

Oil Survey

*652. Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 2047 on the 24th April, 1959 and state:

(a) whether the results of all the wells drilled so far have been assessed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent our requirements will be met by the oil thus discovered?

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K D Malaviya): (a) Not yet, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

(c) It is too early to state

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: May I know the total amount spent so far on exploration and drilling operation?

Shri K D Malaviya: The total amount spent so far in the country both in the private sector and the public sector is roughly about Rs. 12 crores, in the last 5 or 6 years

Shri P. E. Patel: May I know whether explorations were carried out in Gujerat and with what result? May I know also whether they would be commercially beneficial to the country?

Shri K D Malaviya: I could not understand the question

Shri P. E. Patel: May I know whether explorations were carried on in Cambay and other places in Gujerat? Will they benefit the country commercially?

Shri K D Malaviya: No, not yet

Shri Jaipal Singh: The hon. Minister said that very soon, maybe in a couple of months or by the end of this year, he would be in a position to tell the country as to the commercial importance of the oil that has been struck or is hoped to be struck I

would like to know whether he is sure of his ground that he will be able to say so.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: So soon after the statement—only two days after that?

Shri Jaipal Singh: The point is this. The whole country is being misled and false hopes are being raised. That is why I raised this. It is better to be cautious. Would he be able to . .

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: When he has made that statement only two days ago, does the hon. Member expect that he would modify it now?

Shri Jaipal Singh: Yes; I do

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There might be cogent reasons for the hon. Member to believe like that. If the hon. Member discusses it with him in private, perhaps, the hon. Minister would be more cautious in the future

Shri K. D. Malaviya: May I remind the hon. Member that when I made my speech the other day I said that by the end of this year or a month later I may be able to say whether the Lunj strikings will establish commercial quantities of oil. I did not mention two months

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: May I know whether Government has made a review of the results obtained by the continued failure of the drilling operations of the India Stanvac Co.? What are the reactions of Government on that?

Shri K D. Malaviya: This failure of the Stanvac Co. in striking oil in Bengal is unfortunate, and we wish them success

श्री पद्म देव हिमाचल प्रदेश में जो सुकेत के पास तेल की खोज हो रही थी उसका क्या परिणाम आया है ?

श्री के० दे० मालवीय . वह अभी चल रही है ।

Shri T. E. Vittal Rao: The hon. Minister said that so far Rs. 12 crores have been spent. Could I have the

break-up of the figures as to how much out of this was spent in collaboration with the India-Stanvac Co, for drilling in West Bengal, how much was spent by the Central Government and how much by the Stanvac Co?

Shri K. D. Malaviya. I am sorry, I mentioned a figure of Rs 12 crores. That is exclusive of the amount spent by the Assam Oil Co, and if we take that also into account during the last 3 or 6 years, the amount spent would be roughly Rs 16 to Rs 17 crores. Out of this sum, about Rs 6 crores have been spent by the Ind-Stanvac project in Bengal in which we are 25 per cent shareholders and about Rs 4 to Rs 6 crores in oil exploration in Assam by the Assam Oil Co, completely, but now we are 33-1/3 per cent partners with them and, therefore, adjustments are being made. So far as the Oil and Natural Gas Commission is concerned, it has spent Rs 5 to Rs 6 crores so far in establishment, training, organisation and in exploration etc.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta. May I know whether the drilling of any well has been stopped so far?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: When drilling is completed, it is always stopped.

Shri P. C. Borooah. May I know whether the Assam Oil Co, has got any injunction against the Government of India in regard to oil exploration in Assam?

Shri K. D. Malaviya. Well, recently, the Assam Oil Co challenged the right of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission by a writ of *mandamus* in the Assam High Court. I suppose the case is still going on. I am not aware of the position just now.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: My question was not answered, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member may take some other opportunity.

Pension Cases

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Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:
*683. **Shri D. C. Sharma:**
Shri L. Achaw Singh:
Shri Jhulan Sinha:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No 767 on the 2nd March, 1959 and state

(a) whether the scheme for expeditious disposal of pension cases has been finalised;

(b) what are the main features of the new procedure evolved;

(c) what is the present position regarding arrears, and

(d) when are these arrears likely to be cleared?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha): (a) As explained in the answer to Starred Question No 767, the scheme was in two parts, viz procedural and alteration of certain basic rules relating to pensions. The procedural part has been finalised. The alteration of rules will be considered after the report of the Pay Commission has been received.

(b) A statement showing the main features is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No 127]

(c) As on 1st February, 1959 there were in all 1,973 pension cases of Central Government employees which were pending for over one year after retirement of the employees concerned.

(d) It is not possible to give any definite estimate of the time which it would take to finalise the pension cases in arrears. Efforts are, however, being made to get these cases expedited.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: Will the hon. Minister explain how the Pay Commission is concerned with the expeditious disposal of the cases. My question was regarding the expeditious disposal of the old cases. What is the