

reply given to Starred Question No. 174 on the 9th August, 1961 and state:

(a) whether any information has since been received from the Government of Pakistan for obtaining Sui Gas from that country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the Government of India's reaction thereto?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Steel, mines and Fuel (Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha): (a). No, Sir.

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

Shri Hem Barua: During April, 1961 there were exploratory talks with the Pakistan delegation on the issue of Sui gas. May I know whether the industrial needs of Pakistan, because the Pakistan economy is also a developing economy, as also the political relations between the two countries at present were also discussed during these talks?

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

Mr. Speaker: How is the hon. Minister of Oil concerned with those talks? Shri Sarhadi.

Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi: Could it be taken that the negotiations have broken down?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: For all practical purposes it seems that they are not responding now to our desire of resuming negotiations. This is all that I can say.

Shri Hem Barua: In view of the fact that this gas is available adjacent to our border, may I know whether attempts have been made to discover similar gas in our areas?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: We are already aware that geologically perhaps it is possible to find some gas and oil on our side. Therefore we are taking steps to make our own preparations in this connection and try to search gas and oil.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: May I know if some French experts have visited Jaisalmer area and in view of their report and our prospects of finding our own gas in Jaisalmer area, may I know if we are at all interested in Sui gas now?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: There is no report from the French side with regard to possibilities on this side. We have our own assessment made. We know about it. The French party will come and assist us if we require their assistance. Even if we discover some gas, there may still perhaps be scope for consuming gas from this side if Pakistan is desirous of selling it to us.

Air Force College, Hyderabad

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*310. { **Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:**
Shri P. G. Deb:
Shri Arjun Singh Bhaduria
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Air Force College at Hyderabad is being established;

(b) if so, how much amount has been sanctioned for the same; and

(c) other details of the scheme?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): (a) A proposal for this purpose has been accepted and is being examined.

(b) No amount has been sanctioned so far.

(c) Details of the scheme are being worked out.

Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi: May I know whether there is any proposal under consideration to have an Air Force College somewhere else also besides Hyderabad?

Shri Krishna Menon: No, Sir. Not of this type.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether this college will coordinate the various training centres which we

have in Agra, Hyderabad and other places?

Shri Krishna Menon: No. It is not a central college. It is a Flying college.

Shri M. R. Krishna: May I know whether any of the establishments now located in Begumpet and Hakimpet and the equipment will be shifted to this college?

Shri Krishna Menon: No. These two establishments will be used along with this because they take pupil in the advanced stages of flying.

Shri M. R. Krishna: May I know whether the land for constructing the building for this college has already been acquired from the Government of Andhra Pradesh?

Shri Krishna Menon: It is not customary to give information about acquisition of land.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: May I know whether the establishment of this college at Hyderabad will in any way affect the training centre at Jodhpur?

Shri Krishna Menon: It is not in the public interest to answer that question.

Shri Hem Barua: On a point of order, Sir, what is the difference between 'in the public interest' and 'it is not customary'? How is the one distinguished from the other?

Mr. Speaker: Public interest is distinct from customary.

Shri Hem Barua: When it is in the public interest, we can understand. When it is said it is not customary to give information, we do not understand it. This is information.

Mr. Speaker: By customary, I understand, of their own accord, they won't give information. But, if information is asked on the floor of the House, no hon. Minister can withhold it on the ground that it is not customary, but only in public interest.

Therefore, what is customary or not must be left to the House to decide or to me to decide. If the hon. Minister feels that it is not in the public interest he may say so. I leave it to him to decide.

Shri Krishna Menon: The only reason why I used the word customary was that it is not in the same classification as security interest. The reason why information about land acquisition is not given is because, difficulties in land acquisition will arise. If you want the information to be given, I will give.

Mr. Speaker: I can understand difficulties in the matter of negotiations that the prices will shoot up and so on. When it has been finalised, we would like to have information.

Shri Krishna Menon: The question was in the state of negotiation and it is still in the state of negotiation. It is not in the same category as security interest.

Mr. Speaker: He may say so.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: An assurance was given on the floor of the House that the Air Force training centre at Jodhpur will not at all be affected by any developments which are being carried on at Hyderabad. May I know if that assurance stands or if there had been any reasons to depart from it?

Shri Krishna Menon: I am sorry, I cannot give any more information in the present circumstances.

Reorganisation of Geological Survey of India and Indian Bureau of Mines

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*311. { **Shri D. C. Sharma:**
Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1272 on the 7th September, 1961 and state:

(a) the details of the progress made towards the reorganisation of the