured so far from West Germany and U.S.S.R. for these two steel plants?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: So far as U.S.S.R. is concerned, it is about Rs. 66 crores. About the German loan, I am afraid, I am not able to give the amount just now. I require notice.

Shri D. C. Sharma: Is there any difference between the rate of interest charged by U.S.S.R. and West Germany and, if so, what is the difference?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: The rates of interest charged by U.S.S.R. and West Germany are 2½ per cent. and 6 per cent. respectively.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: May I know whether Government have any estimate of the cost of training our technicians in the U.S.S.R. and, if so, what would be the probable cost in respect of which we have earned this concession?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: The estimate of the cost of the training programme has been made. I have not got the figure here. It has been included in

the credit which has been advanced by the U.S.S.R. by a subsequent negotiation.

Shrimati Ha Palchoudhuri: Is it a fact that the West German firms concerned have declared a moratorium on their debts?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Yes, for three years. They have allowed postponement of the instalments for three years.

Shri Hem Barna: If the West German firms have declared a moratorium on the debts already, in view of the extension of the time-limit for three years, may I know whether the West German firms concerned with the steel plants also have given a moratorium on their debts already?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I am afraid, I cannot reply to this question just now. I require notice.

#### बगदाद समझौते के देश

\* ७६६. श्री मोहन स्वराज्य : क्या प्रतिरक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या यह सच है कि बगदाद समझौते के देशों को राजपथों के जरिये मिलाने के लिये कोई योजना कार्यान्वित की जा रही है जिसके अन्तर्गत ईरान-पाकिस्तान, ईरान-ईराक और तुर्की को मिलाने वाली सड़कों का एक जाल बिछाया जायेगा और इसी प्रकार फारस की खाड़ी और भारत महासागर पर बन्दरगाहों का विकास किया जा रहा है ?

प्रतिरक्षा उपमंत्री (श्री रघुराज्य) प्रेस रिपोर्टों से ज्ञात होता है कि बगदाद-पैक्ट के देशों को सड़कों द्वारा मिलाने के लिये एक योजना बनाई गई है। लेकिन इस योजना में बन्दरगाहों के विषय में कुछ भी नहीं कहा गया है।

Shri Mohan Swaraj: Has the security of India been threatened in any way by this action of the Baghdad Pact countries?