

of ballot boxes were issued to these eleven constituencies.

श्री अ० म० तारिक : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह दुर्घटना है कि वजीर आजम जम्मू और काश्मीर ने एलेक्शन कमिशन से यह दुर्घटना की थी कि यह बैलट बाक्सेज बदले जायें और चूँकि टाइम नहीं था इसलिए बैलट बाक्सेज नहीं बदले गये ।

(میں یہ جاننا چاہتا ہوں کہ کیا یہ درست ہے کہ وزیر اعظم جموں اور کشمیر نے ایلیکشن کمیشن سے یہ درخواست کی تھی کہ یہ بیلٹ یا کسٹمز بدلے جائیں اور چونکہ ٹائم نہیں تھا اس لئے بیلٹ یا کسٹمز نہیں بدلے گئے۔)

श्री अ० क० सेन : यह मुझे नहीं मालूम है ।

Shri C. K. Bhattacharya: May I know whether these ballot boxes are the same which were issued in the 1957 elections?

Shri A. K. Sen: There were considerable changes brought out to the ballot boxes which were issued this time so as to ensure against being tampered with in various ways. I cannot say offhand what were the changes introduced, but they were all designed to ensure perfect safety for the ballot boxes.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: May I know whether, before the design of these ballot boxes was finalised they were displayed before all the political parties and their reaction obtained?

Shri A. K. Sen: I cannot say offhand, but I presume that they were shown to the parties.

Mr. Speaker: Were not the agents present?

Shri Bal Raj Madhok: The agents were driven out, they were not allowed to remain there.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: There was no space for the agents there to sit.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know when this instruction about covering the ballot boxes with gunny bags reached the presiding officers? Because, there was hardly any ballot box which was covered thus in West Bengal.

Shri A. K. Sen: Well, this is for Jammu and Kashmir.

An Hon. Member: No, for all over India.

Mr. Speaker: Very well, there are no complaints.

Shri A. K. Sen: If the question is about West Bengal I would require separate notice.

Royalty on Assam Oil

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Royalty issue between the Assam Government and the Centre has resulted in suspension of oil exploration by Oil India Limited and threatens to upset the Third Five Year Plan objectives; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in the matter?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) There was no suspension of oil exploration by Oil India Limited in areas where they already hold leases. Commencement of exploration in a new area was however delayed.

(b) The Government of Assam have been requested to grant exploration licences to Oil India Limited or permit surveys in the new area pending settlement of the difference over the question of royalty.

Shri D. C. Sharma: What action have the Government of Assam taken so far as the exploration of new areas is concerned? How far have the negotiations progressed?

Sardar Swaran Singh: There are no negotiations as such with regard to the exploration of new areas. What is pending is the question of the grant of prospecting licence with regard to an area with respect to which an agreement has already been entered into between the Government of India and Oil India Limited. The Assam Government has not yet issued that licence, as they have raised the question as regards the rates of royalty. This question is under negotiation, and as soon as it is settled, and maybe even before the question of royalty is settled, the Assam Government may issue the necessary lease.

Dr. Samantsinhar: Is there any disparity in the rates while fixing the royalty?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I hope the hon. Member realises that Assam is today the only State wherefrom we are producing oil in any commercial quantity. The only other State is Gujarat, and whatever are the normal rates of royalty will, I presume, be applicable to all parts of India.

Shri P. C. Borooah: What is the amount of royalty asked for by the Assam Government and what is the amount of royalty that Oil India is prepared to pay?

Sardar Swaran Singh: It is not calculated in that form, as I had attempted to explain while answering another question. A more logical way of fixing the well-head value has been arrived at as a result of the agreement. If I may add, that is in the interests of the country; because originally the well-head price was the rice that prevailed in other parts of the world; now the basic point is that the market value will be the value at the point where it is delivered to the refinery and well-head value is the value at the refinery minus the cost of transportation. So at that point the actual quantum of royalty is affected. But although the rate of royalty may be reduced slightly, as large quantities are going to be mined the actual return to the Government of Assam would be much higher.

Shri Hem Barua: In view of the fact that this British-owned Assam Oil Company is heaping a rich harvest of profits, why is it that this issue of royalty could not be settled in favour of the State Government of Assam as demanded by it because of the financial strain it is experiencing; and pending this, may I know whether Government propose to make any *ad hoc* payment to the Government of Assam?

Sardar Swaran Singh: The hon. Member, although he belongs to the State of Assam and, I presume, has been giving some thought to these matters, is confusing between the Assam Oil Company and Oil India Limited. This question does not relate to the Assam Oil Company; it relates to the lease which is the subject-matter of agreement between the new Company, that is Oil India Limited, and the Government of India and the Assam Government. And Oil India is a Company in which the Government of India holds 50 per cent shares. I think what he is trying to ask is about certain other areas which are held by the Assam Oil Company separately. If a separate question is tabled and if the hon. Member has any doubts with regard to the interpretation of the agreements entered into between the Assam Oil Company and the Assam Government, the relevant information can be collected.

Shri Hem Barua: May I clarify my position, Sir? I also know the difference between Oil India Ltd. and the Government of Assam and the interests of the Indian Government so far as oil in Assam is concerned. The Assam Oil Co., is also a party in creating the deadlock. Therefore I have referred to...

Mr. Speaker: No, no. I am not going to allow this question. All oil in Assam is not the subject matter of this question. The question relates only to the royalty that Oil India Ltd. has to pay.

Shri Hem Barua: The next part of my question is whether the Govern-

ment will make any *ad hoc* payment....

Mr. Speaker: I am not going to allow.

Shri P. C. Borooh: May I know if it is a fact that the well head price of crude produced in the Digboai oil-fields is Rs. 70 per metric ton and that fixed for the Oil India Limited is Rs. 48?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I cannot either confirm or contradict those figures because I have not got the figures with me at all.

Prohibition

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*42. { **Shri Agadi:**
Dr. Samantsinhar:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 719 on the 8th December, 1961 and state:

(a) whether any proposals have been received from the State Governments on the phased programme of prohibition in their respective States;

(b) if so, the details and the anticipated loss of revenues, State-wise;

(c) whether the matter of Central assistance asked for by the Government of Mysore for extended loss of revenue on prohibition from July, 1961 to Mysore Taluk (including the City) and District of Mandya has been decided; and

(d) if so, the amount of subsidy granted?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) No; except in the case of Union Territories of Delhi and Tripura. The Phased Programmes received from these territories are under consideration.

(b) These details can be worked out only after the phased programmes have been received.

(c) and (d). The matter is under consideration.

Dr. Samantsinhar: Is there any proposal to give more grants to the States on this account?

Shri Datar: Already the Government of India have offered them half the amount of the loss.

Dr. Samantsinhar: Is there any proposal to increase that half?

Shri Datar: Half the amount of the loss that they are likely to incur on account of loss in excise revenue.

Mr. Speaker: He wants to know whether there is a proposal to increase the subsidy.

Shri Datar: It is too early; that proposal itself has still to be implemented.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: Which have been the State Governments who have agreed to the proposal of the Central Government to take half of the loss of revenue in case they introduce full prohibition in the States?

Shri Datar: This matter was communicated to the State Governments. Thereafter, there was a meeting of the Central Prohibition Committee. In that meeting, the question of the phased programme of total prohibition in the Third Five Year Plan was agreed in principle and the State Governments were asked to work out a phased programme. This question does not arise at this stage.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: May we know what is the phased programme?

Shri Datar: The phased programme is to bring about total prohibition in the course of the period of the Third Five Year Plan.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: All over the country?

Shri Datar: All over the country.

Shri Tyagi: May I know whether the Government have received any report whether the habit of drinking has ceased in the prohibited areas or at least substantially diminished or not? Have any efforts been made to-