

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Geological Survey of the Singareni Coalfield is included in the scheme of Geological Survey of coal bearing areas for increased production of coal during the Third Plan period.

The shortage of drills has stood in the way but with the additional drills which the Geological Survey of India propose to acquire shortly under the coal scheme it is intended to commence drilling during the period 1960-61 to 1962-63.

Shri Nagi Reddy: In answer to a question on August 31, 1959, the House was given to understand that the drilling is in progress. I would like to know whether drilling was in progress at that time and later has been discontinued or whether it has never been in progress at all.

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Sir, oil prospecting by drilling has been done by the company. But, we wanted to have intensive drilling to improve the quantity and quality. For that we wanted to have additional drills. Now, provision for the procurement of additional drills has been made and this intensive prospecting by drilling in order to improve the quality and quantity will be taken very soon.

Shri Nagi Reddy: In view of the fact that it is the only old coal mine in the south, what is the priority given for the drilling operations in that coal mine area in comparison to the country as a whole?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: We have already said that this improvement of the quality is now being programmed to be completed in the Third Five Year Plan with a view to increase the production of coal. Therefore, as soon as drills are available, we shall start drilling.

Shri Nagi Reddy: My question was whether any priority has been given

to coal drilling in that part of the country and what is the priority.

Shri K. D. Malaviya: We propose to increase the production of coal in these mines in the Third Five Year Plan. For that we have got to be ready by improving the quality which we are now going to do.

Oil Survey

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*163. {	Shri Subiman Ghose:
	Shri D. R. Chavan:
	Shri Pangarkar:
	Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
	Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:

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

(a) the number of places in India where drilling operations went on in India in 1959;

(b) to which country drilling parties belong;

(c) whether any oil or petrol has been found in any part of India; and

(d) whether any such find was sufficient for commercial purpose?

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) to (d). A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) The oil exploration programme in India is being carried out by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission, the Assam Oil Company, the Oil India (Private) Limited and under the Indo-Stanvac Petroleum Project. The drilling operations carried out by these organisations in 1959 were,—

I. Oil and Natural Gas Commission:

In (i) Punjab State—at Jawalamukhi and Hoshiarpur;

(ii) Assam State—at Sibsagar (Desangmukh); and

(iii) Bombay State—at Cambay and Ankleshwar.

II. Assam Oil Company:

In their areas in Assam State.

III. Oil India (Private) Limited:

In Assam State—at Naharkatiya, Hugrijan and Moran.

IV. Indo-Stanvac Petroleum Project:

In West Bengal at Memari, Ranaghat and Port Canning.

(b) In the Oil and Natural Gas Commission, the drilling parties are Indian, who work under the guidance of Russian and Rumanian experts. The drilling parties employed by the Standard Vacuum Oil Company consist of American nationals. Drilling in Oil India areas and Assam Oil Company areas is being done by the drilling parties of Assam Oil Company consisting of both Indian and British personnel.

(c) Yes, Sir. In Naharkatiya, Hugrijan and Moran. Oil and gas have also been found by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission in Cambay and only gas in Jawalamukhi.

(d) Oil fields in Naharkatiya, Hugrijan and Moran can be exploited commercially. The potentialities of Cambay and Jawalamukhi areas have yet to be assessed.

Shri Subiman Ghose: From the statement I find that in West Bengal the drilling operations went on in Memari, Ranaghat and Port Canning. May I know whether the drilling operations have been abandoned or are still continuing there?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: No, Sir; the drilling operations in West Bengal have not been abandoned. The last hole which was being drilled was in Port Canning and these operations are still going on, according to my information about a few days back. After the Port Canning trial is completed, there is another hole in programme; and we shall go on drilling in West Bengal basin at least till the month of June. After that, an assessment of the situation will be made.

Shri Subiman Ghose: What about Memari and Ranaghat?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: There also the drills have been found abortive.

Shri Aurobindo Ghosal: May I know whether the Government of West Germany and the French Institute of Petroleum approached the Government to participate in the exploration of oil?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I do not think there was any specific proposal from the French Petroleum Institute for participation in oil exploration. But, there were certain proposals for collaboration for training and supply of equipment from the French authorities and the French companies also.

Shri C. B. Patabhi Raman: May I know at what stage oil exploration in the Cauvery basin is?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: We have done some geological survey of the suspected oil-bearing areas of the Cauvery basin and have also done some gravimetric work. As soon as some seismic instruments are available to us—which are going to be available in the near future—we shall do some seismic work more and then decide about drilling operations.

Shri Jadhav: May I know what are the prospects of oil finding in Ankleshwar?

Mr. Speaker: A separate question may be put. This is a general question.

Shri Jadhav: Sir, in the statement this is included in the drilling operations conducted in 1959. I have, therefore, asked the question.

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Our first deep drill in Ankleshwar area is going to start tomorrow or the day after—within 2 or 3 days. Only after the drilling is completed and the test operations are finished can some assessment be made.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: May I know why in the Indo-Stanvac project Indians are not being employed in the

drilling parties while they are being employed in the drilling parties in other projects?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: The drilling programme of the Indo-Stanvac Project is being undertaken by the contractors appointed by the Stanvac and these contractors bring their own machines and men from abroad. In order to finish the work quickly, within the schedule, they have their own programmes of selection of men, etc.

Iron Ore in Andhra Pradesh

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*164. { **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:**
Shri S. A. Mehdi:

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to exploit the iron ore deposits in Krishna and Guntur districts of Andhra; and

(b) if so, the details of the same?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha): (a) There is a proposal to exploit certain iron ore areas of Krishna District by the State Government departmentally. As regards Guntur District, there is no proposal to exploit the iron ore deposits in the area.

(b) The scheme for departmental working of iron ore deposits in Krishna District is under examination of the State Government and no details have been worked.

डा० राम सुभग सिंह : क्या इन सब क्षेत्रों का विस्तृत सर्वेक्षण हुआ है ? और यदि हुआ है तो वहां कितना कच्चा लोहा मिलने का अनुमान है ?

श्री गजेन्द्र प्रसाद सिन्हा : जिम्नालाजीकल सर्वे आफ इंडिया की तरफ से छानबीन तो चारों तरफ हुई है, लेकिन इन सारी जगहों पर कितना लोहा मिलने का अनुमान है इसके लिये भ्रमण नोटिस चाहिये ।

Shri Heda: May I know why the exploitation of iron ore in Kistna and Guntur districts is left to the departmental work by the Andhra Pradesh Government?

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: The Andhra Pradesh Government wanted to exploit for themselves and naturally the exploitation was left in their hands.

Shri Heda: May I know whether the low grading of the iron ore or the high grading of iron ore has got anything to do with this scheme?

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: There is no doubt that the iron ore deposit in that area is not of a very high grade but if the State Government think it profitable to exploit it, there cannot be any objection.

Closure of Giridih Pits

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*165. { **Shri Tangamani:**
Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:

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

(a) whether the National Coal Development Corporation has decided to close down their pits in Giridih; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha): (a) No. The Corporation are naturally concerned about the economics of continuing these pits in production. The matter is now engaging the attention of Government, and a decision will be taken shortly.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Tangamani: In view of the fact that the coal that is obtained in these mines is the best metallurgical coal may I know whether the Government will take a firm decision about continuing this?

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: The matter is under the consideration of the Government.