

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, December 18, 1996/Agrahayana 27,
1918 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Oil Exploration

*383. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount spent on oil exploration during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether the results are commensurate with the amount spent; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) :
(a) The total anticipated Plan outlay on oil exploration (surveys and exploratory drilling) by ONGC and OIL for the Eighth Five Year Plan period is around Rs. 7185.61 crores.

(b) and (c). The results of Exploration activities are probabilistic in nature and there is no direct relationship between input and output. However, physical achievements have been by and large commensurate with the investments made.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, the Minister has said that more than seven thousand crores of rupees had been spent for oil exploration but he also said that the results are probabilistic, perhaps an admission of failure. Our oil consumption is increasing every year. The import bills are mounting. The oil pool deficits are on the increase. This is a vicious circle. But the production is not correspondingly increasing in spite of the fact that we had spent such a huge amount for oil exploration. My worry is that while there is an increase in the oil consumption every year, there is no corresponding increase in the oil production. So, we have to tackle this problem.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister the current year's production and whether it shows any sign of increase. What is the trend of the current year's production? Is it on the increasing side?

Further, how many new oil fields have been identified this year? What is the production from these new oil fields?

Along with this, I would like to know whether exploration is being conducted in the Kerala Konkan

coast, where some oil fields have been identified, and if so, what the results are.

Lastly, I would like to know as to what the contribution of the private sector is because after the liberalisation, we are allowing the private sector also to go into oil exploration. How many private sector companies are operating? What is their contribution?

SHRI T.R. BALLU : Sir, the crude output in 1989-90 was of the order of 34.09 million metric tonnes. In 1992-93 it declined to 26.95 million metric tonnes. But, at the same time, during 1995-96 it was 35.185 million metric tonnes. As far as this year is concerned, there is some decline.

The anticipated target was 38 million metric tonnes. The target was 38.09 million metric tonnes. The anticipated production is at the rate of 33.62 million metric tonnes.

The hon. Member has asked about the physical work carried out. I would like to say that as far as ONGC is concerned, the survey has been made. A survey of 3,58,222 line kilometres has been carried out. As far as Oil India Ltd. is concerned, a survey of 17,418 line kilometres has been carried out. The ONGC has found 51 new structures. These structures have been found by the ONGC. Out of the 51 hydrocarbon discoveries, there were 24 gas structures and 27 oil structures.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Is it regarding Kerala-Konkan region?

SHRI T.R. BAALU : No. You wanted to know what the total result was. As far as Oil India Limited is concerned, it has found 12 hydrocarbon discoveries. There was one gas bearing structure and 11 oil bearing structures were there. Altogether, about 63 structures have been found in the Eighth Plan.

The hon. Member wanted to know about the Kerala-Konkan region. Sir, in the Kerala-Konkan region, we have conducted seismic survey to the extent of 1,11,507 line kilometres. In addition, a geo-survey has been conducted to the extent of 4000 square kilometres. Nine exploratory wells have been drilled. These wells have been drilled in shallow waters, i.e. up to 200 metres.

Sir, in the Ninth Plan, ONGC is planning to carry out deep water exploration in frontier areas also. For this purpose, during the Energy Conference, as per the advice of the hon. Prime Minister, we have entered into an agreed minute with Brussels which is competent enough to advise us on the deep water exploration.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, I had four parts in my first supplementary. The Minister answered three parts clearly and I thank him for that. The fourth part is relating to the contribution of the private sector this year. He has not answered that. If the details are with him, I hope he will answer that also.

My second supplementary is that the plight of the country is that every year, the oil bill is on the increase.

Of course, the oil pool deficit increased. That is why, this Government increased the oil price to the extent of more than 20 to 25 per cent. This is vicious circle. In this way, I do not think we can go. This path is very, very disastrous. So I would like to know what administrative steps the Government would like to take in order that the consumption of the oil in the country is reduced. Today, a large number of motor cars are there and new motor cars are also coming. Energy is spent like anything. By whom? It is spent by 20 per cent of the population. Twenty per cent of the population is consuming more than 80 per cent of the energy. Also the cities are polluted. What is the pollution rate in Delhi? The most polluted city in the world is Delhi.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please be brief.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, it is my concern for pollution. It is not here but outside. People sharing the same concern are on my right side and on my left side also. About left side, I do not want to say any thing.

The point is, the Government should have some action plan to reduce the consumption of oil. Coal is also getting depleted. What is that action plan? It should have two parts. One of the parts is of administrative steps. What are the administrative steps that you would like to take? The second part is, what are the other steps? By 'other steps' I mean, try to tap the renewable sources of energy. Is the Government seriously thinking of that? So I would like to know what the action plan for the future to reduce the consumption of oil is.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, the Government is finding out the ways and means of reducing the consumption of oil. In fact, Madras Refineries Limited has also gone into research as to how to solve the problem. They have tried to use alcohol with some percentage of petrol two years back. The only problem is that it was not so viable. That is why, it was dropped.

In the previous supplementary Professor Kurien has said that I have not answered about the joint ventures. I agree. He is correct.

As far as the joint ventures are concerned, they have already invested 1.8 billion US\$ in K.G. Offshore; 9.86 lakh US\$ in Rajasthan onland; 7.27 lakh US\$ in Gondwana onshore; 4.54 lakh US\$ in K.G. Offshore; 3.27 lakh US\$ in Cauvery Offshore, that is, in PY-3; and 2.7 lakh US\$ in Cauvery Offshore in PY-1.

[Translation]

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister two parts of the question. The first question is : whether it is a fact that oil is not being extracted inspite of spending billions of rupees on exploration by O.N.G.C. and Oil India Limited during each of the Five Year Plans. Oil was found at these places in Rajasthan in exploration during the Fifth Five Year Plan but even after lapse of 15 years safe quality oil has not been extracted in

Rajasthan so far, what is the reason for it? My second question is whether any foreign companies are being invited for the said extraction work or whether the said work would be done by O.N.G.C. or Oil India Limited. As the said oil has been found in the border area of Rajasthan, this work should not be entrusted to any foreign company. So, I request to make it clear by what time extraction work of the oil found in Rajasthan is likely to be started?

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, the exploration work in Rajasthan is going on. In fact, the private companies have invested 9.86 lakh US\$. We have also entered into agreement with some private company and the agreement has been signed. In Rajasthan, we have found heavy oil. We do not have technology to process the heavy oil. We are exploring the possibilities of getting the technology for heavy oil. In fact, the Italian and Chinese people have also been employed for that purpose.

[Translation]

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, as it is border area, if some foreign company is invited, I am afraid, there would be intervention in that. So, I request you to tell whether the said company is a Private Company or foreign company?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You can ask only one supplementary?

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU : I have said that foreign companies are only for technology transfer and not for exploration purposes. We want to know as to how the heavy oil should be processed.

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the Minister that possibilities of oil exploration and oil extraction in Panna district in Madhya Pradesh were expressed three years earlier. Whether the oil extraction work in the said district has been included in the 9th Plan. If not, whether the Government propose to include it in the Ninth Five Year Plan?

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, the Ninth Five Year Plan is under discussion. After discussion with the Central Planning Commission, whatever data is available from the aeromagnetic and geological surveys, will be processed and be put into action.

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : I think the Minister understands Hindi properly. I would like to ask only one

question that Rajan Pillai a youngman had undertaken research on preparing oil from herbal leaves in Tamil Nadu. He had also approached the Government later on and the Government had conducted some inquiry in this regard. I would like to know the position of that research as on today whether it was found true and if so, whether the Government have taken any steps in regard to make use of the experience of the said young man?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What is its relevance.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : He had conducted research on certain vegetable leaves and produced petrol oil. So I want to know in this regard.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If the Minister wants to reply, he may do so.

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, the hon. lady Member has just posed a question whatever is proved scientifically, that will be taken into account, since Shri Raman Pillai's finding is not as per scientific standards, we are not taking it into account.

Petroleum Projects

+

*384. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :

SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether several schemes/projects of petroleum sector received from various State Governments are pending with the Union Government during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the date on which the proposal for each of these projects was received;

(d) the reasons for delay in clearing these projects/proposals; and

(e) the steps being taken for expeditious clearance of these projects/proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e). Does not arise.

[Translation]

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, 80 lacs vehicles are running by making use of Power Alcohol and pollution is also not caused from it. Petroleum lab, Dehradun has been doing research on it successfully in our country since 1980 and this test has been successful in power Alcohol plant in Ratlam.

I would like to know from the Minister, through you, whether any scheme is under consideration of the Government for running vehicles by using Power Alcohol and starting production of Power Alcohol in the country? If so, the time by which the Government of India would implement it?

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, the main question is : Whether several schemes/projects of the petroleum sector received from various State Governments are pending with the Union Government. The hon. Member's question does not arise out of the main question.

[Translation]

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : It is all right. I would ask the question in regard to my question. Although the Minister has replied in negative to my question. But as far as I know, the schemes of various States regarding the production of petroleum products proposed by I.O.C. and B.B.C. have been pending with the Union Government. If so, the names of the States whose schemes have been pending with the Union Government and since when?

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, the hon. Member should put a pertinent question concerning the main question. His question is a general one. I cannot answer his question.

[Translation]

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : The reply to my question has not come...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You cannot ask more than two supplementary questions.

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Hon. Minister has been avoiding the reply to my each question by saying it irrelevant...*(Interruptions)* My original question was that various State Governments have sent many schemes and projects regarding petroleum products to the Union Government during the last two years, which have been pending with the Union Government. I would like to know their position as on today. The Minister is also not replying to that. I am asking about the schemes because petroleum comes under Union Government, State Governments implement these schemes in these States...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, the petroleum sector's projects are controlled by the Central Government and they are being cleared by the Central Government. Whatever projects are there concerning the petroleum sector, those will be implemented by the Central Government through the PSUs. The State Government has got no say in it at all.