

**Oil Drilling Operations Near Kanjari Village in Gujarat**

4505. SHRI PRAVINSINH SOLANKI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some oil drilling operations are going on near Village Kanjari of Anand Taluka in Gujarat State ;

(b) if so, the result thereof ; and

(c) whether any name has been given to the site of this Oil Exploration ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : (a) Oil drilling operations are going on near Village Kanjari in Gujarat.

(b) and (c). Three Wells have been drilled in that area upto now. Two of these have proved dry and the third one is being tested. These have been named as Vaso-East-1, Chaklasi-1 and Vaso-East-2. No name has been given to the entire site as yet, as an oilfield has not been discovered in this area so far.

**Absorption of Tax increase by Manufacturers of Soap**

4506. SHRI JADEJA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken up the question of absorbing tax increase with the manufacturers of soap such as Tatas, Swastika, Palmolive and Modi, as they did in the case of Hindustan Levers ; and

(b) if so, whether these manufacturers have agreed to absorb the tax increase ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) Government have discussed the subject with the Indian Soap and Toilettries Makers Association (ISTMA), which represents the organised sector of the Soap industry.

(b) ISTMA has assured the Government that their members are not increasing the prices of Carboic Soaps, including Lifebuoy soap, the price of which had been increased by the manufacturer, following the additional excise levy of May 28th, 1971. In regard to toilet soaps the price has been increased to the extent of the additional duty, by about 2 paise per cake. In luxury and perfu-

med soaps the price increase is connected with the extent of the levy.

It is pointed out that there is no statutory price control on soap, though price increases are discussed with Government by the organised sector before being acted on.

**Review of policy regarding Sino-US Relations**

4507. SHRI M. M HASHIM : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the U.S.A. in its review of policy towards China has consulted the Government of India ; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Oil structures found in Gujarat**

4508. SHRI M. M. HASHIM : SHRI P. GANGADEB :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of oil wells discovered by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission in Gujarat during the last three years ; and

(b) the total expenditure incurred on the exploration of these wells ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : (a) During the last three years (1968-69 to 1970-71), the Oil and Natural Gas Commission discovered oil in 145 wells drilled and tested in Gujarat.

(b) The total expenditure incurred on the drilling of these wells was of the order of Rs. 19 crores.

**Renovation of Works and Housing Minister's room in Nandan Bhawan (New Delhi)**

4509. SHRI NTHAR LASKAR : SHRI MUHAMMED SHERIFF : SHRI S. M. KRISHNA :

Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Govern-