

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): Yes Sir.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: May I know if Government is satisfied that this agreement does not inhibit our economic relationships with countries not considered desirable by the United States?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: The Government considers this agreement as quite reasonable because it is just only with a desire to avoid any duplication of effort that we give information regarding technical assistance from other countries.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Has it come to the notice of Government that Point Four experts have given evidence in camera to Congressional Committee of the United States and that presumably they were engaged in activities other than technical assistance in our country?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): I may say that there is no question of Government's activity being inhibited in any way in getting aid or co-operation from other countries. So far as the hon. Member's last question is concerned, they have given evidence in camera but we do not know what evidence they have given.

मध्य भारत का अनुदान

*७६६. श्री डामर : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) मध्य भारत सरकार को, राज्य की विकास योजनाओं के हेतु, १९५४-५५ के लिये कितनी धन राशि सहायक अनुदान के रूप में मंजूर की गई है, और

(ख) अब तक कितनी राशि दी जा चुकी है ?

वित्त मंत्री के सहायक (श्री बी० आर० भगत) : (क) और (ख). इस सम्बन्ध में तथ्य और आंकड़ें एकत्रित किये जा रहे हैं और ये सदन में प्रस्तुत किये जायेंगे।

श्री डामर : यह आंकड़ें कब तक प्राप्त हो जाएंगे ?

श्री बी० आर० भगत : इसके बारे में अभी तक कुछ नहीं कहा जा सकता।

OIL IN ASSAM

*767. **Shri C. R. Narasimhan:** Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rich oil fields have been discovered recently in Assam;

(b) whether an intensive search for similar fields elsewhere is being carried on;

(c) how far foreign expert advice is sought and utilized in this respect; and

(d) what are the steps contemplated to remove the dependency on foreign technical and expert knowledge?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Kanungo): (a) to (d). A statement giving the desired information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 40].

Shri C. R. Narasimhan: It is stated that the Government of India have entered into an agreement with the Standard Vacuum Oil Company. Was any agreement entered into with the Assam Oil Company for the Assam area?

Shri Kanungo: They are prospecting in the Assam area.

Shri C. R. Narasimhan: On what terms?

Shri Kanungo: I require notice.

Shri Debeswar Sarmah: Are arrangements being made to extend the Digboi plant for refining the newly found oil?

Shri Kanungo: The newly found oil is not so sure.

Shri C. R. Narasimhan: Is there any definite plan or project to supplement mineral oil resources with synthetic petrol from low grade coal or is it only in research stage?