

Dr. P. Subbarayan: The brochure is already out and I think it has been well accepted by the rest of the world. Therefore, this is really a suggestion for action which I will consider.

Mr. Speaker: The Question Hour is over.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS

Indians in Addis Ababa

S.N. Q. 8. Shri A. M. Tariq: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to ensure the safety of Indians in Addis Ababa where rioting has taken place even in streets; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) No.

(b) The latest telegram we have received from the Embassy reports that all Indians are safe. A coup d'etat was staged in Addis Ababa on 14th December, by the Emperor's Bodyguard, during the Emperor's absence in Brazil. The question of our taking any special steps to ensure the safety of Indians can hardly arise in the circumstances. Our Diplomatic Mission always has the responsibility to do every thing possible towards this end.

Shri A. M. Tariq: May I know if the Ministry of External Affairs have received any report from our representative as to how it happened there and may I also draw the attention of the Prime Minister . . .

Mr. Speaker: Nothing happened. So far as the Indians are concerned, nothing happened.

Shri A. M. Tariq: About the whole . . .

Mr. Speaker: I am not going to allow that question. The hon. Member only wanted to know if our Indians are safe; and the hon. Prime Minister has said, they are absolutely safe.

Shri A. M. Tariq: I would like to know whether the Ministry of External Affairs were posted with the events in Addis Ababa and whether our Ministry has received any report about the happenings there.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: We have received brief telegraphic reports.

Shri Raghunath Singh: May I know the number of Indian nationals and people of Indian origin at present in Abyssinia?

Mr. Speaker: All that does not arise. Every Indian is safe.

Utilisation of Natural gas from Naharkatiya Oil Fields

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S.N.Q. 9. { **Shri Goray:**
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that, even after utilising the associated gas from the Naharkatiya Oil Fields, about 16 million cubic feet of it will have to be flared;

(b) whether Government propose to consider a change in their policy of not allowing private sector to put the gas to use in the form of manufacturing petro-chemical products; and

(c) what is the amount of non-associated gas that can be utilised but will have to remain unutilised till the public sector is in a position to utilise it?

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) Approximately 38 million cubic feet per day of natural gas will be available for industrial and domestic consumption. The Expert Committee set up to recommend projects for the utilisation of the Naharkatiya natural gas has so far suggested 5 projects which will consume approximately 30.8 million SCFD of natural gas. Other projects

based on natural gas are under consideration. The exact quantity of natural gas which will ultimately be required by each project will be known after the detailed project reports have been obtained. Under these circumstances, it is not possible to say, at this stage, whether a flaring of natural gas, if any, will take place.

(b) The private sector is being associated with the setting up of petrochemical projects consistent with the best interests of the State.

(c) Firm estimates of the availability of non-associated gas will be available after the development of the oil fields. The Expert Committee will also consider schemes for the utilisation of non-associated gas. It would be premature to say, at this stage, whether any natural gas would remain unutilised.

Shri Goray: May I know whether Government will allow even the private sector to participate in the utilisation of gas if they come to know that this gas will have to be flared up or wasted?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: As I said, a substantial portion of this gas is already under project studies and the Government of Assam are prepared to utilise that gas. Some portion of the natural gas is to be handed over to the private sector also. And, in this connection, some decisions have already been taken by the Commerce and Industry Ministry of the Government of India and, perhaps, soon Government will be indicating that.

Shri Goray: Is it not a fact that the Assam Government had prepared a scheme by which full utilisation of this gas would have been achieved and that scheme was supported by the Planning Commission as well as the Commerce and Industry but the Ministry to which the hon. Minister belongs turned it down?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: It is not a fact that some schemes were produced by the Assam Government which had the full utilisation of the natural gas

under the State Government. But it is a fact that as we considered it premature to give our concurrence to all the schemes that were produced by the Assam Government, we asked them for time to consider the schemes. They have now been considered and we are still of opinion that a major policy decision has to be adopted, so that the quantity of gas that is there can be distributed between the public sector and the private sector.

Shri Goray: Am I to understand that all steps will be taken to see that the gas which is available and which can be utilised will not be allowed to flare up?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Some gas could flare up but we are taking all precautions to see that gas is not wasted.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know whether the Government will allow private sector to set up industries to utilise this extra natural gas?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I have already stated that there are certain proposals in the private sector which are under examination and which have been sanctioned by the Government of India.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: As the finalisation of the project suggested by the Government of Assam has taken so much time, may I know whether even these projects will be to utilise the gas only after two years after the gas becomes available and if so, what is the Government going to do about the gas as soon as the Barauni refinery goes into production?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: All these programmes were taken into consideration and I do not think there will be any wastage of gas on account of the decisions of the Government of India.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: In view of the fact that gas is not available and there is still some time left, what is the timetable whereby the public sector will be utilising this gas

also? I also want to know whether the bulk of it will be used by the public sector or by the private sector.

Shri K. D. Malaviya: The bulk will be used by the public sector.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know whether any assessment of the associated and also of the non-associated gas there has been made?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Estimates have been indicated by the Assam Oil Company: they are not final.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: May I know if the petro-chemical industry going to be set up has received a licence from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and if so whether there is any liaison between the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and also why this licence was given when it is not in the Government policy to allow this industry in the private sector?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: The licence, presumably I speak subject to correction has been issued by the Commerce and Industry Ministry but the whole matter was considered by both the Ministries and there was full co-ordination so far as the decisions were concerned.

Shri Basumatari: May I know the date by which the project is likely to be set up?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I am not at all in a position to specify the date or month when these projects will be started.

Shri Hem Barua: In view of the fact that the hon. Minister has said that the policy matter is yet to be decided while replying to the question about the Assam Government's preparing the plans for utilisation of the gas in the public sector, may I know whether these schemes were submitted by the Government of Assam and were accepted by the

Planning Commission also and if so why is it that the hon. Minister says that the policy matter is yet to be decided? In what respect is it to be decided after a statement has been made? Gas is ready for utilisation so far as Assam is concerned.

Shri K. D. Malaviya: There are larger areas from which natural gas, associated and non-associated gas are likely to be produced. In the broad perspective, we will have to consider as to which pattern of division of work has to be entrusted to the private sector and to the public sector.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: In view of the fact that this industry is an important industry reserved to the public sector, what attempt was made to decide whether the whole of it could not be utilised by the public sector and after what attempt was it decided to hand it over to the private sector?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: We have given fullest consideration to the entire problems involved in dividing the petro-chemical industry between the public and the private sectors. As and when the gas is ready for utilisation, such a division will be effected.

Shri Ranga: Am I to understand that while all these discussions are going on and the Government is taking time to evolve a policy and to come to a decision as between this sector and that sector, all this gas would not be wasted?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: No, Sir; it will not be wasted.

Shri Goray: May I know whether the ENI of Italy who are likely to co-operate in exploration and utilisation of oil in a big way will be associated with this venture?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: It is premature to say whether we can come to some sort of an understanding with any foreign partner.