

when the report has not been published or when it has not been sent, seems to be unnecessarily taking away the time of the House.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: The evidence was completed by August 1958.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Community Development (Shri B. S. Murthy): No, no.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: Is it a fact that the Government has received a communication from the Pay Commission since it received the recommendations for the interim payment informing the Government that there is going to be some more delay in the publication of the report and requesting the Government for the payment of another instalment of interim relief?

Shri Morarji Desai: It is some rumour on which the hon. Member has based the question; I have no such knowledge.

Shri D. C. Sharma: When the Pay Commission was appointed it was thought that some interim reports would be issued by the Pay Commission and action would be taken on it by the Government of India. May I know if any interim report has been sent by the Pay Commission and if not, why not?

Shri Morarji Desai: The interim report was received and effect was given to it.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know whether the Central Pay Commission has given any indication as to when it will submit its report?

Shri Morarji Desai: They will do it, as soon as they can, under the circumstances. Perhaps it will be within three or four months.

श्री अक्षय वर्मान अभी माननीय मंत्री ने कहा कि यह राज्य सरकारों के अन्तर्गत जो कर्मचारी हैं उनके वेतनों के बारे में राज्य सरकारों को ही पहल करनी चाहिए, मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह सत्य है कि उत्तर प्रदेश

की सरकार ने और कुछ अन्य राज्यों ने पे कमिशन और केन्द्रीय सरकार से अनुरोध किया है कि इसका निर्णय करते समय उनके कर्मचारियों के वेतनों पर भी विचार किया जाय ?

श्री श्रीरामजी बेताई : पे कमिशन को जो सूचनाएँ दी हैं उनमें एक यह भी है कि यह बात भी ध्यान में ली जाय मगर उससे ज्यादा और कुछ नहीं कहा जा सकता ।

Oil Drilling in Jawalamukhi

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 Shri Barman:
 Shri D. C. Sharma:
 Shri Subodh Hansda:
 Shri S. C. Samanta:
 Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadī:
 Shri Ram Krishan:
 Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
 Shri Wodeyar:
 Shri Hem Raj:
 Shri P. K. Deo:
 Shri B. C. Prodhan:
 Sardar Iqbal Singh:

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

(a) the up-to-date 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 any assessment of the natural gas found in the area has been made;

(e) what detailed programme has been drawn for drilling more wells in the area to assess the natural gas and oil potential; and

(f) what steps have been taken to exploit the natural gas for commercial purposes?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha): (a) and (b). The present depth of deep test Well No. 1 is approximately 2201 metres and of structural well No. 2

approximately 858 metres. Structural Well No. 1 was abandoned after drilling upto 850 metres.

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

(d) To assess the potentialities of this gas field, several more wells will have to be drilled.

(e) The drilling rig from structural hole No. 1 is being shifted to another site on the Jwalamukhi structure. Further programme will depend on the results obtained

(f) The commercial exploitation of this gas will be taken up only when full estimates of gas reserves are made.

Shri Barman: Now that drilling operations have been undertaken at several places also, may I know the comparative cost structure and whether at Jwalamukhi they have been able to effect any reduction in the cost structure?

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): I have explained the position to my hon. friend. There is only one deep drilling in Jwalamukhi area and that has unfortunately not concluded; it has gone about 2201 metres deep. The other two shallow drillings were started sometime back and one of them had to be abandoned because of an accident. The second was concluded at the desired depth and the results of all these drillings are being assessed. We are convinced that this area has great potentiality for oil and gas production.

Shri Wodeyar: What is the opinion of foreign experts in this matter—experts who are assisting us in the oil drilling and what is the total expenditure incurred so far in oil drilling?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I attach greater value to the opinion of our experts, now that they have been trained very well by the assistance that we have received. Our own experts give a very correct assessment of the situation. I have already referred to that assessment not only by our own but also by foreign experts.

Mr. Speaker: What is the amount spent so far?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: It is difficult for me to separate the amount from the rest of the oil exploration work that has been going on in the whole country. But, very roughly, I suppose the shallow drill costs about Rs. 5-10 lakhs and a deep drill, on an average, costs about Rs. 30-40 lakhs.

Shri Hem Raj: May I know the number of occasions on which drilling pipes were broken and the number of days lost on that account?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Unfortunately, there were many occasions when drilling had to be suspended but perhaps it is only once when the casing broke down. But there were other accidents on several occasions. The number of days lost are pretty large and perhaps that will come to about 30-40 per cent of the total number of days on which drilling was undertaken

Shri S C. Samanta: Is it not a fact that twelve layers for gas and oil were found and if so how many for oil and how many for gas and how many layers have been perforated?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Unfortunately, it will not be quite desirable at this stage to say quite conclusively what horizons there are for oil or gas? It is however a fact that about a dozen oil and gas horizons are being indicated in this deep well. It is only when we have reached the bottom that we can start electro logging tests again and then go to the perforation tests.

Shri P. K. Deo: May I know if any blue-print is ready with the Government showing how to utilise the natural gas that would be available at Jwalamukhi?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: So far as the quantity of gas at Jwalamukhi is concerned, we have not yet been able to come to any conclusion because we have not yet drilled sufficiently in that area. Once we have found out the quantity of gas, it would be very easy for us to formulate a scheme to exploit the same.

Shri Ram Krishan: May I know whether it is a fact that Government propose to construct a pipe line from Jwalamukhi to Delhi?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Government have not considered this scheme so far.

Shri Barman: How is it that wells are drilled to a certain depth and then abandoned? Is it due to defective planning of the drilling project?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: The well was not abandoned because there was any defect in the planning. We were drilling at the right place. We also got some evidence of the extension of the gas area in that well. But the pipe got choked up because of the complicated nature of the rocks there, and it was considered that it would be much better to abandon this area and take to a new one where we could gather new data. It sometimes happens in such cases; it is a part of the game.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if any rough assessment has been made of the oil potential of this area?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: No, Sir.

Shri Dasappa: May I know how much deeper they have got to go and how long it will take to go to that depth?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Roughly about 800 more metres are proposed to be drilled.

Shri Bose: May I know whether the experts, from their knowledge elsewhere, believe that the existence of natural gas indicates the existence of petroleum oil down below?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Generally, my hon. friend is correct; when you get gas in a well you should reasonably expect oil also in that well.

Shri Mohammed Imam: Have we reached a stage when we consider that the prospecting has met with success and that it will be an economic venture?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: No, Sir, not yet.

Shri Kamal Singh: In view of the fact that exploration in Jwalamukhi area is going on for the last three years approximately, is it contemplated by the Government to fix a target date or a time limit up to which only the operations should go on?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: No, Sir; it is very difficult to fix a target date in such a mechanical fashion and decide that after that date no drilling will be done. We will go on drilling till we have hopes of coming to some sort of a decision.

Shri Hem Barua: Sir, . . .

Mr. Speaker. The question relates to Jwalamukhi and not Assam.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: Sir, my question has not been answered.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I have the least objection. I am only trying to call all hon. Members who want to put questions. But I cannot call all hon. Members on the same question. I am trying to distribute as much as possible. After so many years here, I know the place from where a particular hon. Member comes and which hon. Member is interested in which particular subject. If on a particular question the same hon. Member is not called, he will wait for his opportunity on the next question.