

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, April 22, 1975/Vaisakha 2,
1897 (Saha)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair.]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

**Trains cancelled due to shortage of
Power in Sealdah Division during the
last six months.**

+

*732. SHRI TUNA ORAON :
SHRI SAKTI KUMAR SAR-
KAR :

Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be
pleased to state:

(a) the number and particulars of
trains cancelled in Sealdah Division due
to shortage of power during the last six
months; and

(b) the action taken for smooth run-
ning of trains in this Division?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI
MOHD SHAFI QURESHI): (a) No
trains were cancelled in Sealdah Divi-
sion during last six months due to restric-
tion on electricity consumption. How-
ever 305 trains were cancelled due to
load shedding and power failures etc.

(b) To ensure continuous and secure
power supply for electric traction loads
on a long-term basis, the Ministry of
Railways have decided, in consultation
with the Planning Commission, to set up
Railways' own power stations which will
run inter-connected with the State Grids.
One of the power stations is proposed
to be set up in West Bengal, which when
completed, will help in smooth running
of trains on the electrified sections.

SHRI MUHAMMED KHUDA
BUKHSH: Will the hon. Minister tell
us when the power stations are propos-
ed to be set up?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI:
The matter is under examination by the
Planning Commission.

Projects of Oil Exploration in West Bengal

*733. SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Will
the Minister of PETROLEUM AND
CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) details about the projects of oil
exploration under operation in West Ben-
gal; and

(b) the progress so far made there-
about?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM
AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. D.
MALAVIYA): (a) and (b) Seismic sur-
veys have been conducted by the ONGC
in districts of West Dinajpur, Maldah,
Burdwan, Nadiah, Howrah, 24-Parganas,
Midnapur and Bankura of West Bengal.
Exploratory work done so far, including
drilling of a number of exploratory wells,
in West Bengal has not led to the dis-
covery of deposits of oil/gas of com-
mercial significance. On the basis of
further work done. ONGC has released
for drilling three more locations, one at
Bakultala and two at Galsi. Drilling at
Bakultala structure is expected to be
commenced during this year.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: May I know
(a) whether the seismic survey in the
Bakultala area of 24 Parganas has reveal-
ed a similar reflection as in Gujarat,
which shows that there is a possibility of
a similar structure of oil in the Bakul-
tala area and if so, what are the results
of that survey; (b) whether drilling works
were started in Jaguli-Haringhata, Bera-
champa, Guskara, Bat-Krishnapur and
Galsi areas but they have been abandon-
ed; and (c) whether the reason for
abandoning the drilling in these areas
and in Bodra was that proper drilling and
rigging instruments were not available?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: Sir, many
questions have been put. If he puts them
one by one, I can answer them. The
nature of seismic reflections in the
Bakultala area have encouraged us to
pinpoint areas where we are going to
start drilling by the end of this year.

The difficulty is, the previous analogue system of seismic investigation is now being replaced by the digital system which gives us the opportunity to eliminate errors. By elimination of errors we have found that Bakultala will be a more attractive area for drilling. As soon as the drill arrives, we will start the drilling.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: I mentioned some places—Jaguli-Haringhata, Berachampa Guskara, Bat-Krishnapur, Galsi and Bodra. In all these areas, some preliminary works for drilling were started. I want to know whether they have been given up because of want of sufficient rigging instruments or for other reasons.

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: The areas where drilling was taken up about 10 or 14 years ago under the Stanvac project were given up because we do not think they are encouraging places. Our knowledge today does not encourage us to go on spending money on drilling in an infructuous manner. Under the new system of seismic investigation, we have pinpointed Bakultala and one or two more areas. As soon as we find some encouraging places, we shall certainly go on.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: In this House, we were told that because we have not instruments to drill beyond 10,000 feet, Bodra and other areas were given up. But you have now said that there were no encouraging signs at these places. That was a different question. I seek clarification. I want to know whether certain photographs of the under-sea structure along the coastal belt of Bengal have been taken and they have also been encouraging; and whether any steps have been taken for off-shore drilling in regard to exploration of oil in the coast of West Bengal. If so, I want to know the nature of the steps taken and whether there is any time-schedule.

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: The hon. Member is perhaps a little confused between two aspects—which I want to make clear. There are certain areas in on-shore, where deco drilling rigs are required. *(Interruption)*

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: I am not confused. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Professor, you are taking a lot of time, as if the whole Question Hour is for you.

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: So far as off-shore areas are concerned, they are quite distinct from on-shore areas where some encouraging structures have been found. But as soon as the total interpretation of those areas arrives, they will try to find, to spot out the areas where they will perhaps start drilling in the off-shore. So far as on-shore areas are concerned, Bakultala is one area where they are going to do it. More than that, there may be areas which are quite deep where we have just not decided to drill.

SHRI R. S. PANDEY: Sir, the other day, the hon. Minister had appeared in the television and given the impression that we are going to be very soon self-sufficient as far as oil is concerned. I would like to take the case of West Bengal, Bihar, Meghalaya and Gujarat. May I know the comprehensive system *(Interruption)*.

MR. SPEAKER: I do not like this

SHRI R. S. PANDEY: Off-shore, on-shore, I wanted to know about West Bengal, Bombay High etc because he gave the impression *(Interruption)*.

MR. SPEAKER: This is not relevant to the main question.

SHRI R. S. PANDEY: If you are the Minister to answer, you will be very happy.

MR. SPFAKLR: No; I am not going to ask him to answer. Please it must have some relevance. Don't do it every day *(Interruption)*.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: Reports have appeared in the Press that contiguous to West Bengal, in Orissa, oil has been located. If so, can the Minister give some idea about this? *(Interruption)*

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing? Kindly sit down please. When the Minister has been asked to supply a specific reply to a specific question, you cannot add to it on your own. No, please. No relevance at all. I am really very

surprised. Why don't you put separate questions on our own and not intrude into others' questions? Why don't you put your own questions?

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: There is an encouraging report from Qalsi and Goalpara areas. Both of these areas are within my constituency. I want to know as to how far you have examined those areas and what is the detailed report in regard to those areas on the effort to find gas. What is the latest detailed information? I want to know this from the hon. Minister.

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: Whether we shall find gas in that area, i.e. Galsi and Goalpara—certainly the Galsi area has given some encouragement. Therefore, we propose to put in a drill there at the appropriate time, as soon as we can.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: I want to know when drilling is expected to begin in the Bakultala region. That is number one. Number two: in his original reply, if I have heard him aright, the Minister had said that exploratory wells have been dug at several places. May I know from him, Sir, whether the expense and trouble of digging exploratory wells are undertaken, unless the preliminary seismic survey is hopeful and indicative? Obviously, I take it that the seismic survey is hopeful; then only exploratory wells are dug. May I know from him as to where are these locations where these several exploratory wells were dug; and why was it that the seismic survey which had led them to do this, is now said to have . . . he says it has not led to any result, has not produced any result?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: Under the previous agreement with the Government of India, the Indo-Stanvac project, which was a joint project, undertook the drilling of ten holes after through seismic investigation and none of them was found to have either oil or gas of any commercial quantity.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: The only place where well was dug was at Bodra.

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: I am coming to Bodra. I was referring to the drills which were made. You asked me where the drills were made. I am answering that question. Ten years back, after thorough seismic work, ten drills were dug but no oil or gas was found, except in one or two places where some traces were found. At Bodra a well was attempted by the ONGC. Its estimated depth was 5,000 metres. We could not go beyond 4,200 metres because of drilling trouble. So, we had to give up the well, not because we did not get any seismic reflections.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Oil is there.

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: May be oil or gas, in commercial or non-commercial quantities is available. I do not deny that. It was stopped because we did not have deep rigging equipment at that time; they could not go beyond 4,200 metres whereas the depth we wanted was 5,000 metres. Now we feel that Bakultala is an encouraging place, after thorough checking and re-checking. Therefore, we propose to put up a hole there.

MR. SPEAKER: Next question, Shri S. N. SINGH DEO—absent. Next question, Shrimati Bhargavi Thankappan—absent. Next question, Shri P. R. Shenoy—absent.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: A very important question is lost. Some members give notice of questions and they do not come here when the questions are due. In that process some questions are lost. What is the remedy?

SHRI R. S. PANDEY: Cut their Rs. 51.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I suggest that if we give intimation in advance saying that we are interested in a particular question, in case the member happens to be absent, we may be permitted to ask questions. Many a time actually these questions are asked through some members by others and they deliberately remain absent. That is also possible. So, we should not leave it to them.

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN: It should be discussed in the Rules Committee.

MR. SPEAKER: We have already devised a procedure. If the list is completed, then there will be a second round.

रेलवे स्टेशनों पर बुक स्टालों में एकाधिकार की प्रवृत्ति को समाप्त करने के लिये प्रस्ताव

*737. श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : क्या रेल मंत्र: यह बनाने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) इस समय-देश में रेलवे विभाग के विभिन्न ज.नो में बुक स्टालों के मन्था कितनी है और उनमें से कितने अशिक्षित बेराजगारों अथवा सहकारी सगठनों के पास हैं ,

(ख) क्या सरकार का विचार बुक स्टालों में एकाधिकार की प्रवृत्ति समाप्त करने का है , और

(ग) यदि हा तो इस सम्बन्ध में क्या कार्यवाही की जा रही है ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD SHAFI QURFISHI).

(a) There are 744 bookstalls on the entire Indian Railways. Of this 19 bookstalls are at present held by unemployed graduates and by cooperatives/partnerships of unemployed graduates.

(b) No monopoly right is enjoyed by any firm or any individual at present.

(c) Does not arise.

श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : रेलवे वजेट पर जब जब यहाँ चर्चा होती है और इस साल भी हुई है तब तब सभी सदस्यों की ओर से, सभी दलों की ओर से यह मांग की गई है कि व्हीलर वगैरह का जो एकाधिकार बुकस्टालों पर है उसको समाप्त किया जाए। पिछले रेल मंत्री श्री ललित नारायण मिश्र ने भी सदन को आश्वासन दिया था और इस बार रेल मंत्री ने भी जो भाषण दिया उस में उन्होंने इस बात

पर प्रकाश डाला था। जिस तरह से आप सिलिंग आदि लागू कर रहे हैं जमीन पर, उद्योगों पर, उसी तरह से बुक स्टालों के सम्बन्ध में भी आप कोई नीति बनाएंगे कि एक व्यक्ति के अधिकार में एक या दो या चार से अधिक बुकस्टाल न रहे ? इस बात को मद्देनजर रखते हुए व्हीलर या दूसरी ऐसी जो भी मस्याये हैं और जिन के पास बहुत अधिक बुकस्टाल हैं उन का एकाधिकार आप कब तक समाप्त करने जा रहे हैं ?

श्री मुहम्मद शफी कुरेशी : ऐसी कोई बात नहीं है कि उनको परमानेंट अधिकार दिया गया है बुक स्टाल चलाने का। जब भी यह बात हमारे नोटिस में आएगी कि उनका काम तमल्लीबद्ध तरीके से नहीं हो रहा है उम वकन उनका काट्रेक्ट खत्म किया जा सकता है। कुछ बुक स्टाल उन्होंने मरेडर किए भी हैं और उनको हमने अनएम्प्लॉयड ग्रेजुएट्स को देने की कोशिश की है।

श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : अध्यक्ष जी, जैसे सरकार ने वॉटरिंग आदि की व्यवस्था बहुत जगह अपने हाथ ले ली है मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्यों नहीं सरकार उन बुक स्टालों को अपने हाथ में लेकर चलाने पर विचार करती है ?

मैं जान-बूझकर यह सवाल इसलिये पूछ रहा हूँ कि बुक स्टालों पर जिस तरह का साहित्य रहता है, उसको देखने से पता चलता है कि उनका स्टैंडर्ड क्या है ? कभी-कभी तो जासूमी पत्रा, खूनी पत्रा, मनोहर कहानिया इत्यादि ही वहाँ पर रहती हैं। अच्छा साहित्य नहीं रखा जाता है। मैं सरकार से जानना चाहता हूँ कि उन बुक स्टालों पर अच्छा साहित्य रहे, इसके लिये सरकार क्या कदम उठा रही है ? और क्या सरकार का ऐसा विचार है कि