

LOK SABHA DEBATES

1837

LOK SABHA

Thursday, November 26, 1959/ Agra-
haryana 5, 1881 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Conference of Indian and Soviet Oil Experts

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318. { Shrimati Parvathi
 Krishnan;
 Shri Ram Krishan Gupta;
 Shri Nagi Reddy;
 Shri Warrior;
 Shri Hem Raj;
 Shri Vidya Charan
 Shukla;
 Shri Vajpayee;
 Shri N. M. Deb;
 Shri Kodian:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state the results of the ten-day conference of Soviet and Indian Oil Experts which ended in New Delhi on the 1st September, 1959 and the details of main decisions taken?

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): The main decisions arrived at by the Conference are:

- (i) Review and assessment of the work of the Commission showed that in spite of various difficulties faced and limited facilities available, the Commission has been able to achieve notable success in findings gas in Jawalamukhi and oil in Cambay.
- (ii) The organisation of the Commission should be further strengthened with greater

1838

powers for dealing with advance planning, prompt procurement of equipment and spares from abroad.

- (iii) That delivery of equipment from Soviet Union should be expedited by simplifying the procedural formalities.
- (iv) The programmes for the remaining 2 years of the 2nd Five Year Plan and also of the 3rd Five Year Plan were drawn up.

Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan: In item 2 in the statement, it is stated that procurement of equipment and spares from abroad has to be arranged. I would like to know what is meant by abroad and what are the details.

Mr. Speaker: From which countries?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: From wherever we can procure these equipments conveniently to us. For instance, just now, so far as the public sector project is concerned, we are mainly getting equipment from the U.S.S.R. and Rumania and also some equipment recently from the U.S.A.

Shri Nagi Reddy: May I know the amount necessary for the further procurement of equipment and spares in the Second Five Year Plan?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: During the remaining period of the Second Five Year Plan, we have proposed and arranged for the supply of equipment worth about Rs. 4 crores.

Shri Yajnik: May I know whether any discussions took place regarding the setting up of an oil refinery at or near Cambay in order to refine oil that would be found there?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: No, Sir. The question of setting up a refinery was out of the agenda of the conference.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: The statement says that the programme for the remaining two years of the Second Five Year Plan was discussed and a plan drawn up. What are the salient features of this plan drawn up for the remaining period of the Second Plan?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: This conference, I may state, was mainly convened to clarify the technical problems that face us now and also with regard to the difficulties that we are experiencing in the supply of equipment, etc. We still find that the programme that we have envisaged for the remaining part of the Second Plan has certain difficulties so far as equipment and availability of experts are concerned. Both U.S.S.R. and Rumania are finding it somewhat difficult to supply the equipment as and when required. Our main difficulty now with regard to some of our work is organisational and technical availability of personnel and equipment. It is not the discovery. The discovery is already there. We have only to prove the quantity. That can be done only when we smoothly and conveniently get the equipment and personnel. It was to resolve this that this conference was held. We hope, so far as the latter part of the Second Plan period is concerned, we have arrived at some arrangement which will be implemented now.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: The statement also says that delivery of equipment from Soviet Union should be expedited by simplifying the procedural formalities. May I know the nature of the procedural difficulties and how the Government seeks to solve them?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: There are obviously differences in the organisational set-ups between our Government and their Government. Some times it is difficult for us to function as smoothly and expeditiously as we

want. We thought that if some of their experts arrive here and appreciate the difficulties that we are experiencing, it would be better. With this intention, experts came from the U.S.S.R. and they realised our difficulties. I hope now something will be done soon to improve the affairs.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: In view of the fact that our experience of getting equipment, etc., in the case of the Bhilai steel plant has been satisfactory, we have not been able to understand what is exactly the meaning when he says that there have been procedural formalities, because the set-up is the same whether it is the question of industrial steel or in the case of oil.

Shri K. D. Malaviya: For the requirements of oil exploration equipment, there is no uniform pattern of machinery that we want. For that, there has to be greater collaboration and understanding of the equipment that we require between the suppliers and consumers. The U.S.S.R. organisation is over a large part of their country decentralised. There is some difficulty in trying to understand the nature of the equipment that we require. That was mainly responsible for a little delay. I hope that things will improve soon.

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: The statement refers to the Third Plan. Have any decisions been arrived at with reference to that?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: We are looking into that.

Foreign Exchange for National Coal Development Corporation

*329. **Shri Panigrahi:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 550 on the 19th August, 1959 and state:

(a) how much of the total allocation of Rs. 20.27 crores of foreign exchange for the National Coal Development Corporation has been utilised so far by the Corporation; and