

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : As I had already mentioned, we are making all possible efforts to get our Deputy High Commissioner from Dacca ; certain difficulties have cropped up, and we are trying to negotiate, and we are seized of the matter.

SHRI TRIDIB CHAUDHURI : In this connection,....

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member may confine his question only to the wife of the Deputy High Commissioner. The main question relates only to her, but the husband also has come into the picture. If the hon. Minister has got the information, I have no objection.

SHRI TRIDIB CHAUDHURI : I am not very much interested either in the husband or in the wife. I want to ask a general but serious question. I understand from newspaper reports that our High Commissioner in Pakistan, Mr. B. K. Acharya has come to India on retirement or on leave preparatory to retirement. In view of the serious state of relations between India and Pakistan, what is the actual state of affairs, and who is looking after our interests there ? Will Government immediately send a senior officer there so that our interests in Islamabad and also Dacca may be properly looked after ?

MR. SPEAKER : This has gone much beyond the scope of the main question. From the wife of the Deputy High Commissioner, the question has now gone to Shri B. K. Acharya.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : Have you allowed the question, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : If he is not in a position to answer, I cannot force him. Now, next question.

Utilization of Rostam Crude Oil

*313. SHRI D. D. DESAI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity and value of Rostam Crude produced in Iran through M/s Hydrocarbons and India's share thereof ;

(b) the quantity lifted and the price realised by Government so far ; and

(c) the immediate and long-term plans which Government have formulated or have under implementation for offsetting rising foreign exchange bill of imported crudes by utilising Rostam Crude ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) Hydrocarbons India Private Ltd.'s entitlement is 1/6th share of the total production of Rostam crude oil. Total quantity produced up to April, 1971 is US barrels 33,930,898. Its value is dependent on the realised price.

(b) Quantity lifted by HLPL up to April 1971 is US barrels, 3,298,254. Total sale proceeds received up to April, 1971 is U.S.\$ 2,297,652.68. Sales are made on usual credit terms of 120 days.

(c) A number of offers for purchase of HIPL's share of Rostam crude on suitable terms are being received and considered and there will be no difficulty as a short-term measure to dispose of by sale the crude. As for long-term plans for utilisation of the crude, proposals for its utilisation in Barauni and in the next refinery to be soon taken up in the Public Sector are under examination.

SHRI D. D. DESAI : Since Government is already forgoing its share and—in disposing of its limited offtake at a throw-away price, would it not consider putting up a refinery at Kandla at the earliest so that the drain on our foreign exchange is reduced and we are able to use our own crude ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : As far as Rostam crude is concerned, at one time it appeared that it would be difficult to sell it. But now that is not so ; it is being sold ; we have already sold the quantity we had in our possession to Spain and a few other countries. As far refining capacity, we are also making the necessary changes in the Barauni refinery so that Rostam crude could be used there because we have already a 1-million tonne extra capacity at Barauni.

SHRI D. D. DESAI : Since there is already a proposal for putting up a crude oil refinery in North India, could we not consider fixation of the site on the basis of first cost, that is, capital cost and the end-product cost, that is,

the cost of the finished product to the customer? On both these counts, Kandla would be a better site than any other in North India..

MR. SPEAKER : He is making a suggestion.

SHRI D. D. DESAI : I will put it this way: Would Government not consider Kandla as the site in view of the lower first capital cost and the end product cost? Will the site selection be based on technical and commercial considerations or on political considerations?

SHRI P. C. SETHI : The question is a limited one, limited to Rostam crude and its utilisation. If you allow it, Sir, I would like to say that as far as the location of the site in the north-west is concerned, it has been given to a technical committee whose report we are awaiting. Their examination would be based on techno-economic feasibility studies of the places considered, keeping in view the inputs and products which would be sold in the market, and the matter would not be decided only on political considerations.

Death of Major Bahuguna

*314. SHRI HUKAM CHAND KACHWAI :
SHRI MANORANJAN HAZRA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Everest climber, Major Bahuguna died due to hunger and fatigue, while he was climbing the Everest;

(b) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the statement of Mr. and Mrs. Michel Vaucher and Dr. Pierre Mazeaud co-participants of the late Major who left the Everest expedition blaming the behaviour of the expedition leaders for his death; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : (a) to (c) : Brief reports on the death of Maj. Bahuguna have been received from the leader of the expedition. A tape-

recorded version of the evidence taken by the leader while investigating the case is expected shortly. In view, however, of the conflicting reports emanating from different sources on the subject, the Indian Mountaineering Foundation has set up a Committee to go into this matter. The members of the Committee are Brig. Gyan Singh, Leader of the Indian Mount Everest Expedition, 1930 and Major HPS Alilwalia, one of the summiters of the successful Indian expedition to Everest in 1955. When the committee's report is received the position may be clearer.

श्री हुकम चन्द्र कछवाय : जिस समिति के बनाने की बात कही गई है वह कब बनी और उसके कब तक अपनी रिपोर्ट दे देने की आशा है ?

श्री विद्याचरण शुक्ल : जहाँ तक मुझे मालूम है, पन्द्रह वीस दिन पहले ही यह कमेटी बनी है। मैं यह तो नहीं कह सकता कि कब तक इसकी रिपोर्ट आ जायेगी, लेकिन उम्मीद यह है कि वह जल्दी उपलब्ध हो जायेगी।

श्री हुकम चन्द्र कछवाय : जैसा समाचार-पत्रों में पढ़ा गया है, भूख और थकान के कारण उनकी मृत्यु हुई है। क्या सरकार का ध्यान समाचार-पत्रों में छपी खबरों की ओर गया है? यदि गया है, तो इसमें कहाँ तक सत्य है?

श्री विद्याचरण शुक्ल : इन सब बातों को देख कर ही यह सोचा गया कि इसको तय करने के लिये जांच समिति बनाई जाय क्योंकि इसके बारे में लोगों ने तरह तरह से अपनी अपनी बातें बतलाई हैं। जब जांच समिति उन बातों में जायेगी तभी सत्य का पता चलेगा।

श्री पैतली : क्या यह सच है कि मेजर बहुगुणा ने कभी भी इस टीम के साथ एक्सपैडीशन में जाने की इच्छा जाहिर नहीं की थी और रक्षा मंत्रालय के एक बरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने उनको इस एक्सपैडीशन में जाने के लिये मजबूर किया था ?

MR. SPEAKER : How does it arise out of the question ?