

transferred to the Punjab State Government; and

(b) if not, how long will it take to do so?

The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrivastava): (a) and (b). The Punjab Government have agreed to take over these institutions which will shortly be transferred to them.

Oil Drilling in Jawalamukhi

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 Shri Ram Krishan;
 Shri Ajit Singh Sarhad:
 Shri Bose:
 Shri D. C. Sharma:
 Shri Bhakt Darshan:
 Shri S. C. Samanta:
 Shri Wodeyar:
 Sardar Iqbal Singh:
 Shri Kailka Singh:
 Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
 Shri Daljit Singh:
 Shri Shivananjappa:
 Shri Bishwanath Roy:
 Shri Hem Raj:

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

(a) the progress made in the drilling for oil in Jawalamukhi;

(b) the depth to which drilling has been undertaken so far;

(c) the results achieved;

(d) whether it is a fact that natural gas has been struck in the first test well,

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether any assessment of its availability and commercial value has been made; and

(g) whether there are any proposals to exploit the same?

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) and (b) The present depth of the well is approximately 1945 meters.

(c) The data collected so far by the drilling of Jawalamukhi Well No. 1 has indicated (i) the well crossed a major thrust fault at about 1262 meters (ii) there are a number of potential oil or gas horizons. One of these on testing indicated the possibility of commercial production.

(d) Yes, Sir

(e) to (g). The gas found in the Jawalamukhi well No 1 is considered to be a dry gas though it contains small amounts of higher hydro-carbons. To assess the potentialities of this gas field, several more wells will have to be drilled. The commercial exploitation of this gas will be taken up if further drilling proves that adequate reserves of gas are available.

Iron and Steel

*542. Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to lay a statement on the Table showing the quantity and value of steel and iron imported by established importers during the years 1957 and 1958 so far and state:

(a) how has the distribution of this material been regulated, and

(b) whether it is a fact that manufacturers as actual users have to pay black-market price to these established importers and their agents?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): A statement is given below:—

Year	Pig Iron Quantity (Tons)	Value (Rs.)	Steel Quantity (Tons)	Value (Rs.)
1957	4010	18,17,822	3,15,376	28,64,38,750
(Upto June) 1958	Nil	Nil	12,429	1,05,65,759