

the issue of bonus is not decided by the 15th of January they will take strike ballot, and if so, what is the Government doing about it?

Shri Satish Chandra: The Union has been pressing for the grant of a bonus, but there are many industrial undertakings and a decision on this subject cannot be taken only in respect of the Sindri factory. The matter is being processed and it is at an inter-ministerial stage. We are trying to expedite a decision.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: May I know for how long this matter has been under consideration and if it has been under consideration for a long time whether it is ever thought to complete the consideration at all?

Shri Satish Chandra: As I said, all the employing ministries which administer these undertakings have to consider the issue. There was an inter-ministerial meeting recently and the Government hope to arrive at a decision in a short time.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: Will there be any attempt made to arrive at a decision before the strike ballot is taken or the strike ballot will be permitted to be taken and consideration will be postponed to a later date?

Shri Satish Chandra: Strike is not a proper method for getting quick decisions in such matters.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: Is it not a fact . . .

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Indo-Pakistan Relations

S. N. Q. No. 6. Shri Gidwani: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to an item of news published in the *Times of India*, dated the 17th December, 1955, to the effect that Pakistan which has advanced a claim on a small Bet on the Indo-Pakistan border adjoining Kutch, is reported to have started construction of a track linking Chhad with Pakistan; and

(b) if so, what are the facts about the matter?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) and (b). Government have seen the Press report referred to. Chhad Bet is an area of about 35 sq. miles of pasture land in the Great Rann of Kutch, close to the Indo-Pakistan border. Most of this border is at present undemarcated and for some time the Pakistan Government have been advancing a claim to the northern portion

of the Great Rann. This claim is absolutely baseless and has been strongly rebutted by us in correspondence with the Pakistan Government.

The Government of India have received reports that Pakistani authorities have been trespassing across the border into the Great Rann and instigating the graziers on the Chhad Bet not to pay grazing fees to the Kutch authorities but to Pakistan. There is also a report that a track capable of taking motor trucks has been made from the border towards the Chhad Bet.

These activities constitute violation of the Indo-Pakistan border and trespass into Indian territory. The Government of India do not recognise the Pakistan Government's claims in this area and will take all necessary measures to preserve the integrity of Indian territory.

Shri Gidwani: May I know whether any action has been taken in the matter?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Our border police have been alerted about it.

Shri Joachim Alva: The hon. Minister remembers the visit paid by the then Prime Minister of Pakistan to India—the late Mr. Liaqat Ali Khan—during which intensive talks took place between both the Prime Ministers. May I know whether this area was invaded or claimed by Pakistan either before or after those talks?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): When the original claim by Pakistan was made, I do not remember. My colleague tells me that it was in 1950. But certainly it has never been made in the course of any talks previously.

Shri Kamath: May I know whether violations of the Indo-Pakistan border have tended to increase in frequency since the recent change in Pakistan?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not think so.

Oil Finds in Saurashtra and Rajasthan

S. N. Q. No. 7. Dr. J. N. Parekh: Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) whether any indication of oil finds has been obtained in Saurashtra;

(b) the names of places in Saurashtra and Rajasthan, where survey has been conducted to locate oil;

(c) whether any experimental drilling is proposed to be undertaken there;

(d) if so, when; and

(e) whether any foreign expert advice has been sought in the matter?

The Minister of Natural Resources (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) No, Sir; not yet, although some indication of gas has been found in Gogha Area of Bombay State.

(b) About 10,000 sq. miles of area forming parts of Saurashtra and Gujerat have been surveyed by magnetic method. Portions of this area near Cambay and Gogha have been surveyed by gravity method. Also some seismic investigation have been done at Gogha and currently seismic work is in progress near Cambay.

In Rajasthan gravity and magnetic surveys are being carried out in the desert tracts of Jaisalmer area.

(c) and (d), Yes, Sir. Drilling is proposed to be taken up as soon as possible during 1956-57 in the Cambay area and perhaps at a later stage in Jaisalmer, if the geophysical results indicate the probability of finding suitable structures.

(e) No, not in any specific way.

Dr. J. N. Parekh: May I know if other areas, particularly the sea-coast areas, in Saurashtra are proposed to be surveyed?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I have mentioned the areas which are under survey, and at present, we do not propose to add to our existing programme.

Dr. J. N. Parekh: What is going to be the likely cost of experimental drilling and may I know whether the Planning Commission and the Government are committed to that experiment?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: The results in Gogha area appear to be encouraging to us so much so that we want to include in our programme the question of drilling in the next year. If we succeed in purchasing the drills soon, we propose to start drilling in Gogha and some other areas as soon as possible.

Shri Kasliwal: How much money has been spent by Government both in Saurashtra and Rajasthan on oil exploration up to now?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I have not got the details in regard to the expenditure incurred so far with me just now.

Shri M. I. Dwivedi: May I know if the hon. Minister while on a tour of the USSR was given an offer for the purchase of some equipment for the purpose of exploring oil in Saurashtra and other places, and whether Government have considered to purchase that equipment or any other equipment?

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Shri K. D. Malaviya: It is also a question which is under the examination of Government

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS Indian Missions Abroad

*1165. **Shri Shree Narayan Das:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Advisory Committee set up under the Chairmanship of the Minister of Health to advise on the standardisation and supply of furniture, furnishings, objects of arts etc., for Indian Missions abroad has finished its work;

(b) if so, the important features of the suggestions and recommendations made; and

(c) the extent to which such suggestions and recommendations have been accepted and given effect to so far?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) to (c). The advisory committee made certain recommendations on the question of supply of furnishings for residences of Heads of Indian Missions abroad. The recommendations mainly relate to standardisation of various items like crockery, cutlery, glass ware, linen, carpets, etc. These recommendations are at present under consideration.

Second Five Year Plan

*1166. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state the general consideration determining the amount to be granted by the Centre to the various States, for the States' Second Five Year Plans?

Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): In determining the outlay on the Second Five Year Plans of States, the Planning Commission has broadly taken into account the population, area and the financial and other resources of State Governments. The outlay on the Second Plan is also, to some extent, governed by the tempo of Expenditure under the First Plan. According to the existing pattern of Central assistance, a large number of programmes included in the Second Five Year Plans of State Governments will receive financial assistance from the centre either in the form of loans or grants, and loans will be given for important productive schemes such as under Irrigation and Power.

Salt

*1167. **Shri Jhulan Staha:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in certain parts of the country control on the price of salt is still in force; and