

Oil Industry

*939. **Shri Supakar:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state

(a) whether any special emphasis will be given to the development of Oil Industry in India during the Third Five Year Plan period, and

(b) whether the amount likely to be invested in this project has been assessed?

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) and (b) The country is at present almost wholly dependent on imports of crude oil and, in addition, substantial quantities of deficit products have also to be imported. Consumption of petroleum products has also been steadily rising with the industrialisation. It is therefore, expected that there will be special emphasis on the development of oil industry during the Third Five-Year Plan period. Preliminary work has already been started in assessing what programmes and investment would be needed in that period in the oil sector. Till, however, an outline of the Plan as a whole is ready it would not be possible to state what would be invested on the development of oil industry.

Shri Supakar: I understand that the Government is going to lay as much emphasis on oil in the Third Five Year Plan as they have done in the case of steel and iron in the Second Five Year Plan. May I know if any target for production has been fixed so far as oil is concerned?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I will be happy if the Government attach the highest importance to oil industry in the Third Five Year Plan. With regard to production targets as I said, we are already working on a figure and we hope that we shall be able to give some indication to the House only after some time.

Shri Supakar: There was a project for having synthetic oil—petrol from coal—and that has been shelved for some time in the past. May I know

if this project will be included in the oil projects during the Third Five Year Plan?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: The programme of synthetic petrol is a past history. Besides, we are already having surplus motor spirit in the country as a result of distillation from crude oil. I do not think we are just now giving any emphasis to the production of synthetic petrol.

Shri Bishwanath Roy: May I know whether any plan is under consideration for completing the drilling operations by the end of the Third Five Year Plan at the different sites where there have been signs or prospects of oil?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I am sure the hon. Member is fully aware of the activities of the Government of India in regard to oil exploration and drilling going on in various places.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know what will be the financial implications of the new concessions which the Finance Minister reported will be given to Stanvac in West Bengal?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Surely, Sir, this supplementary does not arise out of this question.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether an estimate of the oil so far explored and the oil likely to be explored is made by now so as to give us an idea of the oil industry during the Third Five Year Plan?

Mr Speaker: He said that it is being estimated.

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Yes Sir, we are assessing the existing production and future potential production in order to complete the picture of our requirements at the end of the Third Five Year Plan.

Shri Supakar: So far as the personnel—the technicians and other persons—that will be required for implementing this plan during the Third Five Year Plan is concerned, have the Government given any thought, and

are they making all preparations to see that they do not fall behind the programme?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Yes, Sir, we are very much alive to the requirements of technical personnel required for petroleum industry, and we are pursuing a programme which is expected to give us the maximum number of technical personnel that we require from our own country

Delhi Public Relations Committee

*942. **Shri Vajpayee:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Public Relations Committee, Delhi has been expanded recently,

(b) if so, the reasons thereof,

(c) whether any member of the Committee has tendered his resignation recently as a protest against the food policy of Government, and

(d) whether his resignation has been accepted

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri G. B. Pant): (a) and (b) Yes Five new members, four of whom are members of Parliament, have been added to the Public Relations Committee, Delhi recently (with effect from 29th January, 1959) so that the Committee may have the benefit of their active association with it

(c) One member, who was appointed on 15th November, 1958 resigned on 27th January, 1959

(d) Yes

Shri Vajpayee: May I know the reasons why the Members of Parliament from the Union Territory of Delhi were not included in the Committee just after the general elections? May I know why their inclusion has been so much delayed?

Pandit G. B. Pant: Well, I cannot exactly say why they were not included, perhaps, their position was considered to be much more representa-

tive than that of the members of the Relations Committee itself. But later it was felt that their presence would be specially helpful, so they might be invited to join the Committee.

Shri Vajpayee: What is the present strength of the Committee?

Pandit G. B. Pant: The original strength of the Committee was 21. A number of members have been added since and the present strength might be, I think, bordering on about 35—but that is mere guess work

Shri Braj Raj Singh: May we know the reasons and grounds given by the member who resigned from this Committee?

Pandit G. B. Pant: He resigned because a Food Committee had not been formed specially for Delhi Territory.

श्री भक्त ब्रह्मन् श्रीमान्, जिन माननीय सदस्य महोदय ने त्यागपत्र दिया है उन का नाम क्या है और वह किस पार्टी में संबन्धित है ?

श्री गो० ब० पन्त उन का नाम तो बहुत अच्छा है और पार्टी कांग्रेस की नहीं है, पी० एम० पी० की नहीं है ।

श्री बाजपेयी यह क्या जवाब हुआ । क्या यह मतलब है कि वह जनमघ के है ?

श्री गो० ब० पन्त अगर आप जानना ही चाहते हैं, तो वह कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी के मेम्बर है ।

12 hrs.

Short Notice Question

Oil Drilling in Hoshiarpur

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9. { Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that oil drilling in Hoshiarpur district in Punjab State has been abandoned, and