

[Shri Nawal Kishore Sharma]

2. Oil has been discovered in the first well drilled in this structure by Oil India Ltd. This well is at a distance of about 20 kms. east of Moran in the Dibrugarh District of Assam. Initial production testing has led to a flow of 315 barrels per day of good quality crude oil of 32° API gravity through 6.5 mm surface choke. The thickness of the oil column is 26 metres and the area of the structure is about 23 sq. kms. Drilling of this well started on 21st May 1985 and the objective depth of 3987 metres was reached on 30th June 1985.

3. It may be mentioned here that this is the second oil bearing structure discovered by Oil India Ltd. in the recent past in this area. The first one was Tinali structure where oil at the rate of about 350 barrels per day flowed through 5.0 mm. choke.

4. Initial exploration in this area was carried out in 1963-64 but without any success. Exploration was then temporarily suspended. A detailed survey using the modern Common Depth Point Method of shooting and deploying digital field recording systems was carried out during 1983-84. The data acquired was processed and interpreted by OIL's own geoscientists at their Computer Centre at Duljajan. Two more wells are proposed to be drilled during this year on Rajgarh structure.

5. Even though the full potential of this structure would be assessed after the other two locations are drilled, indications are that a new oil field with significant potential has been discovered.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[Translation]

- (i) Financial Assistance of Rs. 50 lakhs by the Central Flood Control Board to save Mandla City of Madhya Pradesh from floods every year.

SHRI M. L. JHIKRAM (Mandla):
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to bring to your kind notice under Rule 377 that

Mandla City (Distt. Mandla) of Madhya Pradesh is surrounded by Narbada river on three sides and is confluence of Banjar river also. Every year there is danger of floods due to this river. The city was affected by devastating floods mainly in 1926, 1946 and 1971 in which major part of Mandla city was submerged. Last year, in 1984, due to the floods in Narbada river, hundreds of houses of the low lying areas of Mandla city were washed away. The people of this city are constantly apprehensive of floods with the on set of rains.

Mandla city has been the capital of the old Gond rulers. They had constructed two moats to protect the city from floods with the result that the city remained always unaffected from the floods. But ever since the moats became shallow due to dumping of garbage there the impact of floods has been increasing. Because of this, the city has been washed away twice or thrice. Therefore, to ward off the danger of floods, these moats should be deepened to let the flood water drain out through them. I, therefore, request that a sum of Rs. 50 lakhs should be sanctioned by the Central Flood Control Board to protect Mandla City from the floods.

[English]

- (ii) Need to examine the possibility of setting up a spinning and weaving factory and Sugar factory and taking over of Tobacco trade to improve the economic condition of people of Etah and Farrukhabad districts of U.P.

SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOJ ALI KHAN (Etah): Sir, Etah in Uttar Pradesh is a backward district in the State. It is facing unemployment problem among the educated/uneducated, skilled and unskilled persons. There is no industry in the district which could solve the growing unemployment problem and improve the economic condition of the people. The few cottage industries that exist in the weaving and other fields do not generate enough employment opportunities resulting in criminal tendency amongst the unemployed youth and increase

in the crime rate in the district. On the other hand, the weavers and other artisans engaged in weaving and other trades are very poorly paid and the wages earned by them are not even enough to meet their day to day needs.

Etah and Farrakhabad districts are the largest producers of Kampla tobacco, the finest quality of tobacco and are the major suppliers throughout the country. But, unfortunately, the tobacco growers do not get remunerative prices for their produce and a good share of their dues is taken away by the middlemen. Besides tobacco, Etah is also a big sugarcane producing district in Uttar Pradesh and the sugarcane produced is sent to other places in the State and outside the State. As there is no Central scheme in the district of Etah, Government is requested to consider the question of taking up some projects in this district which would accelerate the development of the backward area, generate employment opportunities and improve the economic conditions of the people. I would urge the Government to examine the possibility of setting up a spinning and weaving factory and a sugar factory in the public sector and taking over the tobacco trade through Government agencies to eliminate the middlemen to give adequate remunerative prices to the tobacco growers.

(iii) Need to show live telecast of world famous Car festival held at Puri every year

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK (Cuttack) : The Car Festival of Lord Jagannath fell on the 20th of June this year. It is needless to point out that the cult of Lord Jagannath has spread over the whole world and the Car is drawn in Washington and London as it is at Puri. Everybody knows the significance of the festival of Puri.

It is a good thing that the TV network has made rapid strides in India during the past two years and international and national events in tennis, cricket and football are being shown to the people in remote villages over days together.

But it is unfortunate that the world famous Car festival where as many as lakh devotees from all over the world had gathered at Puri was not shown on the TV. People from Orissa residing in different parts of the country and people from other states also are very much unhappy about it.

In view of this, I request the Minister of Information and Broadcasting to look into the matter and direct the concerned officials to show the live telecast of world famous Car Festival held every year at Puri.

(iv) Extension of "Lead Bank scheme" to Community Development Block level for effective implementation of anti-poverty and self-employment programmes in the country

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR (Hamirpur) : Sir, the District Lead Bank scheme has made a significant contribution in the implementation of the various anti-poverty and self-employment schemes during the Sixth Five Year Plan. However, the large size and population of the district have really been the main handicap in this regard and decentralisation of the scheme to the Block level is the prime need. The District Lead Banks should have their own branches at the Block Headquarters for proper coordination and successful implementation of the various schemes. As the Branch expansion policy of the Reserve Bank of India for the next three years is being evolved at the beginning of the Seventh Five Year Plan, it is essential that the Lead Bank Scheme is decentralised to the Block level and the Branch expansion policy of the Reserve Bank of India is suitably framed so as to include the opening of the branches of the nationalised Banks in the Districts concerned at Block Headquarters on a priority basis.

I request the Minister of Finance to ensure the opening of the Branches of the Lead Bank of the districts concerned at each of the Block headquarters of the districts on top most priority wherever there block Headquarters have no Branches of the District Lead Banks.