

of March 11, 1961. The State Government have informed that the Governor of Orissa did not address any press conference at Cuttack on the 10th March or give any side-lights on the budget. On his return to Bhubaneswar from Delhi, some journalists asked him if the Pay Committee's recommendations were going to be put in cold storage and whether the Plan would be cut down with a view to reducing the deficit. The Governor told them that their information was not correct, and added that it was not unlikely that the present deficit which was approximately 25 per cent. of the receipts may have to be reduced.

Price Agreement with Oil Companies

- *1343. { Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
Shrimati Mafta Ahmed:
Shri Hem Barua:
Shri Ramanathan Chettiar:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the ad hoc price agreement between the Union Government and the major oil companies has been extended until the 30th June, 1961; and

(b) if so, when Oil Prices Committee is likely to prescribe an alternative long-term formula for fixation of prices of petroleum products?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Oil Price Enquiry Committee set up by Government in August, 1960 was to have submitted their Report by 31-12-1960; but, due to the volume of the work involved, it is now expected that the Committee will not be able to submit their Report before 31-5-1961, regarding the principles and elements according to which prices of petroleum products should be determined.

झावनी अधिनियम

*१३४४. श्री भक्त बर्वाल: क्या प्रतिरक्षा मंत्री १५ दिसम्बर, १९६० के अतारंकित प्रश्न संख्या १८५६ के उत्तर के संबंध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) झावनी अधिनियम में संशोधन करने के कार्य में अब तक क्या प्रगति हुई है ; और

(ख) इस कार्य में इतनी देरी होने का क्या कारण है ?

प्रतिरक्षा उपमंत्री (सरदार मजीठिया)

(क) विधेयक के २६२ अनुभागों में से २६७ तक के संशोधनों का निरीक्षण सम्पूर्ण हो चुका है ।

(ख) इस मामले में कोई ऐसा विलम्ब नहीं हुआ जिसे दूर किया जा सकता हो । महत्वपूर्ण और उलझनों में भरे इन भारी संशोधनों के कारण नवीनतम नागरिक नियमों की समान धाराओं का ब्याल रखने हुए इन का मध्यम निरीक्षण आवश्यक है ।

Public Sector Refineries

- *1345. { Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri Morarka:
Shri Nathwani:
Shri Damani:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1003 on the 20th December, 1960 and state:

(a) whether the cost estimates in respect of the Nunmati and Barauni refineries have since been finalised;

(b) if so, the main features thereof with particular reference to the original ones;

(c) whether the increase in the cost of foreign exchange has also been included in the revised estimates; and

(d) if so, the extent of the increase and how it is proposed to be met?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) Not yet.

(b), (c) and (d). Do not arise.

Foreign Assistance for Oil Exploration

*1346. { Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri Bhakt Darshan:
Shri Kodiyar:
Shri Ajit Singh Sarhad:
Shri Indrajit Gupta:
Shri Narayanankutty Menon
Shri Pangarkar:
Shri Hem Barua:
Shri Raghunath Singh:
Sardar Iqbal Singh:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 322 on the 21st November, 1960 and state:

(a) how far negotiations with foreign interests regarding exploration and exploitation of oil in our country have progressed; and

(b) with what results?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) and (b). The proposals received from the various oil companies are still under negotiation.

National Research Fellowship

*1347. **Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:** Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Research Fellowship has been instituted by the Government; and

(b) if so, what is the criterion on the basis of which it is awarded?

The Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Shri Humayun

Kabir): (a) Yes, Sir. The National Research Fellowships Scheme has been in operation since 1955-56.

(b) The Fellowships are awarded for scientific research of post-doctoral standard or for post-graduate research in engineering. Applicants must possess Doctorate degree in science or Master's degree in engineering.

Profit on Sale of Iron and Steel

*1348. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) what is the annual profit earned by Government on iron and steel;

(b) whether Government contemplate to enforce some limit on percentage of profit; and

(c) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken in the direction?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) to (c). The Government is not a dealer in iron and steel. As such the question of a profit does not arise. As the hon. Member is aware, producers of iron and steel sell at prices fixed by Government. They retain only the retention prices. The retention prices are fixed after enquiry and include only a fair margin of profit. The selling prices are higher than the retention prices. The difference between the two is credited to the Iron & Steel Equalisation Fund which is part of the Consolidated Fund of India.

700-Litre Bucket Wheel Excavator

*1349. **Shri Narasimhan:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether the trial working of the second 700-litre bucket wheel excavator has been started; and

(b) if so, its performance?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) and (b). Not yet, but the trial runs are expected to commence during this very month.