

श्री विजय एन० पाटिल : जहाँ जहाँ इश्योर्ड लैटर्स होते हैं वहाँ ऐसी घटनाएँ होती हैं। मगर सुपरवीजन टाइट होता है, और अगर डिटेक्ट हो जाये तो कड़ी कार्यवाही की जाती है।

जहाँ तक क्लेम की बात आपने कही है जिन इन क्लेम असर्टेन करके पूरा का पूरा पैसा दिया जाता है। इस पर्टिकुलर केस में कुछ लोगों को दिया गया है। कुछ लोगों का क्लेम असर्टेन हो रहा है कि इनका कितने का इश्योर्ड आर्टिकिल था। यह असर्टेन हो जाने के बाद उनको पूरा पैसा दिया जायेगा।

श्रीमती प्रमिला वंडवते : मिनिस्टर साहब ने इस बात का जवाब नहीं दिया है कि क्या उन के पास ऐसी शिकायतें आई हैं कि मौजाना आज़ाद रोड पोस्ट ऑफिस, नवनपुरा पोस्ट ऑफिस और फ़ाकलैण्ड रोड पोस्ट ऑफिस में ऐसी चोरियाँ होती हैं और उन्होंने वहाँ पर क्या कार्यवाही की है। क्या उन्हें इस बात की जानकारी है या नहीं कि वहाँ पर चोरियाँ हुई हैं और क्या वह इस बारे में तुरन्त कार्यवाही करेंगे? जिन लोगों को अब तक क्लेम नहीं दिए गए हैं, वे कब तक दिए जाएंगे?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN): Sir, this question relates to Sion and my colleague has already explained about it. A case was detected in March 1981 in respect of Maulana Azad post office. The persons have been arrested. The money has been recovered and also returned. The point to be emphasised here is that this was detected by the post office staff themselves. The bag was put in the cage and when the cage was opened it was found tampered. This was detected by the post office staff themselves and they called in the police. Investigation is on. We have got some clues about it. Sir, out of the total transactions of Rs. 403

crores of insured articles during the last year there was theft involving Rs. 6 lakhs.

Reactivising abandoned Oil Wells in West Bengal

*337. SHRI MUKUNDA MANDAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether abandoned oil wells in 24 Parganas, West Bengal, will be surveyed by oil technologists from a foreign country to assess oil potentiality;

(b) if so, details of the arrangements; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b). The ONGC entered into a contract with a US Consultancy firm M/s. Geoconsultants International (GCI) in August, 1980 to carry out Delta Model Study in West Bengal. The data from seismic surveys already carried out from the wells drilled in Bengal Basin, including the district of 24 Parganas, is being reprocessed and reanalysed by this firm in association with ONGC geoscientists. The report of the study will be available in February, 1982.

In addition, a contract has been entered into with V/O Technoexport, USSR, on April 16, 1980 for carrying out seismic surveys in 24 Parganas. These surveys are scheduled to start by mid-December, 1981, and the first report is expected to be available in November, 1982.

(c) Does not arise.

SHRI MUKUNDA MANDAL: Sir, all the surveys carried out in Sunderbans area of 24 Parganas—particularly Canning and Bakultala area—have been abandoned. Most of the wells were abandoned before drilling

to the specified depth. Recently we have been hearing that in Diamond Harbour also well will be abandoned before drilling upto the specified depth. May I know from the hon. Minister whether he will enquire into this matter and ask the authorities to drill the wells to the specified depth and thereafter only report should be given to the Government?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): Sir, as far as 24 Parganas is concerned we had not struck oil but it is a fact we did not go upto the depth which was desirable. However, now we have entered into an Agreement for survey with the USSR and also with this company and we have asked them to drill to reasonable depth which will be required for ascertaining oil and hydrocarbon. And I can assure the hon. Members that we are taking all possible steps to see that this area is properly developed and properly surveyed and explored.

SHRI MUKUNDA MANDAL: What about Diamond Harbour?

SHRI P. C. SETHI: Regarding Diamond Harbour also, we are getting the rigs again and we would start drilling.

SHRI MUKUNDA MANDAL: My second supplementary is this: In a Report on 'Exploration of Sea-bed Resources' submitted by Mr. David A. Ross to the UNIDO, that is, United Nations Industrial Development Organisation, the Bay of Bengal has been singled out as having a great potential in oil and gas resources in the Indian Ocean area.

Also, it is reported that the United States has been keen to conduct joint scientific surveys in the Bay of Bengal using a ship of the Scripps Institute of Oceanography. In view of this Press Report, may I know whether he is going to make any contact with the USA Government to drill this Bay of

Bengal area and the Indian Ocean area? May I also know whether the Government had given any permission to Mr. David A. Ross to undertake the study in this regard, before giving his report to the United Nations?

SHRI P. C. SETHI: During the visit of Soviet Oil Minister, Mr. Maltsev, over and above the 2300 K.Ms. about which they have given proposals, also gave proposals for assistance in drilling in Calcutta Gravity High and also in Port Canning, Diamond Harbour and Bodra area in the West Bengal Basin. Therefore, in view of this, we are already considering a proposal from the Soviet Union. We do not think that we should entertain any other proposal at present.

SHRI MUKUNDA MANDAL: What about Mr. David A. Ross? Who has given him permission to undertake this study?

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: May I know from the hon. Minister whether any agreement regarding the survey of the abandoned oil wells of Nadia and Burdwan districts was reached? May I know whether the abandoned wells of the districts of Nadia and Burdwan, Galsi and Gushakara areas have been explored upto more than 5,500 metres depth? I want to know this from the hon. Minister.

SHRI P. C. SETHI: I have no information with regard to the districts which the hon. Member mentioned. I have information about 24 Parganas only at present.

Functioning and selling of Mysore Acetate and Chemicals Co. in Mandya

*338. **DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had asked the Mysore Acetate and Chemicals Co. in Mandya to