

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

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*Tuesday, November 29, 1988/Agrahayana  
8, 1910 (Saka)*

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*The Lok Sabha met at  
Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

### WELCOME TO THE CYPRUS PARLIAM- ENTARY DELEGATION

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Members, at the outset, I have to make an announcement.

On my own behalf and on behalf of the Hon'ble Members of the House, I have great pleasure in extending our warm welcome to His Excellency Dr. Vassos Lyssarides, President of the House of Representatives of Cyprus and the Hon'ble Members of the Cyprus Parliamentary Delegation who are on a visit to India as our honoured guests.

The other Hon'ble Members of the Delegation are:

1. Mr. Takis Hadjidemetrious, MP
2. Mr. George Savvides, MP
3. Mr. Andreas Mathekolonis, MP
4. Mr. Andreas Demetriades, MP

The Delegation arrived Delhi on Monday, 28 November, 1988. They are now seated in the Special Box. We wish them a happy and fruitful stay in our country. We also convey our warm greetings and very best wishes through them to His Excellency the President, the Parliament, the Government and the friendly people of the Republic of Cyprus.

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### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*Translation*]

#### Utilisation of Hydrocarbons in Rajasthan

\*246. SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a great scope for setting up of petrochemical industries in Jaisalmer district, Rajasthan as large reserves of hydro-carbons have been found there;

(b) if so, the name of the agency through which Government propose to utilise these gas reserves; and

(c) the time by which these gas reserves are likely to be utilised and whether any progress has been made so far in this regard?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) to (c). Oil India Ltd. has discovered gas in the first exploratory well drilled at Tanot in Jaisalmer District, Rajasthan. Additional wells would require to be drilled to assess the potential of the structure. ONGC have also found gas in the area and has committed a quantity of 50,000 M<sup>3</sup>/day for supply for a power plant at Ramgarh. At present no petrochemical industries have been planned based on natural gas in this area.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL: Mr. Speaker, Barmer and Jaisalmer are desert areas and drought is a common feature there. During summer the people there have to migrate with their cattle to other places and the Government has to spend crores of rupees on providing drought relief so that they may get food somehow. Oil India Ltd. and ONGC have found large reserves of oil in Manihari, Tibba, Ghotaru, Tanot and Ramgarh areas which are scarcely found in other parts of the country. Helium gas has been found in Manihari, Tibba and Ghotari and hydro-carbon gas in Tanot to such a great extent that it will be a problem for the Government to utilise it fully. The Government has set up Petro-Chemical, fertiliser and L.P.G. bottling plants to utilise the oil and gas found in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Assam and at other places. Will the Government utilise the hydro-carbon gas found in this desert area, particularly for industrialisation and what are the Government plans for utilisations of gas and oil found in this area?

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT: I agree with the views of the Hon. Member. I went there 2-3 months back and was glad to find that there is greenery this year which was not there last year.

MR. SPEAKER: Did you not feel heat.

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT: I did not go there in summer.

MR. SPEAKER: Go there in the month of June.

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT: I went there after rainy season and there was some greenery. Of course, we are trying to find oil there. Oil India Ltd. and O.N.G.C. are making efforts to that effect. ONGC has discovered gas in Ghotaru, Manihari and Tibba but they have not yet struck oil. Oil India Ltd. has found gas in Tanot. For the first time a flow of 40,000 cubic metre has been discovered. There is a necessity of further development there. Wells and rigs are required. I have myself gone to Ramgarh and get the digging work started. We have dug upto 2,000 metres in Ramgarh but gas has not yet been found.

It is true that traces of helium gas has been found in Manihari, Tibba and Ghotaru. Reserves are definitely there. There is another proof that since gas and oil have been found in the area falling in Pakistan, special attention is therefore, being paid to it. For the present, we are trying to link all the four places through a pipe line. By the time the power plant is ready next year, gas will be supplied to it. We have committed 50,000 cubic metre. Secondly, the lime-stone available there is also of good quality. We will try to supply it to the lime-stone based industry if they needed it. We are in touch with the Atomic Energy Commission in this connection to find out whether helium can be extracted from it. Helium is a valuable item for us because we import helium worth rupees 30-40 crores. If it is possible to set up a helium plant there we are prepared to finance it, but it will have to be considered from technical point of view. It is still in the process of development. I think it will not be appropriate to make any promise. I can say

only this much that full efforts will be made for the exploitation of oil and gas which have been found there.

**SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL:** Mr. Speaker, through helium gas found in Ghotaru, Tanot, Manihari and Tibba we will save foreign exchange worth Rs. 30-40 crores every year. Such a gas has been found only there in the whole of country. It has not been found anywhere else. This statement was made by the hon. Minister when he went there in August to initiate the work of digging oil wells. Keeping this achievement in view and also the backwardness of the area, will the Government supply more rigs to accelerate the exploration work there and what plan is being formulated for the utilisation of helium gas?

**SHRI BRAHMA DUTT:** Mr. Speaker, I stated not only in August but also 2 minutes back that traces of helium have been found in the gas found in that area. It is estimated that it may be 0.1 per cent. We are in touch with the Atomic Energy Commission and others who are in possession of full knowledge about it and if the proposal is found feasible from technical point of view, finances will be provided because we consume helium worth Rs. 30-40 crores. So far as completion of this work is concerned, we had a meeting lately and we are striving to provide more rigs for expediting the exploration and survey work there.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Helium must be traced.

**SHRI BRAHMA DUTT:** If these are your orders, we will definitely do that.

**SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN:** A gas based power house is being set up in Ramgarh on the basis of the gas found there. May I know the reason for not supplying gas to the power house at concessional rates? It is causing obstruction in the work. As you are

not supplying more gas, a plant of 3 MW is being set up instead of a plant of 9 MW. Will you be able to supply gas at concessional rates?

**SHRI BRAHMA DUTT:** The hon. Member accompanied me when I had gone there. I can say only this much that gas is being made available at the lowest rate. So far as the question of quantity of gas is concerned, we can supply whatever the quantity is available. We have committed a quantity of 50 thousand cubic metre per day. If more gas is available, turbines will be set up. The question of supplying gas outside does not arise.

[English]

#### Losses in DESU

\*249. **SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL:** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking has been incurring losses for the past several years;

(b) the amount of loss incurred by the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking in 1972-73, 1977-78, 1982-83 and 1987-88;

(c) the reasons identified for such losses and the steps taken to reduce them;

(d) whether electricity bills are sent to consumers regularly; if so, the periodicity prescribed for sending the bills; and

(e) the number and amount of electricity bills pending payment for three months, six months and one year or more and the action taken to realise the arrears?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATI RAI): (a) to (e). A Statement is given below.