

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, with regard to royalty the Government has given an assurance to the effect that it would take action to increase the rate of royalty and would make it uniform for all the States. This is only an assurance. I would like to know whether the Government propose to take any action for providing immediate interim relief to the State of Bihar in view of the economic crisis it is passing through.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI: The economic condition of Bihar alone is not that serious which calls for providing interim relief to meet the situation. So far as Central assistance is concerned, it would be provided by the Ministry of Finance. So far as the question providing assistance to the Department of coal is concerned, I have already given the assurance that. We shall increase the rate of royalty and make it uniform for all the States and implement the decision at the earliest.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have asked for interim relief.

SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI: So far as the question of providing interim relief is concerned, how can the department of coal provide the same? It is not within my power to grant interim relief. I can provide relief within the ambit of the law and accordingly I have stated that we will increase the rate of royalty and provide relief. I have said this much only that we are prepared to provide them benefits on uniform basis by increasing the rate of royalty. *(Interruptions)*

Old Exploration in Eighth Five Year Plan

*43. **SHRI CHHAVIRAM ARGAL:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission have submitted any oil explora-

tion scheme for incorporation in the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any concrete steps are being taken by the Government for uninterrupted oil supply; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. ONGC has submitted oil exploration schemes comprising surveys and exploratory drilling with a view to establish geological reserves of hydrocarbons of about 1232 million tonnes.

(c) and (d). It is expected that indigenous production of crude oil will increase from about 34 million tonnes in 1989-90 to about 50 million tonnes by the terminal year of the VIII Plan. In order to achieve this, the projects that are expected to be implemented during this period include the development of Neelam, Mukta and Panna fields in the Western offshore, Ravva oilfield in the Krishna-Godavari offshore, the Gandharfield in the Western onshore, and the additional development of L-II and L-III reservoirs in Bombay High oilfield. The shortfall between demand and indigenous production of crude would continue to have to be imported, as at present.

[Translation]

SHRI CHHAVIRAM ARGAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as has been stated by the hon. Minister in his reply that with a view to establish hydrocarbons' reserves of 1232 million tonnes, Oil and Natural Gas Commission has proposed some schemes and the production of crude oil is likely to increase from 34 million tonnes in 1989-90 to 50 million tonnes. When the ONGC has submitted schemes to the Government so that we may not require to import oil and country may become self-sufficient in the field of oil and

natural gas, I would like to ask as to what steps the Government is taking in this direction? Secondly....

MR. SPEAKER: You know that only two supplementaries can be asked.

SHRI CHHAVIRAM ARGAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would ask the hon Minister that besides development of Ravva oil field in the Krishna-Godavari offshore, Neelam, Mukta and Panna fields in offshore and additional development of L-II and L-III reservoirs in Bombay High, have any other schemes been presented by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission which are being considered by the Government?

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have stated that we are trying to become self-sufficient by developing Neelam, Mukta, Panna and Gandhar fields, but other schemes are under consideration of the Government and have not yet been finalised.

SHRI CHHAVIRAM ARGAL: Sir, the hon. Minister has not replied to my question. I would like to know about the schemes other than these schemes?

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: I have just stated that other schemes have not yet been finalised..(Interruptions) ... It would not be appropriate to disclose them unless these are finalised.....(Interruptions)

SHRI KALKA DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Minister is saying that it is not appropriate to disclose these schemes which is not justified.

SHRI CHHAVIRAM ARGAL: Sir, the gulf crisis has very adversely affected the oil supply. There is shortage of oil and natural gas in the country and there is not proper distribution of oil products which has caused difficulties to the people. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what steps they are going to take to nullify the effects caused by the gulf crisis.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Gulf crisis has caused shortage of imported oil and to make up this shortage we had sent our officers to Malayasia, Moscow and other countries to explore the possibilities of getting supply of petroleum products. As a result of which we hope that we would have more import of crude oil during the period from August, 1990 to March 1991, because gulf crisis had started in August 1990. We have imported 1.66 million metric tonnes of extra crude oil from Iran, 2.74 million metric tonnes from Saudi Arabia 1.38 million metric tonnes from United Arab Emirates and 0.5 million metric tonnes from Malayasia.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Most unfortunately, the Government of India has taken a step-motherly attitude towards the whole of eastern India. I myself met the hon. Petroleum Minister and gave him a letter in this regard. The proposed allocation of funds for the 8th Plan for West Bengal, Assam, Tripura and other areas in eastern India has been drastically reduced. Orders were issued for the withdrawal of rigs from West Bengal, Tripura, my area and other areas. Very interestingly, this did not happen in respect of those areas of Assam where agitation has been going on and work is not allowed to proceed. That shows that they have given premium to such areas. What message does it give? If you start agitation, resort to bandhs and hartals, then only your demands will be met. If you follow peaceful methods, your demands will not be fulfilled. In view of this and the facts which I have brought before the hon. Petroleum Minister, I would like to know whether the Government of India is going to change its attitude and look after the eastern India by giving enough money for the exploration of oil, as also by deciding about the recommendations of the Kacker Committee for the sale of gas to Tripura and Assam at Rs. 600.00. But about one thousand rupee is being charged and both the Governments are saying that they cannot afford it. Gas is being wasted. So, I want a specific answer from the Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, no step-motherly treatment is being meted out to the eastern States by the Centre. We do not have any such policy.

So far as Eighth Five Year Plan is concerned, it has not yet been finalised and its economic aspects are being discussed.

So far as the report of Kelkar Committee is concerned, its recommendations are being examined. I would like to assure the hon. Member that the eastern States would also be treated like other States of the country.

[English]

SHRI BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Sir, I find that in the answer given by the Minister there is a lot of emphasis for the right reasons on the short term measures but what about the long term measures. Every year we are facing the same problem because our domestic production of crude is very inadequate. I understand that the scientific and technological studies have proved that the prospective oil bearing areas are enormous in India but out of these areas more emphasis has been given to Assam and Gujarat for the purpose of off-shore drilling and other areas of India have been virtually neglected. So, we have not been able to produce enough crude. I also understand that the Bombay High production has now reached the peak level and unless more new oilfields are discovered we will face severe crisis in coming years. For this reason the question I am asking is this. Take the case of China which is now producing a potential of something about 13,000 MT crude. Why can't the same thing be done here? I would like to know what efforts are being made to defuse the exploration programme to other parts where the prospective oil bearing areas exist and also what are the measures taken to ensure that a heavy investment is made on oil exploration work.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: The Hon. Member's Suggestion depends on the economic viability but I have taken note of his suggestion and we will take care of it.

[Translation]

PROF. MAHADEO SHIWANKAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, large quantity of natural gas is burnt at Bombay High. Have the Maharashtra Government sent a proposal to the Centre to tap this gas and carry it to some other places through pipe lines. In this regard, I would like to know whether the Government have such schemes particularly laying of pipeline to Buldhana, Nagpur, Amarawati etc. and setting up of industry of Bio-gas products or other such industries under Eighth five year Plan?

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a new question so separate notice should be given for it...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. MAHADEO SHIWANKAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order. My question has not been replied.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has said that he requires separate notice for it.

[English]

SHRI K. S. RAO: Sir, Andhra Pradesh is one of the unfortunate States which is being neglected in locating a thermal plant and major industries. Krishna-Godavari basin contains a lot of hydrocarbons which have already been explored. It has also been found from experience that lot of oil and gas is also available here. Now, power is the key for economic activities of any nation or State. Keeping in view the availability of oil and gas in abundance in Krishna-Godavari basin, will the Hon. Minister think in terms of fixing a reasonable price and giving permission to the State Government to locate some thermal plant, if possible by NTPC. I would like to know whether the Hon. Minister will fix a reasonable price for the gas which is available in Krishna-Godavari basin and locate a gas-based plant immediately.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Sir, the recommendations of the Kelkar Committee about pricing of gas are being examined by the Government. The Government has not taken any decision about it. But we will take decision on it very soon.

[Translation]

PROF. VJAYKUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a question of great national importance and the hon. Minister is taking it very casually and is not replying to the question. I seek your protection. Long queues are there to get diesel. People have applied for LPG connections many years back, but they could not get connections. There is shortage of petrol. Kerosene is not available in villages. Farmers are not getting diesel for agriculture. When it was asked as to what steps the Government is taking to make these things available, the hon. Minister has said that he cannot disclose the scheme, because there is something secret. I fail to understand as to what secret is there. You have to explore natural gas and crude oil, so what is secret in it. It has to be explored within the country. We have been hearing it for the last ten years that within next two years, India will become self-sufficient in this field. But the condition is worsening since then. What steps is the Government going to take in this regard? Has the Government given priority to it in the Eighth Five Year Plan? China, Malaysia and Indonesia have not only become self sufficient in this field, but these countries are supplying crude oil to us. Why has the Government not taken steps in this direction under such circumstances? The hon. Minister should state as to what steps the Government have proposed to take in future. Please do not say that it is serious or something secret. Either the hon. Minister has no information about it or they have not yet decided about it.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Mr. Speaker, sir, it is true that with the Gulf crisis, problem of diesel shortage has also started in the country. But the Government has made sufficient efforts to maintain diesel supply for agricultural sector.

So far as LPG connections are concerned, there was ban on registration of new connections, but now ban has been lifted. So far as the question of self-sufficiency is concerned, I have stated it in my reply that the Government is concerned about it. As the hon. Minister has stated that efforts are going on for the last ten years and I would say that we would seriously make more efforts to achieve self sufficiency and it is possible that we may have its results very soon.

[English]

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I think the hon. Minister is aware of the fact that in West Bengal there has been a shortage with regard to drilling of wells for the last 40 years. About 500 crores of rupees have been spent but there has been no reliable indication of either hydrocarbons or oil. In this case, the union of which I am also an office bearer had made elaborate representations about the defects in the working of the drilling of the wells and also the method of calculation and the method of collecting the date. It has been suggested by the Union that there should be a proper review of the entire activities and performance of the ONGC in West Bengal so that the indications of oil and hydrocarbons can be made available by the application of the most sophisticated technology. May I know from the hon. Minister whether he is prepared to set up an expert committee to go into the entire functioning of the ONGC operations in West Bengal and allocate proper funds in the Eighth Five Year Plan?

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Regarding the Expert Committee, the hon. Member has met me and also the Chairman, ONGC. He has given some suggestions and we are looking into them.

Harnessing of Alternative Sources of Energy

*46. **SHRI VASANT SATHE:** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state: