

detected, we arrive at these figures on an average basis. For example, in 1974-75 upto February 1975 on all the Indian railways 1,62,221 persons were prosecuted out of whom 99,189 persons were jailed and a sum of Rs. 12,86,891 was realised as judicial fine. On the basis of this exercise on a particular section we arrive at these figures.

Demand from State Governments for Increase in their Share of Oil Revenues

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*904. SHRI P. GANGADEB:
SHRI D. D. DESAI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some States have approached the Central Government for an increase in the percentage of their share from oil revenues;

(b) whether recently he held any fresh talks with the representatives of the State Governments;

(c) whether the Central Government have taken any decision in the matter; and

(d) if so, facts thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI C. P. MAJHI):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir

(c) and (d). No final decision has yet been taken.

SHRI P. GANGADEB: Since the oil producing States have started demanding a higher percentage of royalty share or, for the matter of that, a share from the total oil revenues to be allotted to them, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what are the existing royalty terms

for prospecting and mining of crude oil in the States in the country and whether the terms and conditions would now be revised primarily to help the State exchequer.

SHRI C. P. MAJHI: The rate of royalty to the States is fixed under the Oilfields Development and Regulation Act, 1948 Under this Regulation, the first award was given by late Prime Minister, Pandit Nehru in November, 1962 and in course of these years, it has undergone changes quite a number of times. Based on these settlements the Prime Minister gave an award on 15th October, 1972 under which rate of royalty on crude oil was fixed at Rs. 15 per tonne from 1st January, 1972 upto 31st March, 1979 and this will continue for some time. Regarding the proposal made by the State Governments to change the existing rates of royalty, the matter is under consideration and is being looked into.

SHRI P. GANGADEB: How do the royalty terms prevalent in this country compare with the terms in the Middle-east and other oil producing countries? And what action Government proposes to take to work out a better royalty in the interest of our country?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): We are trying to consider very seriously and sympathetically the proposals made by the State Governments. As a matter of fact, the price of crude oil which the ONGC gets has no relation with the international price and, therefore, the two cannot be compared. So far as the present negotiations are concerned, I hope, within a few months, we will arrive at a settlement.

SHRI D. D. DESAI: The hon. Minister has mentioned that royalty has nothing to do with the international market price. But the fact is, when the international crude oil was 1.5 dollar per barrel the royalty was Rs. 7.50. Now, the crude price has

gone up to 10 1/2 to 11 dollars, but the same percentage has not been paid to the States and the States have now been asking continuously for increase in the royalty rates. Whether the Minister is serious about the feelings of the people of the States—whether Assam or Gujarat—in regard to this delay regarding crude oil royalty which has not been altered since 1968? And 1972 award is not valid because the State Governments were not involved in that matter. Whether he is also considering to give royalty on crude from Bombay High to Gujarat State or not?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: There is no provision in the Constitution that Gujarat can get any royalty on crude oil produced from the Bombay High. So far as the price of crude oil on which royalty is fixed, is concerned, the price which the ONGC gets from the oil lifted from Assam and Gujarat, is less than half the price of the international crude oil. Therefore, I said that there was no relation between the price of the indigenous crude and the international crude, on the basis of which royalty is to be considered. What we do is that we try to co-relate the royalty on the basis of the crude price that the ONGC gets.

SHRI D. D. DESAI: Does the Minister want to test the constitutional provision in a court of law? Because, this is a situation which we have to face.

MR. SPEAKER: The question hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Production of Crude by O. & N.G.C. (Western Region)

*696. **SHRI ARVIND M. PATEL:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (Western Region) has set up a record in exceeding its crude production target; and

(b) if so, the broad features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): (a) and (b). Against the revised target of 3.78 million tonnes of crude oil, ONGC produced and despatched a total of 3.86 million tonnes of crude oil from its oil fields in the Western Region during 1974-75.

Working of Public Sector Undertakings under the Ministry

*397. **SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the working results of each public sector undertaking under the control of his Ministry for the year 1974-75, as compared to 1973-74; and

(b) the extent of increase/decrease in net profit, after taxes, in the case of each undertaking with reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): (a) and (b). As the accounts of the public sector undertakings for the year 1974-75 are not yet ready, a comparison of the working results of the undertakings in that year with those in the year 1973-74 is not possible. However, a statement is laid on the Table of the House giving the working results of the undertakings in terms of profit/loss for the year 1973-74.