

Off-Shore Drilling in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

3269. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to have off-shore drilling in Andaman and Nicobar Islands; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether any foreign company was entrusted with the drilling job; if so, the name thereof and the terms of the contract?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) and (b). Seismic and magnetic surveys have been carried out in the entire Andaman-Nicobar shelf area during January-May, 1977. These surveys have been conducted through M/s. Dresser Olympic of USA on contract at a cost of US \$ 5,72,272. The data acquired during surveys is now being processed in the ONGC's computer centre in Dehra Dun; whereafter it would be interpreted with a view to locate structures for drilling.

Action on Recommendations of Hathi Committee

3270. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state: what action have the Government taken on the recommendations of the Hathi Committee on Drugs & Pharmaceuticals which have been accepted?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): The recommendations of the Hathi Committee as a whole are under consideration. However, Government have accepted and are implementing some of the recommendations made

by the Committee. These are indicated below:—

- (i) Assigning a leadership role to the public sector;
- (ii) Encouragement to the Indian Sector;
- (iii) Supply of bulk drugs to the non-associated formulators. Foreign firms are, as a rule, issued approvals for bulk drugs only on condition that 50 per cent of the bulk should be supplied to non-associated formulators as against 30 per cent for Indian firms and 40 per cent for Public Sector;
- (iv) Indian firms are being allowed new capacities of formulations provided their ratio of bulk drug to formulations is 1:10. In the case of foreign firms new capacity of formulation is being allowed only when it is linked with the production of concerned bulk drugs
- (v) As recommended by the Committee the restriction earlier imposed on the industry requiring them to link their formulations licence applications with bulk production where their turnover exceeded Rs. 2 crores per annum has been removed.

जमालपुर स्थित रेलवे वर्कशॉप द्वारा रेत कचरा लोहे की नीलामी

3271. डा० रामजी सिंह : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) जमालपुर स्थित वर्कशॉप द्वारा प्रति माह ठेकेदारों को कितने टन रेत, कचरा, लकड़ तथा अन्य मास नीलामी से बेचा गया और इनकी प्रति टन औसतन कीमत कितनी थी ;

(ख) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि नीलाम किये गये रेत और कचरे में पीतल, तांबा, शीशे और अन्य चीजों के टुकड़े रहते हैं; जिसके परिणाम-स्वरूप ठेकेदार भारी लाभ कमा रहे हैं;

(ग) क्या पीतल, तांबे और शीशे के छोटे-छोटे टुकड़ों को भी कचरे के रूप में नीलाम किया जाता है जिसके परिणाम-स्वरूप रेलवे को भारी हानि हो रही है; और

(घ) क्या सरकार का विचार रेलवे में व्याप्त ठेका प्रणाली को समाप्त कर रेलवे को होने वाली हानि से बचाने का है

रेल मंत्री (प्रो० मधु दंडवते) : (क) जो रेत, रही लोहा और अन्य माल रेलवे के उपयोग के अयोग्य घोषित कर दिया जाता है उसे जमालपुर स्थित भंडार डिपो द्वारा निविदा अथवा सार्वजनिक नीलामी के जरिए प्राप्त उच्चतम दरों पर बेच दिया जाता है। 1976-77 के दौरान लगभग 75 लाख रुपये की रही लोहा बेचा गया। निविदाओं/सार्वजनिक नीलाम का प्रबन्ध रही लोहे के पहिचाने जाने योग्य कोठियों में छंटाई करने के पश्चात् बेहतर मूल्य की प्राप्ति को ध्यान में रखते हुए तथा इस प्रयोजन के लिए निर्धारित कार्यविधि के अनुसार किया जाता है। इस प्रकार के निपटान से पहले तमाम रही लोहे की अधिकारियों की एक समिति द्वारा जांच की जाती है और केवल वही रही लोहा बिक्री के लिए प्रस्तुत किया जाता है जिसकी रेलवे को आवश्यकता नहीं होती।

(ख) से (घ). उपर्युक्त (क). को देखते हुए प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Exploration for Oil and Natural Gas in Rajasthan Desert

3272. SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether oil or natural gas was discovered in the explorations done by Oil & Natural Gas Commission in the Rajasthan desert if so, where and at what depth the experimental drilling yielded success;

(b) whether Government propose to continue further drilling for finding oil or natural gas in this region;

(c) whether Government are aware of any misuse of funds and other misappropriations committed by ONGC officials in this project; and

(d) how much staff was posted for these tasks and what expenditure was incurred on these campaigns since the start of explorations?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) Except for a small gas find at Manhera Tibba at intervals between 287.5 to 464 metres, which was not of commercial significance, no hydrocarbons have so far been found in Rajasthan.

(b) Drilling in Rajasthan is being temporarily suspended for re-interpretation of the available data, on which would depend the future course of exploratory drilling there.

(c) A case of alleged temporary misuse of Commission's funds was looked into by the C.B.I. who referred the same to the O.N.G. Commission. The matter is under consideration of the Commission.

(d) The total strength of staff at the end of June, 1977 was 339 persons for the project and 51 persons