

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad : In case this exploration discloses that there is enough gas, may I know whether Government have got any plan to capture and utilise it for our purposes?

Shri K. D. Malaviya : Unfortunately, the information so far collected by us goes to show that they are not of much economic importance, except at one place where it is of considerable significance. We are pursuing our investigation at that specific place i.e. Gogha.

Religious Teachers

*78. **Shri Dabhi :** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 2364 on the 21st May, 1956 and state :

(a) whether Government propose to remove the disparity in the rates of pay and allowances paid to *Padres* and those paid to religious teachers belonging to other religions; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia) : (a) The question whether the disparity in the rates of pay of *Padres* and religious teachers belonging to other denominations should be removed is under the active consideration of the Government of India. There is no disparity in the rates of allowances.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Dabhi : What is the sort of disparity that is to be removed? The hon. Minister has said that there is no disparity.

Sardar Majithia : I said that there is no disparity in the allowances. There is disparity in pay. Removal of that is under the consideration of Government.

Shri Dabhi : May I know what was the necessity for employing these religious teachers?

Mr. Deputy Speaker : That is a different question altogether.

Shri T. S. A. Chettiar : May I know what is the disparity?

Sardar Majithia : The *Padres* get Rs. 100 per month whereas these religious teachers get, up to 10 years' service Rs. 35 per month, after 10 years Rs. 40 and after 20 years Rs. 45. In addition to this they get certain other allowances; for instance they get free quarters etc.

Shri T. S. A. Chettiar : May I know what is the difficulty in equalising these allowances and why it should take so much time?

Sardar Majithia : As I said, this question is engaging the attention of Government and the disparity is between Rs.

35 and Rs. 100. I should like here to add that the present incumbents, so far as those getting higher pay are concerned will not be affected by any changes that Government may make; but, we will see that this disparity is removed.

Shri N. M. Lingam : Since we have no religious teaching even in schools and colleges, may we know the need for having such teachers in the Defence Department?

Mr. Deputy Speaker : It does not arise out of this question.

Purchase of Jeeps

*80. **Shri Kamath :** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 2663-A on the 29th May, 1956 and state:

(a) the names of the four defendants connected with the purchase of Jeeps;

(b) whether writs have been served on all of them; and

(c) the stage at which the matter rests?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia) : (a) and (b). Writs have been taken out and served on three defendants namely,

(1) James Marshall Cornwall and Partners Ltd.

(2) General Sir James Marshall Cornwall.

(3) S. G. Klein.

The fourth defendant Group Captain F.H.L. Seal has been declared bankrupt and, on the advice of our Counsel in the U.K., his name has been struck off from the list of defendants.

(c) The case is still in its preliminary stage and it will be some time before it will come for hearing in the Court.

Shri Kamath : Is the Government aware that two Englishmen named Mr. Cleminson and Mr. Potter have played not an unimportant role in the first transaction with Antimistant, and, if so, does Government propose to implead them as defendants in this suit?

The Minister of Defence (Dr. Katju) : Government has acted on the advice it has received and the claim can only be put forward against the co-defendants against whom the suit has been brought.

Shri Kamath :

Mr. Deputy Speaker : This need not be answered because the hon. Member asked why these persons could not be made defendants and the hon. Minister replied that they acted on legal advice. There the question ends. We are going