

**Indian Newsmen arrested by
Pakistan during Bangla
Desh Movement**

*16. SHRI JAGADISH BHATTACHARYYA : Will the VIDESH MANTRI be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Indian Newsmen arrested by Pakistan Government during the Bangla Desh movement;

(b) the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to get the release of these pressmen, and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

VIDESH MANTRALAYA MEN UP-MANTRI (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) According to confirmed reports one Indian newsman and one photographer.

(b) They are Shri Deepak Banerjee, Sub-Editor of the Amrit Bazaar Patrika and Shri Surjit Ghosal, Photographer of the Amrit Bazaar Patrika.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. A protest note was sent on April 10, 1971 by the Government of India to the Government of Pakistan demanding the immediate release and safe return to India of the above two newspapermen.

**Unused capacity of Barauni
Refinery**

*17. SHRI R. P. DAS : Will the PETROLEUM AUR RASAYAN MANTRI be pleased to state :

(a) whether one million tonne capacity of the Barauni Refinery is lying unutilised;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government to utilise this capacity ?

PETROLEUM AUR RASAYAN MANTRI (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The refinery has a design capacity of 3 million tonnes per annum, but receives app-

roximately 2 million tonnes per annum of crude from Assam fields. The third million tonne unit of the Barauni Refinery is idle for want of adequate quantity of crude oil. For transporting the further quantity of crude from ONGC's Assam fields, it was necessary to increase the capacity of OIL's pipeline. To be able to do so, it was necessary to secure agreement between OIL and ONGC on crude oil transportation tariff. Before that matter could be settled, Government decided to increase the refining capacity in Assam by 1 million tonnes. Assam crude had, therefore, to be reserved for that refinery, and the proposal to increase the capacity of the OIL pipeline for transporting crude to Barauni refinery was dropped.

(c) It has since been decided to operate the idle unit on imported crude. This necessitates suitable modifications to enable the refinery to process high sulphur crude. With these additions/modifications the refinery would be able to operate at its full capacity. The Indian Oil Corporation have prepared a feasibility report which has since been received and is under consideration of Government. The project is expected to be completed in 2½ years.

Location of new Oil Belts

*18. SHRI S. R. DAMANI : Will the PETROLEUM AUR RASAYAN MANTRI be pleased to state :

(a) the efforts made during the last year to locate new oil belts and the success achieved,

(b) whether experts have indicated that many of the existing wells will dry up soon and the country will face an acute shortage of crude, if new areas are not located by them; and

(c) if so, the details of the new programmes drawn up for the purpose ?

PETROLEUM AUR RASAYAN MANTRI (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : (a) During the financial year 1970-71, the Commission drilled 1,69,003 metres and completed 90 wells in various parts of Gujarat, Assam, Rajasthan and Cauvery basins. Twenty new structures were taken up for drilling. Drilling was continued in Jammu also. Presence of oil was indicated