

(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