

Price of Fuel

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 Shri Bishanchander Seth:
 Shri B. P. Yadava:
 Shri Dhaon:
 Shri Yashpal Singh:
 Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
 Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:
 Shri Surendra Pal Singh:
 Shri P. R. Patel:
 Shri D. D. Mantri:
 Shri Jashwant Mehta:

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 Shri Maheswar Naik:
 Shri Sudhansu Das:
 Shri P. C. Borooah:
 Shri Balakrishnan:
 Shri D. D. Mantri:

Will the Minister of **Petroleum and Chemicals** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the talks between the Gujarat State Government and the Oil and Natural Gas Commission have failed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the question of fixing the prices will be sent to the arbitrator; and

(d) if so, who will be the arbitrator?

The Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) and (b). There is a difference of opinion between the Oil and Natural Gas Commission and the Gujarat Government on the price of natural gas to be supplied by the Commission.

(c) Since the view-points of the two parties could not be reconciled, it has been agreed that the price of gas to be supplied to power houses and the fertilizer company may be referred to arbitration.

(d) The State Government are being consulted regarding the appointment of the arbitrator.

Drilling in Cauvery Basin

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 Shri Warior:
 Shri M. K. Kumaran:
 Shri Sezhiyan:
 Shri Subodh Hansda:
 Shri S. C. Samanta:

Will the Minister of **Petroleum and Chemicals** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that drilling operations were considerably delayed in the Cauvery Basin even after arrival of necessary machinery;

(b) if so, reasons therefor; and

(c) the present position of drilling in that region?

The Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Delay occurred after the structural rig had arrived at site mainly on account of the difficulty in securing and despatching certain essential spares and materials necessary for starting drilling operations.

(c) Drilling of the first structural well at Pattukkotta was started on 28th October, 1963 and is now in progress. The depth of the well reached on 31st January 1964 was 713 metres.

Barauni and Gauhati Refineries

*41. **Shri Hem Barua:** Will the Minister of **Petroleum and Chemicals** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rumanian Government have offered any assistance for the expansion of Barauni and Gauhati refineries; and

(b) if so, the particulars of the assistance offered and the reaction of the Government of India thereto?

The Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) Yes, Sir, for the Gauhati Refinery.

(b) The details are still awaited.