

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Tuesday, December 6, 1977/Agra-
hayana 15, 1899 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

श्री रामजी लाल सुबन : मेरा व्यवस्था
का सवाल है । . .

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अभी नहीं । 12 बजे ।

श्री रामजी लाल सुबन : मेरा व्यवस्था
का सवाल यह है कि संसद से जो साहित्य हमें
मिलता है और माननीय मंत्री गण जो जवाब
देते हैं उस में उन्हें दोनों भाषाओं का इस्तेमाल
करना चाहिए । मेरा एक लिखित सवाल नं०
4063 परिवहन और नौवहन मंत्रालय से
संबंधित था, प्रधान मंत्री जी ने उस का
जवाब मात्र अंग्रेजी में दिया है, हिन्दी में
नहीं दिया । इसी तरह गृह मंत्री जी ने प्रश्न
संख्या 4212 का जवाब अंग्रेजी में दिया है,
हिन्दी में नहीं दिया है । गृह मंत्री जी ने
प्रश्न संख्या 4214 का जवाब भी अंग्रेजी में
दिया है । 557 नम्बर के प्रश्न का जवाब
जगजीवन बाबू के यहां से भी अंग्रेजी में आया
है । स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय जो हिन्दी के लिए
सर्वविदित है उस के यहां से प्रश्न 742 का
जवाब अंग्रेजी में आया है, हिन्दी में नहीं
आया । इसी तरह विदेश मंत्री के यहां से
भी आया है । सब विभाग इस में हैं । तो
मेरा निवेदन है कि जो माननीय मंत्री लोग
हैं उन्हें हर समय यह ख्याल रहना चाहिए
कि यहाँ सब अंग्रेजी जानने वाले नहीं हैं ।
कुछ लोग हिन्दी जानते हैं, कुछ अंग्रेजी जानते
हैं तो दोनों भाषाओं का इस्तेमाल किया जाय
2858—LS—1

श्रीर जवाब हिन्दी और अंग्रेजी में दोनों में
दिए जाए ।

JNGC Survey in the off shore Region of Kerala

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*285. SHRI P. K. KODIYAN:
SHRI GEORGE MATHEW:

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

(a) whether the Oil and Natural
Gas Commission has made any survey
in the off shore region of Kerala to
find out oil deposits; and

(b) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM
AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILI-
ZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA):
(a) and (b). Broad reconnaissance
surveys of the Continental shelf in the
Arabian sea including portions of Ke-
rala coast were conducted in 1964 and
1973. Seismic surveys were carried
out by Oil and Natural Gas Commis-
sion in Kerala off-shore off Kasargod
early this year. During the last two
months reconnaissance surveys have
been carried out in Kerala off-shore
continental shelf adjoining Cape Comorin
to Calicut. A regional seismic pro-
file connecting these two areas has
also been carried out. Preliminary in-
terpretation of seismic data collected
off Kasargod has just been completed.

SHRI P. K. KODIYAN: I want to
know from the Hon. Minister whether
he is in a position to indicate the
possibility of oil being found in this
area from the preliminary interpreta-
tion of seismic survey that has al-
ready been completed.

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA: It is in
that hope that we propose to have
some locational drillings and also a

deeper seismic survey of this particular area.

SHRI P. K. KODIYAN: Sir, the reconnaissance survey was conducted as early as 1964. Now, the Minister has said: Seismic surveys were carried out by Oil and Natural Gas Commission in Kerala off-shore off Kasargod early this year. Sir, a scheme which began in 1964 is being dragged. Government has taken so much time even to undertake the surveys to find out oil in the off-shore area. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister how long will the Government take to complete this study particularly in view of the huge foreign exchange being spent on the import of crude. In view of the urgency of this matter, will the Government expedite the programme of surveys and how long will it take to complete drilling in the Kasargod off-shore area? When is the drilling expected to start?

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA: Sir, all I said was that the Government by due processes have *prima facie* come to the conclusion that there could be locational facilities available for drilling if at any time the final view on the seismic survey was to that effect. It is true that this particular enquiry goes way back to 1963-64 but in the question of search for oil, Kerala West Coast has been given a privileged treatment. Sir, in-between a German expert came who rejected the possibility of any oil either in the continental shelf or in the inland areas. Moreover the Government intention is not to drag its feet but be dragged with the emotion and possibility that Kerala coast perhaps has and, therefore, we are charter-hiring a ship to do deep seismic work. In between it does not mean that a day has been lost. A number of attempts have been made. But till now no absolute reply has come from the data available. Therefore, one more effort is being made by charter hiring seismic survey ship to find out whether further work using this location for drilling and other things are at all necessary and possible.

SHRI GEORGE MATHEW: You conducted the seismic survey in 1963 and then in 1973. How many vessels have we got to conduct seismic survey and deep drilling? As the foreign exchange position is good, why should you not buy more equipment from outside?

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA: We have one ship owned by ONGC which is doing deep study of the Bombay off-shore area where there are already proven possibilities of both oil and gas. Therefore, we are trying to exhaust the whole area to find out if more structures carry more oil so that we do not have to go back to Bombay High area later on. Therefore, our 'Nation' is busy on that side. Hence the need for chartering the ship and the priorities that the Government gives to final determination about the Kerala off-coast necessitated the chartering of the ship.

MR. SPEAKER: Will you have one more? This is what he is asking.

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA: No. He asked whether we would be able to purchase one more. We will not have one more ship; that is not needed. But we have easily ships available which can be chartered and do the job for us. We propose to charter one ship. ONGC does not propose to acquire any more. Presently there is no more immediate possibility of such a ship being purchased by ONGC.

SHRI C. N. VISVANATHAN: Sir, in the Kaveri delta areas of Tamil Nadu a seismic survey had been conducted by the ONGC in 1973-74. They had also made a number of drillings there. What is the result of these surveys and drillings in those areas? Whether the Government has taken any steps to undertake further drilling in those areas?

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA: Though the question is not directly related to the present question, I would say that

the result is so far nil. But we have not lost hope. We are proposing that this particular chartered hired ship will also do seismic surveys in the Kaveri area.

New Drug Policy

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*286. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN:
SHRI M. N. GOVINDAN NAIR:

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

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal for evolving a new drug policy; and

(b) if so, what are its salient features and objectives thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA):

(a) and (b). Based on the recommendations of the Hathi Committee a new drug policy is being formulated. The broad principles and objectives which Government will have to keep in view in formulating the new policy are as follows:—

- (i) To ensure that the drugs are available in abundance in the country to meet the health needs of our people;
- (ii) To aim at self-sufficiency in the drugs production in the course of the years to reduce the quantum of imports;
- (iii) To develop self-reliance in drug technology;
- (iv) To make drugs available at reasonable prices;
- (v) To offer incentives to firms which are engaged in research and development;
- (vi) To foster and encourage the growth of Indian sector;
- (vii) To provide leadership role to the public sector;
- (viii) To provide other parameters to control, regulate and rejuvenate this industry as a whole; and

- (ix) To keep a careful watch on the quality of production and prevent adulteration and malpractices.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: Sir, regarding the new policy based on Hathi Commission recommendations, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what are the concrete steps the hon. Minister and the Government have taken to achieve self sufficiency in drug supply.

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA: Sir I will have to give a little background on the question about Hathi Commission's recommendations. The predecessor Government appointed this Committee by a resolution dated 8th February, 1974. The report of the Commission came to the Government on 7th April, 1975. It was kept in cold storage till we came to power in 1977. On 30th of April, 1977 when I assumed charge of this Ministry from that date onwards we have been engaged on this. I had to go into the whole question myself, it took sometime. Obviously, I have to study, read and all that and then I consulted all the industrialists, manufacturers, the distributors, chemists and Druggists, the Indian Medical Association, Even the international drug manufacturers' representatives came and met me. I have had a series of discussions with them, not one. For example, the druggists and the chemists have had two rounds of discussions, the last one was held only in November last. We have an inter-secretarial sort of Committee meetings. All I can say is that I have given top priority to this question from the day I have joined. From the very next day I joined, I started on the job and, God-willing, the job will be over by the end of this year. If I were to say that the Government wants to do, it will be only pre-empting the decision of the Cabinet which I am not in a position to do.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: The Minister has not given the answer to my question. That is my feeling. I