

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: I am afraid the hon. Member has misunderstood the basic concept of drilling. Drilling is based on geological and seismic reports. Once you start drilling, unless you strike oil, you do not know what is the deposit here. We have not struck oil so far in the exploratory wells; in one case we have struck gas.

DR. HENRY AUSTIN: I was wandering whether in view of the seismic and geological surveys carried out on the Arabian Coast near Vyppeen in Cochin and in view of the oil scarcity, the hon. Minister will give top priority to drilling in the Arabian Sea. I myself submitted some notes about oil prospects in the above mentioned area to your predecessor in office.

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: Yes, Sir. The Arabian Sea is certainly prospective. These areas are being considered for future drilling.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: May I know whether the drilling project in regard to Godra area has been given by in West Bengal? May I also know whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to a report published recently in the West Bengal newspapers that there was oil drilling and oil was struck in Krishnanagar in Nadia district?

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: Both are correct. Oil drilling in one area has been given up and there was a news item that oil was struck in another area.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: May I know whether there is any prospect of oil in the Krishnanagar area?

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: That can be known only after a detailed geological survey. Merely because you get a few drops of oil here and there, you cannot come to any conclusion. There should be enough proof.

SHRI BIREN DUTTA: May I know whether any new place has been brought under exploration in Tripura?

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: Yes, Sir.

SHRI BIREN DUTTA: May I know whether any new rigs have been installed in Baramuri in Tripura?

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: So far as Baramuri in Tripura is concerned, we have already gone to the depth of 2,200 metres and we have got trace of gas. The projected depth is 4,500 metres. We have to see what quantum of gas we get at that depth.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH: The hon. Minister has just now mentioned that drilling is being carried out in Cauveri basin. May I know whether any geological and seismic survey is being conducted in the Godavari basin?

MR. SPEAKER: What I propose is that the hon. Minister may hold a meeting of all the hon. Members who can give him some information about gas or oil. I cannot deal with them in the supplementaries.

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: Yes, Sir.

Non-utilization of the Press Brake Plant Imported for FACT Engineering:

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*428. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN
KADANNAPPALLI:

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:

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

(a) whether the press brake and plate bending machines imported for the FACT Engineering Works six months back have not been erected so far resulting in huge loss in production to the Company and leaving the capital idle; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not erecting them so far and the steps taken to erect them early?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b). The machinery items in question were received in April/June 1973 and these were to be installed in the premises occupied by the Workshop of the Udyogamandal Division. Their erection was held up because of the delays etc. in completing the new premises for the Workshop along with the requisite facilities. These facilities are now being provided and the machines are expected to be installed within the next 4-5 months.

SHRI RAMACHANDRAN KADANNAPPALLI: This is another glaring example of the inefficiency and indifference of the management towards FACT. The press brake machine purchased at a cost of Rs. 18 lakhs and the plate bending machine purchased at a cost of Rs. 8 lakhs rotting for a long time even though they are vital profit earning equipments for Fact Engineering Works. The Minister has admitted in his reply that there will be a delay of another four to five months. Who is responsible for this delay and what steps are you going to take against the person concerned?

SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN: These machines were to be erected in a workshop which is already occupied. The idea was that the workshop was to be moved to another building and these machines were to be erected in this workshop. In the place where this workshop was to be moved certain additional facilities had to be created and the civil engineering works also took some time. Those works are complete and the new machines would be installed in the next four or five months.

SHRI RAMACHANDRAN KADANNAPPALLI: The Works Manager, who is the head of the Fact Engineering Works, sent 14 reminders to the CME

to take the necessary steps to erect the machinery. Yet, nothing has been done. The FACT management is a scandal of the first magnitude. Will the hon. Minister, in the light of his earlier statement, institute an inquiry against the Chairman and the officers, so far as this particular instance is concerned?

SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN: This question deals with the erection of certain machines. The machines will be set up in the next four or five months. They are doing it as fast as they can.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Before asking my question, I want to record my protest against the answer that has been given where vague words like "etc." have been used. The House should not be treated lightly like this. The Minister must give correct answers to the House.

In fact, this is only one minor part of the whole affair. The working of the FACT was raised in this House by way of a discussion some time back. Unfortunately, the hon. Minister tried to defend the inefficient and very indifferent management. I am sorry about it. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal before the Government to instal the heavy plates and vessels plant at Fact Engineering Works. This delay in the erection of the plant has occurred because the management did not think in advance of the place where it is to be erected. The Minister tried to simplify the whole thing. When the machinery was ordered four years ago what was your plan? That should be planned at the time when an order is placed and not when the machinery actually arrives. The delay is certainly due to the indifference of the management. I want to know what steps you have taken against them for this.

SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN: When these machines were ordered, as I explained earlier, the idea was to erect them in the workshop....

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: When?

SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN: These were received about six months ago. When we wanted to shift the workshop the employees insisted that they should be provided with a canteen and certain other facilities. We had to provide those facilities. We would be setting up the new machines in the next four or five months. I do not think there is any undue delay.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Fourteen is a very serious matter.

MR. SPEAKER: There should be no debate on this.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: The Minister is not answering the questions.

MR. SPEAKER: He is answering it.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Fourteen reminders were sent to the management and the Chairman. He can admit the mistakes.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN: Is the Minister aware of the deliberate policy of the present management to discourage any new orders being given to FACT Engineering Works? If not, would he give the House the figures for the last three years of the works undertaken by the FACT Engineering Works and also the present position in the order book?

MR. SPEAKER: How is it relevant to this question?

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN: This is a related question. The House is entitled to know the truth. They cannot simply give "etc." as a reason. We cannot be treated like that.

MR. SPEAKER: I would request my dear young friends to try to sit separately from each other, because they are fire brands. Shri Lakkappa.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: The working of FACT has been discussed at various times in the House and also outside. It is a scandal and many derogatory remarks were made regarding the inefficient running of FACT even earlier, not only in the present Lok Sabha but also in the previous Lok Sabha.

MR. SPEAKER: I called him to put the next question, which is standing in his name. If he does not want to put it, I will pass on to the question after that.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: This delay in erecting the machinery which has been purchased at enormous cost is because of a deliberate policy. This has resulted in a loss of several lakhs of rupees to the factory. Because of this the production had to be slashed down.

MR. SPEAKER: I want to remind him that I did not call him to ask a supplementary on this question. I called him to ask the next question.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Anyhow, I have put a supplementary to the hon. Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: I have not allowed it. You may put the other question.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Then, shall I withdraw my supplementary?

MR. SPEAKER: He may call his question.

Committee to Study Foreigners' Stake in Drug Industry

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*429. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:
SHRI P. GANGADEB:

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

(a) whether Government have decided to set up another Committee