

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.

There are various schemes under which folk-song and folk-dance forms receive Government's support through the Sangeet Natak Akademi, under the Ministry of Education and Culture. Under its schemes of financial assistance to cultural organisations, the Akademi gives grants to various organisations engaged in promoting folk-dance and folk-music. Assistance has also been given over the years to various cultural organisations which are engaged in training, research and development in these areas.

2. The Akademi has prepared a coloured movie film on some of the folk and tribal dances on India. The following folk performing arts of Orissa have also been filmed for its archives:—

- (1) Chhau dances of Mayurbhanj
- (2) Chadheya dance
- (3) Rauapa dance
- (4) Ghumra dance
- (5) Dalkhai dance
- (6) Daskathia Ballary

3. One part of Chayanatak, a film produced by the Akademi deals with a shadow puppet form of Orissa. Under the scheme of giving national awards, three awards out of 17 are given to eminent persons drawn from the area of folk performing arts.

4. Films Division, a Media Unit of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has produced a number of documentary films on dances, culture, art, archaeological monuments and land and people of Utkal Pradesh (Orissa). A list of films is attached at Annexure I. Two documentary films viz. "Dharati Ki Jhankar" and "Folk Dances of India" also cover folk-dances of Orissa.

5. Doordarshan Kendras have been telecasting music programmes including folk-music and folk-dances of various regions as a normal programme activity. Sambalpur Kendra is telecasting folk-music, dances on an average for a duration of 60 minutes in a week.

6. Song and Drama Division, another Media Unit of this Ministry also

uses folk-songs and folkdances in its programmes.

Annexure I

- (1) Saga In Stone
- (2) Our Original Inhabitants
- (3) Konarak
- (4) Orissa—The Land the People
- (5) The Magic Touch
- (6) The Glory of Konarak
- (7) The House that Ananta Built
- (8) Twinkling Stars
- (9) Odisi Dance
- (10) Weavers of Sambalpur
- (11) Orissa—Faith and Festival Wheel
- (12) Handicrafts of Orissa
- (13) Applique of Orissa
- (14) Folk Paintings of Orissa
- (15) Dhanlijiri Shantistupa
- (16) Wool Carvings of Orissa
- (17) Beauty in Stone

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: While I appreciate the steps taken by the government to popularise folk-songs and folk-dances through mass media, I must say that enough has yet to be done in this field to preserve and popularise them, that is, rare arts and ancient culture. In this context, I would like to ask the government whether they are considering the recommendation of the working group on arts and culture to set up a national endowment of arts with direct financial assistance from the government for promotion of cultural development and research in traditional folk-songs and folk-dances: if so, what steps the government has taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI VASANT SATHE): As far as my Ministry is concerned, as I have stated in the detailed statement which I have laid on the Table along with the answer, we are doing our best to record and preserve folk-music and folk-dances by filming them. I entirely agree that our tribal culture is

the richest in the field of folk-dances, music. But, as far as the question relating to endowment is concerned, I think, probably it is the Ministry of Education which deals with that. It has not come to me. If that proposal comes to my notice, will definitely see what we can do about it.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: The hon. Minister has stated in his statement that they have extended help to popularise Chhau dances of Mayurbhanj in Orissa. So far the development of Chhau dances has been impaired due to constraint on funds at their disposal. However, it is not within jurisdiction of the Ministry of I&B. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether he will extend help to the Departments of Tourism and Information of the State Government of Orissa so that they can popularise or screen them; they can extend help and popularise them through State Financial Films Corporation so that their problem is solved and they are popularised throughout the country.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I can assure my friend that we will give every possible help to the State Government to popularise folk dances and culture, as far as tourism development is concerned or for any other purpose, internally also. But, as I said in the beginning, culture is divided under the government into three Ministries. They are the Ministry of Education; some part of propagating it is under my Ministry and some under the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation. We will try to co-ordinate it. This is what I would like to inform him.

SHRI CHINTAMANJ JENA: May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that Chhau dance in Mayurbhanj District and Dalkhai dance in Sambhalpur District and Daskathia dance in Janjam District and similarly other dances of Kola-handi District cannot flourish because of lack of financial help? So, in considering this, will the hon. Minister coordinate with the Ministry of Education and other Ministries so that

they may get direct financial help from the Centre?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: This suggestion I will take-up with other Ministries concerned, because financial assistance is not directly under my Ministry.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: I want to put a question in relation to part (a). I would like to know from the hon. Minister: what concrete steps they are taking to promote, develop and encourage the folk songs and dances of West Bengal, such as Chow dance of Purulia, Ghambir of Malda, Bowl and Bowlan of Katwa sub division of Burdwan district?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I know that this question was related basically to Utkal but I was aware that this immediately gives rise to all other areas also wanting to know about that particular area of India. I may tell the House that I have been trying to promote cultural activities of various regions even as Secretary of the Constitution Club as hon. Members know. That apart, we have set up two regional centres particularly for encouraging folk dances and folk songs and filming them in 16 mm films. One centre is for the eastern region which will include West Bengal and all that area right up to the northeastern region and one is for southern region so that the entire southern region is covered; it is rich with folk culture and folk dances. There is film recording for archives. All this will be done in our ministry... (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: Next question.

Shortage of Cooking gas in eastern Region

***739. SHRI CHITTA BASU:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of cooking gas in the Eastern region;