

12.26 hrs.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MAT-
TER OF URGENT PUBLIC
IMPORTANCE**

**REPORTED DISCOVERY OF OIL AT
RUDRASAGAR, ASSAM**

Shri Raghunath Singh (Varanasi):
Sir, under Rule 197, I beg to call the
attention of the Minister of Steel,
Mines and Fuel to the following mat-
ter of urgent public importance and
I request that he may make a state-
ment thereon:—

“The reported discovery of oil
at Rudrasagar, Assam.”

**The Minister of Mines and Oil
(Shri K. D. Malaviya)**: My attention
has been drawn to the reported dis-
covery of oil at Rudrasagar in Assam.
I am glad to take this opportunity to
report the facts to the House.

2. Well No. 1 in Rudrasagar, Assam,
was spudded in by the Oil and Natu-
ral Gas Commission on 29th May,
1960. Drilling of this Well was com-
pleted on 21st September, 1960 when
the well reached the depth of 3817.32
metres. During drilling, indications
of presence of oil were noted in cores
and Well cuttings. Out of the four
horizons which have been tested so
far, three have produced only water
and one produced 4 per cent of oil.
Two more horizons are still to be
tested. It is impossible to say what
quantity of oil will be produced from
Rudrasagar Well No. 1, unless test-
ing of the remaining two horizons are
completed.

12.28 hrs.

**STATEMENT RE: DISCUSSION
WITH E.N.I.'s TEAM**

**The Minister of Mines and Oil
(Shri K. D. Malaviya)**: I appreciate
the interest of the honourable mem-
bers of the House in wanting to know
the progress of discussions and nego-
tiations which the Government has
been having with the team of experts
from E.N.I.

The House is aware that invita-
tions were extended to foreign oil
companies to make proposals for col-
laboration in oil exploration and pro-
duction in India. Several parties
made offers; one such offer came
from E.N.I. As a result of our exa-
mination of this offer and from dis-
cussions held in Italy by a represen-
tative of the Government with E.N.I.,
it was felt that detailed negotiations
with E.N.I. should take place. At
Government's instance, Mr. Mattei,
Chairman of ENI, accompanied by
four experts visited India between
12th December 1960 to 18th Decem-
ber 1960 and negotiations were held
with him and his team on the offer
made in respect of the various as-
pects of petroleum industry.

Apart from the proposal covering
oil exploration and production etc.,
discussions were held on the possibi-
lities of obtaining credit, at reason-
able terms, from E.N.I. in the form
of equipment for workshops, refine-
ries, pipelines, petrochemical plants
etc. It appears that it may be pos-
sible for us to come to some sort of
an agreement on credit arrange-
ments.

On the proposal of ENI relating to
oil exploration and production, some
points were clarified and broad under-
standing on the approach and views
of either party on some others was
reached. After some further study
of the matter, negotiations will con-
tinue with ENI in order to achieve
a settlement.

Two experts from ENI who were
left behind to continue discussions on
matters relating to credit facilities,
have had discussions with the repre-
sentatives of the Government, and
preliminary ground has been cleared
on the various projects to which the
offer of credit will relate.

As the House will appreciate, I am
not in a position to give details of
the matters discussed or cleared or
the points awaiting settlement, as
this would prejudice the negotiations

[Shri K. D. Malaviya.]

not only with ENI but with other parties too, in the midst of which we are presently.

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati): The hon. Minister in his statement said that the Italian Team would do oil exploration in collaboration with the Oil and Natural Gas Commission. May I know whether this Italian Team would be engaged in the exploration of oil as an independent venture as the Stanvac did in West Bengal or it would have technical or financial collaboration of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I am afraid, Sir, it will not be possible for me to give any further information than what I have done. I would request hon. Members to wait for a little more.

Shri Hem Barua: There is a basic policy. When this Ministry approached world oil interests for this sort of work they laid down a certain policy. May I know whether these oil interests would work as independent parties or they would be collaborating, so far as technical personnel or finances are concerned, with our own interests here?

Mr. Speaker: He is considering it.

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Both such ideas are before us for examination and they are being examined.

Shri Braj Raj Singh (Ferozabad): The hon. Minister just now said that he was not in a position to disclose more information to the House. In yesterday's newspapers it was published that the Italian company had agreed to invest Rs. 100 crores in collaboration with the Government of India for exploration and distribution of oil etc. May we know whether that is true or the Minister would like to contradict it?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: All that I can say, Sir, is that it is not at all an authorised statement. I have nothing more to say.

Mr. Speaker: I would like to make the position clear. In spite of our best efforts, they come out with some information. Some journal has come to me also. It has come to every hon. Member. Even when Parliament is not in session, it is said in the lobby circles—whether there is a lobby when the Parliament is not in session, God alone knows—and therefore, even from the heart of God himself, some information is somehow snatched away, casually. Therefore, an authoritative statement on the basis of what is happening may be made. But when the Government would like to keep a thing as secret, hon. Members should not ask questions. If they ask, I am not going to insist upon the hon. Ministers to give away secrets during the course of negotiations. There are secrets both for an individual as also for a country.

Shri Ranga (Tenali): Sometimes it so happens that the Ministers are unwilling to divulge any information here. Even when the session is on, they hold press conferences and they give information there.

Mr. Speaker: I am against it. I have repeatedly referred to this aspect. I had referred to this also a long time ago when somebody brought it to my notice, namely, that Shri Tyagi made a statement in Bombay—I do not know if my information is correct; it may be wrong—when he was a Minister. Some statement by a junior Minister was made in Bombay when the House was sitting here. Then I had occasion to observe that when Parliament is in session, any major statement of policy must always be made in this House and the public ought not to be taken into confidence before this House is taken into confidence. (*Interruptions*).

Shri Tyagi (Dehra Dun): Could I apologise now and request you to kindly give retrospective effect to this apology?

Mr. Speaker: Very well; I will also see that, if any details get publicity

in the press and outside, this procedure is followed, namely, I will certainly request the hon. Minister to confide in this House, though originally they might not have liked to take the House into confidence, and prematurely give information regarding any important matter here. A number of details appear in the newspapers, and certainly the people are anxious to know what the position is. Of course, it is a matter for individual consideration of each individual case.

Shri Ranga: I would like to make one request to you and through you to the Treasury Benches. While the House is in session, let them not hold press conferences in the capital city itself and make it another House.

Shri Tyagi: That is true.

Mr. Speaker: I cannot prevent any press conference, but all that I can say is, at the press conferences no new enunciation of policy may be made, a policy which was not given to this House in advance.

Shri Ranga: When the House is sitting, it is the platform for the whole of the country. The members of the press gallery are there and they take note of whatever is being said here. If the Government want to divulge any information or make any observation about the international affairs or anything, they must first come to this House or the other House. (*Interruptions*).

Shri Braj Raj Singh: A press conference is held monthly.

Shri Tyagi: ** **

Shri Braj Raj Singh: How can it be there when Parliament is in session?

CHILDREN BILL

The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrimali): I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the care, protection, maintenance,

welfare, training, education and rehabilitation of neglected or delinquent children and for the trial of delinquent children in the Union Territories, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

I should like first to mention briefly the major changes that have been made by the Joint Committee in this Bill. Under the existing provisions of the Bill, all children, whether they are delinquent or neglected...

Shri Braj Raj Singh (Ferozabad): Sir, I want one clarification. Item No. 12 in the Order Paper is the "Report of Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities" about which the motion is to be moved by Shri Datar. Before that, there are three or four other items. So, I want to know whether that item will come at all for discussion before this session ends. It is a very important subject. Now, the Children Bill has been taken up and then there are certain other smaller Bills coming up. So, we would like to know whether that report will come up at all for discussion even tomorrow, because tomorrow, we have only two hours for official business.

Mr. Speaker: Today, the half-an-hour discussion is also coming up at 4.30. Five hours have been allotted for discussing the report of the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities. Why should it not stand over? Let the children be taken care of first, through the Children Bill.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: That report came up previously, but it was held over till this session.

Mr. Speaker: What can I do? I am trying to allot as much time as possible for all measures. Let the Children Bill be passed first, and be given effect to.

Shrimati Benu Chakravartty (Basirhat): My point is that the discussion

**Expunged, as ordered by the Chair.