

**SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH:** Sir, I have made it very clear that while it is technically feasible, but commercially it is not viable and in some countries where the price has been worked out, there it has come to Rs. seven per litre or so. This cannot be considered in India unless the supply position of edible oils changes dramatically. So, at the moment, there is no such proposal before us.

#### Oil Exploration in Rajasthan

\*931. **SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA :** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether trials for oil exploration have been conducted in Rajasthan at several places ; if so, since when and the places where these explorations have been conducted ;

(b) whether an amount of Rs. 11.05 crores has been spent so far on these trials and as a result of this expenditure only one well has been drilled ; if so, the location of that well and the oil reserves expected there;

(c) the reasons for the high expenditure with such low results ; and

(d) the details of the future plans of oil exploration in Rajasthan ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH):** (a) to (d). A Statement is given below.

#### STATEMENT

(a) Yes, Sir. Exploratory surveys started in Rajasthan in 1954. Wells have been drilled at Kharotar, Bakhari Tibba, Vikhrannai, Sumarwalitalai, Manhera Tibba, Bakhari Tibba, Bhuvana, Sadewala and Ghotaru.

(b) No, Sir. Till 31st March, 1986 altogether nineteen wells have been drilled. The total expenditure on exploration including surveys was about Rs. 77 crores. About 1400 million cubic meters of gas reserves have been established.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) During 1986-87, seismic survey to the extent of about 2800 line kilometres and drilling of 4 wells is planned.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the Union Ministry of Petroleum had submitted a demand for Rs. 34,000 crores to the Planning Commission for the Seventh Five Year Plan which was slashed down to Rs. 12800 crores and if so, what is the quantum of money that will be spent in Rajasthan during the Seventh Five Year Plan and whether Rajasthan will be adversely affected due to this cut or will the present tempo of work continue?

**SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would prefer to confine my reply to Rajasthan. After the cut, the outlay for Rajasthan during the Seventh Five Year Plan has been kept at Rs. 107.88 crores, but you cannot have exact estimate of the scale of work that would be taken up with this amount, because the same scale of work has been kept which was kept for the work of our Ministry with a higher outlay. Now, we are hopeful that perhaps additional allocation will be made later on, but recently Oil India and O. N. G. C. have formulated a giant programme to carry on this work further in Rajasthan. A heavy cut has been effected in the allocation of Oil India but still they are considering to hire rigs and their proposal is likely to come up before the Government. O. N. G. C. is going to hire the services of four Gravity Manetic Parties and 15 Seismic Parties to drill 24 wells of a total depth of 60200 metres during the Seventh Five Year Plan.

Thus, the size of the Seventh Year Five Plan is quite large and we are considering to intensify the oil exploration work in Rajasthan.

**SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA :** Sir, he has evaded the points raised by me. How much money has been earmarked for oil exploration in Rajasthan in the Seventh Five Year Plan, by how much the allocation would be cut, how many wells would be drilled and how much oil is likely to be struck?

**SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH :** Nothing can be said definitely about the possibility of striking oil, but I have already given details in respect of gravities parties, the metrage as also the number of wells to be drilled. I have already stated that we have provided an outlay of Rs. 107.88 crores, but we are launching physical programmes on a comparatively higher scale in the hope that as the projects progress, the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance might give us additional funds.

**MR. SPEAKER :** What more have you to ask Virdhi Chandji ?

**SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, he has referred to the Oil India Limited. Instead of using the machinery by importing it from the U. S. A., they propose to hire the rigs. Had the machinery been imported, we would have done more drilling work. But as things stand now, this work has received a set back, though the seismic survey was conducted very nicely. I want to know as to what steps the Government propose to take in this regard ?

**SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH :** As I have already stated, due to cut in the allocation, the Oil India has abandoned the idea of buying rigs. This is so not only in Rajasthan, in the country as a whole, wherever there is possibility of making a better use of available allocation through charter hire, this alternative will be made use of. We are hiring or chartering the rigs and shall take up this work in Jaisalmer and other areas. It has been delayed a bit, but there is no obstacle in further execution of this work.

#### **Extension of time limit for grant of Subsidy for Industries in Backward Areas**

\*932. **SHRI HARISH RAWAT :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has decided to extend the time limit for grant of investment and transport subsidy admissible to industries to be set up in backward areas ;

(b) if so, whether the investment and transport subsidy admissible to them at present in the inaccessible hill areas has also been increased ; and

(c) if not, Government's scheme to encourage entrepreneurs to set up industries in such areas ?

[*English*]

**THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) :** (a) Yes, Sir. The existing Schemes of Central Investment Subsidy and Central Transport Subsidy have been extended upto 31.3.1987 and 31.3.1990 respectively.

(b) & (c). With a view to encouraging the establishment of electronics industries, the maximum ceiling of Central Investment Subsidy has been enhanced from Rs. 25 lakhs to Rs. 50 lakhs with effect from 1.4.1985 in the case of electronics industries to be set up in Hill Districts of Category 'A'. Transport Subsidy has been enhanced from 50% to 75% with effect from 1.4.1983.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI HARISH RAWAT :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the extension of the period of Central Investment Subsidy and Central Transport Subsidy. As is clear from their very names, their objective is to develop the backward areas, but very often it has been seen that the benefits of these schemes are reaching more to those areas which are no doubt, industrially backward, but which already have a railway line, where infrastructure has already been developed to some extent. With a view to making it more rational, will the Government consider giving the amount of Central Investment Subsidy proportionately to the industries which are set up in the industrially backward hilly areas located at a height of more than 3,000 feet and arranging extension of railway line to such areas? Secondly, will the Government consider enhancing the Central Transport Subsidy from 75 per cent to 90 per cent in the areas within a distance of 0 kilometres so that there is uniform industrial development in those areas also?

[*English*]

**SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM :** I congratulate the hon. Member for giving