

was repulsed by the police personnel after an exchange of fire which lasted for about 15 minutes. The retreating hostiles were pursued by the police and one of the hostiles was apprehended while two others were arrested later. The police did not suffer any casualties. A case has been registered and is under investigation. There was no material damage either to the buildings or property of the Police Station.

Additional forces have been detailed to comb out the area.

Loss to Hindustan Steel Ltd.

*871. { Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Sardar Iqbal Singh:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri Osman Ali Khan:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shri J. B. S. Bist:
Shri Karni Singhji:
Shri Bhanja Deo:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Hindustan Steel Ltd., is likely to be put to a huge loss because of lack of co-ordination between the working of its iron ore mines and steel plants at Rourkela and Durgapur;

(b) if so, nature of loss incurred; and

(c) the nature of steps taken or proposed to be taken to create co-ordination between the iron ore mines and steel plants?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Natural Gas in Assam

*872. { Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shrimati Mafida Ahmed:
Shri D. C. Sharma:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1127 on the 3rd September, 1959 and state:

(a) the nature of steps taken so far or proposed to be taken for the utilisation of natural gas in Assam;

(b) whether any scheme in this regard has been finalised; and

(c) if so, the results thereof?

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) The Government appointed an Expert Committee to examine the question of utilising natural gas in two phases. The Committee, in their Interim Report submitted to the Government in August, 1959, recommended that fertiliser, cement and power plants should be set up in the first phase for utilising the associated gas which would be available. It has been decided that setting up of the proposed fertiliser and cement plants would be the responsibility of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the setting up of the power plant would be the responsibility of the State Electricity Board of Assam under the technical guidance of the Ministry of Irrigation and Power. It has also been decided that the fertiliser plant will produce 50,000 tons of ammonium sulphate and 50,000 tons of urea per annum; the power plant will have an installed capacity of 50,000 k.w.; and the cement plant will produce 300 tons per day.

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry have prepared a Project Report on the fertiliser project. The Ministry of Irrigation and Power is preparing a Project Report on the setting up of the power plant, in consultation with the Assam Government who will handle the project.