

श्री पद्मलाल बाबूपाल : माननीय अध्यक्ष जी, आप के माध्यम से मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि राजस्थान के जैसलमेर क्षेत्र में जो तेल की खोज का कार्य शुरू किया गया है, आज तक उस के क्या परिणाम निकले हैं ?

श्री के० डी० मालवीय : मेरे ख्याल में सारे देश में आन-शोर जितना प्रयत्न तेल के खोजने का हुआ, उस में सब से ज्यादा जैसलमेर के चारों तरफ हुआ है, काफ़ी संख्या में कुए खोदे गये हैं, शायद सात-आठ खोदे गए और हैं अभी भी उस रेगिस्तान में हमारे तमाम लोग तेल की तलाश कर रहे हैं। कुछ गैस मिली है, लेकिन उसकी क्वालिटी अच्छी नहीं है। अभी हम वहाँ बराबर तलाश करते जायेंगे और हमें आशा है कि ज्यादा मात्रा में तेल और गैस मिल सकेगी।

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI: May I know whether it is not a fact that due to lack of scientific and technological brilliance and not having sufficient equipment in the last year we could not make better progress for exploration of the oil fields in Tripura? Secondly, is it a fact that scientific and technical assistance for oil exploration in Arunachal Pradesh, Bay of Bengal area and Tripura is still lacking and if so, what effective steps are being taken by the Ministry in this regard?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: So far as technological know-how and brilliance of our boys are concerned, I will not agree that we do not possess them. Our boys are thoroughly trained and they know what to do theoretically. From the pointed view of availability also, we are somewhat in a lucky position to provide for them. But it is a fact that so far as oil fields and gas fields in Tripura are concerned, we are not doing as satisfactorily as we would like to because of shortage of drilling equipment. We are trying to get them from outside and we have planned out

a programme for drilling wells there. When we get our drilling equipment, we will be in a position to drill those wells.

WELCOME TO LADY AND SIR
RONALD MICHNER

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I welcome Lady and Sir Ronald Michner. As you know, he was the Speaker of the Canadian Parliament for many years, High Commissioner in India and till recently the Governor-General of Canada. He is very welcome to our country. He is not a stranger to us. We wish them a very very happy stay in our country.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS—
contd.

DR. H. P. SHARMA: Since the geological formation of Jaisalmer in Rajasthan has been reported to be similar to the areas of sui gas reserves of Pakistan and Pakistan has been successful in exploiting those gas reserves, may I know what is the problem we are facing? I have seen persistent reports in newspapers that the Government has been pursuing this exploration work half-heartedly and not quite putting its mind into the job. I want a clear assessment of the situation.

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: We have been undertaking this programme of search for hydro-carbons in Jaisalmer not half-heartedly but we are doing our level best. It is our view that the geological formations of Pakistan areas of sui gas continue to a certain extent in the upper strata of our country also and the same quality of gas is available on our side also. We have produced a gas which contains about 25 to 30 per cent of nitrogen which is not of much use to us as a good fuel gas. What else can be done with this quality and quantity of gas which is not adequate is a question which is under consideration. In the meantime, the search for oil and gas in that area