

washed coat of non-coking type is more costly to them as compared to the unwashed coal naturally, they would like to continue with the unwashed coal. It is a matter of economics and it will have to be gone into.

Shri Morarka: In respect of how many washeries these negotiations are going on in collaboration with the German firm? What will be the total capacity of these washeries when they are completed?

Sardar Swaran Singh: The hon. Member would be aware that the German Government is likely to extend a line of credit and it is likely not to be tied to any particular project. In a general manner, if we want to utilise that credit for setting up washeries, credit would be available. Negotiations are not going ahead with regard to the number of washeries. It will depend upon the type of washery that we intend to erect and the quotations that are received. When the overall picture is before us, if we find that any German firm's quotation is attractive, we can utilise the credit that is available.

Oil Deposits in Cambay

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*479. { **Shri D. C. Sharma:**
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 90 on the 3rd August, 1960 and state:

(a) whether the extent of oil available in the Cambay region has since been assessed;

(b) if so, what is the estimated oil deposit;

(c) if the reply to part (a) above be in the negative, the period by which the assessment is likely to be completed; and

(d) the number of wells so far sunk?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha): (a) Not yet, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) This being a long range programme, an estimate may be possible towards the end of this year.

(d) 12.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if the Government is thinking of sinking more wells in this area and if so are they self-sufficient in the matter of machinery and other things required?

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: As far as the first part of the question is concerned, naturally more wells are to be sunk. As for the second part, I may say that it is expected that by the middle or the end of the Third Plan, we shall be able to manufacture some machines.

Shri D. C. Sharma: It has been said that the soil of Cambay presents certain unforeseen difficulties so far as drilling is concerned. May I know what those difficulties are and what the Government is doing to overcome those difficulties so that the work of oil exploration is accelerated?

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: I am unable to know what particular difficulty the hon. Member is concerned with. There have been some difficulties. Unless we know specifically the type of difficulties the hon. Member is apprehending, I may not be able to give an answer. The drilling programme is going on smoothly and I have already stated that by the end of this year we shall be able to come to a final conclusion.

Shri P. B. Patel: How many wells are drilled at Cambay and what is the report of the experts regarding the output of these wells?

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: We have stated that 12 wells have been sunk. There are nearly 20 wells but some of them are not complete. A final assessment cannot be made unless the drilling operations are complete. As the hon. Minister has said in this House many times, it is expected that we shall be able to have a refinery there with the deposits expected there.

Shri Raghunath Singh: How many wells have been sunk in this area and out of that how many have got oil which could be exploited economically?

Mr. Speaker: Apart from the conclusion, how many wells have struck oil?

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: I have already said that we have some 12 wells but I am not in a position to say as to how many out of these are productive.

Shri P. R. Patel: May I know whether it is a fact that after drilling is complete, the report about the output of the wells is submitted by the experts?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): When a well is completed, a number of tests are performed to get an indication about the availability of oil and to find out whether the actual quantity will be large enough for economic exploitation and the like questions. It is not an easy conclusion to come to from those tests about the actual crude oil that might be produced. These wells are first struck to locate the total quantity that might be available. After this is completed, these production wells as they are called—are sunk. Or, some of the wells that have already been sunk may turn out to be production wells. It will not be a very fair assessment if we were to link up the production in each well and draw any conclusions therefrom. That will not be a correct way of approach.

Shri P. R. Patel: It has been said that tests have been done and from these tests, the production could not be accurately said. But approximate production may be estimated.

I want to know the approximate estimate.

Sardar Swaran Singh: I would hesitate to give an approximate figure in a matter of this nature. The total availability in Cambay and Ankleswar area is enough to sustain a refinery. That fact has already been stated in the Finance Minister's budget speech, and I think that should be enough. So far as the approximate figure is concerned, as to what is the actual quantity in Ankleswar or Cambay. I think it should not be a subject-matter of guess. We are drilling more wells and we will be able to inform the House of the exact figures, when the picture is clearer.

श्रीमती जयाबेन शाह : जो बावें यहां बताई जा रही हैं उन से यह पता नहीं चलता है कि जो रिफाइनरी बनने जा रही है उस की ऐप्रॉक्सिमेट कैपैसिटी क्या होगी । मंत्री महोदय को कुछ बतलाना चाहिये कि वहां क्या होगा ।

सरदार स्वर्ण सिंह : होगा यह कि वहां एक रिफाइनरी होगी । उस का साइज़ कितना होगा, यह हम अभी नहीं बतला सकते । जब हम उस में बेल मिक करेंगे तो उस के बाद यह फैसला करेंगे कि उस की कैपैसिटी डेढ़ मिलियन टन होगी या दो मिलियन टन होगी । बहरहाल प्रन्दाजा यह है कि एक मिलियन टन से ज्यादा की कैपैसिटी जरूर होगी ।

Shri P. R. Patel: It has been stated that a refinery will be located or will be set up. I want to know the capacity of the refinery and the place where it will be located.

Sardar Swaran Singh: Both these questions are premature yet.