

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, July 29, 1980/Sravana 7, 1902
(Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock*

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: Sir, for the first time in the history of Parliament, our clocks are not working. This is the Government that works.

MR. SPEAKER: The time stands still.

SHRI R. L. BHATIA: They make so much noise that even the watches are affected

MR. SPEAKER: Not watches, but the health has been affected. Q. 737.

Agencies assisting O.N.G.C. in oil exploration

*737. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the agencies which are assisting the Oil and Natural Gas Commission for off-shore exploration of oil;

(b) whether the seismic survey conducted by the Soviet Union for exploration of oil in India has since been completed and if so, the findings thereof;

(c) whether Oil India Ltd. which was engaged in the exploration of oil in Mahanadi Delta has submitted its report to Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) ONGC have no technical collaboration with any agency for offshore exploration. However, seismic survey

and drilling vessels have been engaged from foreign countries on contracts. Service contracts for technical services connected with drilling and production have also been awarded by ONGC as is usually done in the industry.

(b) Yes, Sir. Consequent upon detailed survey by a Russian vessel in Bombay High, Karaikal, South Tapti, Diu, Dahanu and Tarapur during 1965—67, the Bombay High Structure was first identified.

(c) and (d) After aeromagnetic and marine seismic surveys of 12,000 Sq. Kms. of Petroleum exploration area of Orissa offshore in Mahanadi basin were carried out, OIL identified three locations for drilling on the basis of data analysis. Mahanadi Well—I was drilled to a depth of 2740 metres but no hydrocarbons were encountered. The second well is presently drilling below 610 metres. Oil India keeps reporting the progress regularly.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Sir, I would like to know whether ONGC has got modern expertise for off-shore and on-shore drilling. If not, why are we not in a mood to import modern drilling technology so that we will be able to undertake the work of off-shore and on-shore drilling and exploration in a better way? The second point is whether the USSR, whose drilling ship we have used in the exploration programme in India, has remarked after a seismic survey that in the Mahanadi delta basin area of Orissa, in the off-shore, 5,000 square kilometres of area is full of oil. Again, a drilling ship of the U.S. firm Carlsburg engaged by us in 1975-76 for drilling-cum-exploratory programme in this particular basin—and what were its findings?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: He has put too many questions. The hon. Member wanted to know whether ONGC has got up-to-date equipments. I can tell him that we have got them, but we cannot say that the equipments that we have got, are adequate enough. Wherever we find that we have to hire, and we have to take the equipments on hire, we do not hesitate to take equipment on hire. We have got survey ships and drilling ships; but we don't have them in sufficient quantity. We are making all attempts to import, and buy them in whatever quantity—whatever ships we require; and it will take some time. Till that time, we hire the ships, we hire the rigs and we hire the equipment. With the help of these equipments, we are carrying on survey and drilling work.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: My question has not been answered. The hon. Minister said that drilling ships have been entrusted with drilling-cum-exploratory programme in this Mahanadi delta area. What was the result of the work done by the Carlsburg people? According to me, they also encountered oil in that basin, but they said that due to high pressure, our rigs are not amenable to sustain such a pressure of more than 300 to 400 lbs. What further steps is Government proposing to take, to design such type of rigs which can sustain the pressure of more than 300 to 400 lbs.? My third question is...

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementaries should be pungent and to the point. You cannot make them of cateogue. I allow it for once, but not always.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Oil India Ltd. is delaying the process of the exploratory programme. The ship, we are using in this area is an American one. Is the Government of India having any suspicion about those types of rigs sabotaging our programme, because Messrs. Carlsburg

also told the same thing. Another firm of USA has been entrusted with this job. (*Interruption*). Will Government of India take this matter seriously, because these people adopt these delaying tactics on the plea of delay in customs clearance? May I know from the Minister whether on-shore and off-shore drilling operations in Orissa coast, i.e. in the Mahanadi area will be expedited?

MR. SPEAKER: It is becoming too long, Dr. Bhoi.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: I would like to inform the hon. Member that as far as this drilling work is concerned, the work will be taken up only after the survey work is completed. This area has been leased out to Oil India Ltd. As a maiden off-shore venture, OIL was granted an off-shore exploration licence over 12,000 square Kms. of area in the Bay of Bengal, Mahanadi basin in March 1978. Seismic survey involving shooting/recording of 3178 line Kms. was completed by the middle of the same year. Data was processed at an advanced computer centre at Singapore under the supervision of OIL experts. Based on a detailed project report submitted by Oil India Ltd., Government approved a 3-well off-shore exploration programme estimated to cost over Rs. 25 crores.

Out of 3 wells, one well has been drilled, but unfortunately, we could not find any oil. Another well is under drilling. The process is going on. They have gone upto 610 metres. After that we will take up the third.

So far as on-shore area is concerned, 6,800 sq. Kms. of on-shore area in Mahanadi basin has already been covered by aeromagnetic surveys. Seismic surveys are proposed during 1980-81 and 1981-82. Exploratory drilling work will be taken in hand if drillable prospects are indicated as a result of the surveys. This is the position.

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR: Answer to (a) of the question mentions that seismic survey and drilling vessels have been engaged from foreign countries on contract, from time to time. In view of this answer, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether any such seismic survey and drilling vessels have been engaged during the last 3 years. If so, where did they do the off-shore explorations, with what result, and what amount was paid to them during the last 3 years?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: The hon. Member is asking for particulars about drilling operations over 3 years. It is better that a separate question is put. I will then be able to answer.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: This country is an oil importing country; and it can easily become an oil self-sufficient country, and an oil-exporting country, if this Ministry was serious about off-shore drilling. One Bombay High is producing 35 per cent of oil supplies in the country; and, therefore, if the Ministry seriously investigated the off-shore oil deposits, they will find a lot of them. But what I find is that there seems to be a lack of interest in the Ministry in off-shore drilling. Perhaps the reason is that the Ministry is heavily dependent on the Soviet experts who have expertise on on-shore; and there is a discouragement given to off-shore drilling. Will the Minister inform the House what concrete steps he is going to take, to pursue the various off-shore deposits of oil?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: It is not correct to say that the Ministry is not interested, or that the ONGC is not interested, in finding more oil, and that we are leaning very heavily on the Russian surveys or Russian help in this matter. I agree that it is possible to find more oil, because according to the surveys that have been conducted so far, it is established that two-thirds of our oil is in the off-shore and only 1/3 on the on-shore areas. So, I must say, for the information of the hon. Member, that it was the Russians who first located the

Bombay High in 1973 or 1974. And after that, with the assistance of a firm from France, we have been able to develop that area; and to-day, Bombay High is giving more than 5 million tonnes of oil to our country; and we are expecting it to go up to 12 million tonnes by the year 1982-83. So, it is not fair on our part to say that we are depending on Russians and that they are not helping us or that they are not interested in finding more oil. It is all right, we have taken help not only from Russia but from any other country which is in a position to do it; and I agree with the hon. Member that since there is a possibility of finding more oil, we have been making all efforts to find more oil. That is why recently we have taken a decision to invite foreign parties for this exploration work; and a committee at the Secretaries' level has been constituted to go into the details, to find out what foreign parties are there, and on what conditions and terms they are prepared to come to our country to do this drilling work, and exploration work.

Scheme for Development of Folk-Songs

*738. **SHRI ARJUN SETHI:**
SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme for development of folk-songs and folk-dances in the various parts of the country;

(b) whether Government have given encouragement to the folk-dances and ancient culture of Utkal Pradesh through films; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.