

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?

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :** What proviso, if any, has the Government made for Maj. Bahuguna's family ?

**SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA :** Maj. Bahuguna was insured for Rs. 30,000 during this expedition. That money would come. Then, for his commissioned service, his family will be entitled for the following benefits according to the Government rules. First, family pension to the widow of Rs. 220 per month; then, children's allowance of Rs. 40 per month per child; thirdly, educational allowance of Rs. 40 per month per child beginning from the age of 5 and ending at the age of 18 years; family gratuity of Rs. 6,500. These are the benefits which will be available to the family of the late Maj. Bahuguna. Apart from this, the Indian Mountaineering Foundation has awarded posthumously a gold medal for distinguished mountaineering to Maj. Bahuguna.

#### SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

##### Shortage of Kerosene Oil in Orissa State

1. **SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI :** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the acute shortage of kerosene oil in Orissa state for the last two months;

(b) if so, the reasons for the same; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure adequate supply of kerosene oil to Orissa by now to relieve the common-man from his hardship ?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI DAIBIR SINGH) :** (a) Reports of shortage of kerosene oil have been received from the State Government during May, 1971 only in respect of the Balasore, Bhadrak and Mayurganj area of north Orissa, served by the oil companies' depots at Balasore. There have been no complaints from the rest of the State.

(b) Extensive thefts of overhead traction wires and other equipments have resulted in occasional reductions in rail transport capacity

ex-Calcutta. It has, therefore, not been possible to despatch the needed quantities of kerosene by rail from Calcutta, the normal supply source for this area. However, to the extent feasible, substantially increased supplies have been made to the State from Vishakhapatnam, the other source of supply for kerosene and oil products to the State.

(c) The following steps have been taken :-

(i) The oil companies have advised their agents to uplift maximum possible kerosene by road from their storage depots and installations at Calcutta.

(ii) The State Government has been requested to induce the agents to maximise road upliftments of kerosene from Calcutta.

(iii) The State Government has been requested to distribute the available supplies of kerosene equitably and to ensure that it is sold at the controlled price fixed by the local State officials under the Essential Commodities Act.

(iv) Dependence on rail transport for the movement of kerosene from Calcutta is being progressively brought down by maximising the utilisation of the Haldia-Barauni-Kanpur pipelines.

**SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI :** The hon. Minister just now stated that the report of acute shortage of kerosene oil in the State came to the notice of the Government of India only towards the end of May. But this shortage started in April, and in May it was quite acute. What was the quota allotted to Orissa in February-March and to what extent supply was adhered to. What is the actual controlled price fixed for Orissa so far as kerosene oil is concerned ?

**THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI) :** We came to know of the shortage from the State Government and various complaints that were received in the ministry, and the hon. Member also spoke to me about this shortage. Particularly after he spoke to me, I asked the officers