

(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.