

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) and (b) The deep test well at Hoshiarpur has been drilled to a depth of 3,439 metres. The well is being prepared for certain tests and further action will depend on the results obtained.

Shri D. C. Sharma: So far as I know, drilling was going on at three places at Bathulla, Jansauri and near Dasyua. May I know if the answer given by the hon. Minister applies to all these three places where drilling was going on or only to one place, namely, Bathulla?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: So far as Hoshiarpur is concerned, drilling was going on at only one place, and that was known as Bathulla. We had reached a depth of 3,439 metres. After that, the work was stopped owing to some technical difficulties. Whether this well has to be abandoned or not will depend upon some perforation production tests which we are just now going to start, say, within two weeks. After these tests we shall decide whether to pursue the drilling further down at greater costs or to abandon it and select another site for drilling.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know how long these production tests will take and whether any foreign experts will be utilized to arrive at a final decision about this matter?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: We are getting ready for it. It might take two to three weeks to finish the tests and then watch the results for two or three weeks. There are foreign experts and Indian experts. The equipment is ready on that site.

Shrimati Da Palchoudhuri: Is it a fact that marine rock has been found and that is the reason why drilling has been stopped? May I know, since oil has been found in West Bengal, in the Darjeeling district, if there is any way of finding out marine rock there and if it will be contacted there also or not?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Most unfortunately, in this well in Hoshiarpur, marine rock has not yet been found. If it had been found, we would have been very happy and I would have congratulated the hon. Member for this discovery. We have not found any marine rock. We are just stuck up a little above the marine rock.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Conversion of Minors

*930. **Shri Prakash Vir Shastri:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2848 on the 24th September, 1950 and state the nature of measures adopted by Government to check conversion of minors?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri G. B. Pant): Promotion of educational, economic and social interests—particularly of the backward section of the people.

Utilisation of Military Troops in Assam

*931. **Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the military troops stationed in Assam to meet the situation that has arisen because of Naga hostiles are being utilized by the Assam Government for police duties in the matter of internal security, and

(b) if so, the number of occasions their services have been used during the year 1958-59 for police duties?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri G. B. Pant): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Basic Education in Public Schools

*936. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state the progress made in the constitution and work of the Committee on the introduction of Basic Education in the Public Schools in the country?