

10-41 hrs

CORRECTION OF ANSWER TO STARRED QUESTION No. 913

The Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs (Shri Mohar Chand Khanna): Sir, in reply to starred question No. 913, replied by me on the 4th September, 1958, the word 'Kamins' was used. It was placed in inverted commas and had reference to the revenue records. This has caused some offence in certain quarters. The word was inadvertently used and I wish to offer sincere regrets. The word may be changed to "by members of Schedule Castes and Backward Classes".

CORRECTIONS OF ANSWER TO STARRED QUESTION No. 232

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): With your permission, Sir, I wish to make a correction in the reply that was given by the Prime Minister to one of the supplementary questions arising out of Starred Question No. 232, asked by Shri H. N. Mukerjee and Shri Halder on the 19th August, 1958, regarding National Sample Survey Schemes.

To a supplementary question put by Shri Halder regarding the Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta, the Prime Minister replied that this Institute is an autonomous body with senior officials of Government on its Governing body.

The correct position is that the Government of India have representation on the Governing Body of the Research and Training School of the Indian Statistical Institute. There is no such body as the Governing Body of the Institute.

12.43 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business in this House for the next week will consist of:

- (1) Consideration and passing of the Merchant Shipping Bill, 1958.
- (2) Discussion and Voting on the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget (General) for 1958-59.

- (3) Consideration and passing:

International Finance Corporation (Status, Immunities and Privileges) Bill;

Supreme Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Bill;

High Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill.

- (4) Discussion of the following matters will also come up on the dates mentioned:

(i) Report of the Advisory Committee on Slum Clearance on a motion to be moved by Shri Rajendra Singh and others on 15th September at 3 p.m.

(ii) Planning Commission's Memorandum on the Appraisal and Prospects of the Second Five Year Plan on a motion to be moved by the Minister for Planning on 17th and 18th September.

12-45 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: OIL EXPLORATION

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): Sir, as the House is aware we have been exploring for

[Shri K. D. Malaviya]

oil in different parts of the country over the last 2½ years and in this we have followed a policy of selective dispersal of activities rather than concentrating at one place. The House may recall that drilling has been going on at Jawalamukhi, and more recently at Hoshiarpur. In the West Bengal Gangetic plain also the Indo-Stanvac project had undertaken drilling operations. Recently drilling was commenced in the Cambay area by the Oil and Natural Gases Commission.

I deem it my duty to report to the House that at the Cambay site we have penetrated into what appears to be an oil bearing stratum. A small underground structure was independently delineated by our Indian specialists at a depth of 3,000 ft. some five miles north-west of Cambay. (Shri Tyagis Very good.) There were exposures of marine rocks and gas around the fringe of the basin. It was thought that this was a region of marine sedimentation and a decision was taken to test the structure by drilling to a depth of 10,000 ft.

After the necessary preparations, drilling operations were started on 25th July, 1958 with a Russian Ural-mash-3D turbo drill and a depth of 5368 ft. was reached on the morning of the 3rd September when drilling was stopped for taking electro-logging data. On 4th instant when the drilling mud was circulated in the morning, thin films of dark brown oil were seen to come to the surface with the return mud. When the casing was lowered on the 8th and mud circulation resumed, oil started to reappear and flowed with the mud in a continuous stream for about 15 minutes. The pressure of the drilling mud at the bottom of the hole was about 190 atmospheres suggesting that the oil was under considerable pressure.

While there is reason for cautious optimism on the basis of the results obtained so far, it will be necessary to continue fairly intensified drilling

and testing for a period of roughly 3 to 12 months before we can be certain as to whether we have struck a commercially exploitable oilfield. The fact remains that the discovery of oil in this region has enormously increased the possibilities in this part of the country which remained neglected hitherto.

We propose to increase the number of drills in this area as also in some of the other promising areas so as to speed up the work. We are extremely fortunate to strike oil at such shallow depth in an unknown virgin area within a short time and at negligible cost and the credit goes to the hard work, determination and enthusiasm of our young Indian engineers. We are also indebted to the Russian and Rumanian experts who are helping us in our work.

As the House is already aware, at Jawalamukhi despite our meeting with the normal hazards of drilling, we were fortunate enough to strike gas recently and the drill-hole there is being further developed and our investigations continue.

I will take the earliest opportunity to report to the House any further development that comes to our notice from these areas.

12.48 hrs.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Shri B. G. Mehta (Gohilwad): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (8) of Rule 254 read with sub-rule (1) of Rule 311 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, one Member from among themselves to serve