

(d) if so, what decision has been taken in this regard?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) Some months ago, Lord Mountbatten wrote a personal letter to the Prime Minister. With this letter, he forwarded two letters which dealt with matters connected with oil exploration. Mr John D Rockefeller has not written or spoken to the Prime Minister on this subject. Several months ago he met the Prime Minister at Luncheon. The main topic of conversation was family planning.

(b) Government have been consulting many experts in foreign countries in regard to exploration and exploitation of resources in India. Among those consulted have been experts from the U.S.S.R., the U.S.A., United Kingdom, France, Italy and Rumania. Government have been anxious to extend this work of exploration and exploitation of oil in the public sector under Government auspices. In view, however, of the vast area to be covered for exploration, and the need for speed in this work, Government have also investigated the possibilities of utilising the services of expert agencies abroad in some areas of India. Generally speaking, the advice received from abroad has been that in addition to what the Government of India was doing in the public sector, it would be desirable, from the financial and economic points of view, not to discourage oil companies from undertaking the task of exploration etc. in some parts of India. This involved very large financial expenditure as well as risks, and it might be advantageous for the Government of India, therefore, to utilise the services of oil companies or experts from abroad.

(c) and (d) As stated above, Government have consulted many experts on this subject. Their broad approach to this problem is to continue and expand the work of exploration and exploitation of oil resources in the

public sector. At the same time, to investigate possibilities of associating foreign firms in this work in some other areas where the terms are considered to be suitable.

Border Incident

*1210. Shri P. G. Deb: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that 12 fishermen of Jangipur border were abducted by Pakistani forces on the 5th August, 1959 and sentenced to 5 days imprisonment,

(b) whether it is also a fact that their belongings amounting to Rs 12,000 were not returned to them after their being pushed to Indian side on Malda Rajshahi in spite of the order of the Magistrate, and

(c) if so, the action taken in the matter?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri J. N. Hazarika): (a) to (c) On 5th August, 1959, 12 Indian nationals in a boat were fishing in the river Padma near Nimtita. The boat drifted into Pakistan waters due to a strong current and the persons were arrested by the Pakistani Police District Magistrate, Murshidabad. He took up the question of their release with his counterpart. Details about the release of the persons and the return of their belongings etc. are awaited.

Indian Tea Mission to Ireland

2394. Shri Ram Krihan Gupta: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 376 on the 18th February, 1959 and state

(a) whether the Government have since received the report of the Indian Tea Mission to Ireland; and

(b) if so, the details of the report and the comments made by the Tea Board thereon?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The comments of the Tea Board have not so far been received but the following remarks are offered on the Mission's recommendations:—

<i>Recommendations</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
(i) The Tea Board should prevail upon the producers to place an adequate stock of quality production in the Calcutta auctions.	(i) & (ii): These points have been receiving Government's consideration in the past and will continue to be reviewed from time to time.
(ii) India's excise and export duty rates should receive further review.	
(iii) The Tea Council of Ireland's efforts should be directed mainly towards promotion of Indian tea.	(iii) It is reported that this is being done at present.
(iv) As a goodwill gesture a small mission from the Irish tea trade should be invited to visit India.	(iv) Invitation has been issued by the Chairman, Tea Board.
(v) It was represented that shipping companies were not prepared to issue through Bills of Lading <i>via</i> Dublin to destinations such as Limerick and Waterford. Since Indian steamship companies are participating in carrying our teas to Eire direct, it is desirable that discussions are held with them in order to arrive at a solution on this point.	(v) The Chairman, Tea Board has had some discussion with shipping interests. One of the shipping companies has agreed to issue through Bills of Lading to the destinations mentioned.

Indian Cotton Textile Trade Delegation

2395. Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 454 on the 18th February, 1959 and state:

(a) whether Government have since received report from the trade delegation of the Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council which visited East Africa in 1958; and

(b) if so, the main recommendations thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra):

(a) Yes, Sir;

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 45].

Export of Cement

2396. { **Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:**
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the total quantity of cement exported to foreign countries during 1958-59 (country-wise)?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 46].

Radio-Activity

2397. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 678 on the 23rd February, 1959 and state:

(a) whether there has been any further change in the highest level of radio-activity reported in January, 1959 in the country; and

(b) if so, whether it constitutes any danger to public health?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) and (b). The highest level of daily fallout radioactivity detected in the air remains the same as reported to the Lok Sabha on 23rd February, 1959. It is well below the maximum permissible limit.

C.D. and N.E.S. Blocks in N.E.F.A.

2398. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state the total amount given to the N.E.F.A.