

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Assam have asked the Union Government to exploit the coalfields in Garó Hills, Assam; and

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that Union Government have imposed certain conditions before undertaking to work the aforesaid coalfields; and

(c) if so, what are these conditions?

The Minister of Mines and Fuel (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) to (c). Yes, the Assam Government have requested that the Garo coalfields may be exploited. The proposal is being examined by the National Coal Development Corporation which is in correspondence with the State Government. Since the proposal is still being explored in all its aspects, the question of imposing any conditions does not arise at this stage.

दया याचिकायें

१६६८. श्री बागड़ी : क्या गृह-कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि फांसी की सजा के कितने मामले भारत के संविधान के अनुच्छेद ७२ के अधीन दया याचिकायें देने पर जनवरी, १९६२ से जुलाई, १९६२ की अवधि में उमर कैद की सजा में तबदील हुए ?

गृह-कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य-मंत्री (श्री दातार): प्रथम जनवरी से ३१ जुलाई, १९६२ तक की अवधि में ४० कैदियों के मामलों में फांसी की सजा उमर कैद में तबदील की गई ।

Olpad Oil

1699. { **Shri D. J. Naik:**
 { **Shri P. R. Patel:**
 { **Shri Chhotubhai Patel:**

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

(a) how many pin points have been fixed for drilling Olpad region or Surat District;

(b) how many of them are in process of drilling; and

(c) prospects of obtaining oil?

The Minister of Mines and Fuel (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) Five locations have been fixed for drilling on Olpad structure.

(b) One; viz. location No. 2.

(c) It is difficult to say any thing at this stage.

Stock Holders of Iron and Steel

1700. **Shri R. P. Singh:** Will the Minister of **Steel and Heavy Industries** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of cases for appointment of Registered Stock-holders of Iron and Steel for different places in the States of Bihar are pending since long in the Office of the Iron and Steel Controller, Calcutta:

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to this delay the supply of iron is not made to the deficit part of the State; and

(c) if the replies to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, what Government propose to do to expedite the matter?

The Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri C. Subramaniam): (a) to (c). Registered stockists are appointed by the Iron and Steel Controller on the recommendation of the State Governments. The Bihar Government had recommended appointment of 25 Registered Stockists in the first phase and 24 in the second phase. Subsequently this recommendation was amended as they wanted only 21 Stockists to be appointed in the first phase. No recommendations have been received yet for the second phase. The recommendations for the first phase were received piece-meal and the State Government were requested to furnish consolidated recommendation by 30th September, 1961. This recommendation was not received by the Iron and Steel Con-

troller. However, on the basis of the recommendations already received by him, he considered the applications received on merit and issued appointment orders. The present position is as under:

Proposal made by Bihar Government for appointment of Registered Stockists—21.

Names of parties not indicated by State Governments—5.

Names of parties recommended by State Government—16.

Applications and other documents received—13.

Appointed—8.

Rejected—1.

Incomplete documents—4.

Number of applications not received so far—3.

Office of Indian Oil Company

1701. Shri R. P. Singh: Will the Minister of Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have shifted the Branch Office of the Indian Oil Company Ltd., from Patna to Calcutta when it was easier to keep regular contacts with the Barauni Oil Refinery Project from Patna than Calcutta; and

(b) if so, the reasons for shifting the above-said office?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Mines and Fuel (Shri Hajar-navis): (a) Indian Oil Company shifted the headquarters of their Eastern Branch from Patna to Calcutta in May, 1962, but for liaison with Barauni Refinery project, a divisional office of the Company is retained at Patna.

(b) The reasons for shifting the Branch Headquarters from Patna to Calcutta were as follows:

- (i) The jurisdiction of the Eastern Branch of the Indian Oil Company extends to the States of Assam, West Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. Calcutta

being the chief communication centre, all the 4 states within the Eastern Branch are easily accessible from Calcutta rather than from Patna.

- (ii) Calcutta is a big market.

- (iii) Calcutta is the most convenient place for dealings with the other oil companies with whom Indian Oil Company has product exchange arrangements for the sale of Gauhati Refinery Products.

Heavy Steel Industry

1702. Dr. P. Srinivasan: Will the Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to start a heavy steel industry in the Madras State; and

(b) if so, whether the site has been selected and how much time Government will take to commence the industry?

The Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri C. Subramaniam): (a) and (b). The Government of India appointed a Technical Committee to consider the question of setting up a steel plant in Southern region based on Neyveli Lignite and Salem and other iron ores. The Committee felt that the production of iron from these raw materials appeared to be technically feasible, and recommended that a more detailed assessment of the technical and economic factors should be made on an industrial or pilot plant scale. As a result, certain tests were carried out in Norway and East Germany of which the preliminary results hold out promise. Government have at the same time, accepted another recommendation of the Committee to appoint a firm of Consulting Engineers to prepare a detailed Feasibility Report. The Consultants will study all the relevant aspects of the proposed plant, including the factors which affect its location. A decision about the location of the plant as well as date of commencement of the plant