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HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Wednesday, 25th March, 1953

The House met at Two of the Clock.
[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

FRENCH SETTLEMENTS IN INDIA

*966. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state what steps have been taken by the Government of India after the denial of the charges of terrorism, smuggling etc. in the French possessions in India by the French Delegate, M. Pignon, in U.N.O. in November last?

(b) Have facts and figures been given to nullify the denials by M. Pignon?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) No additional steps were considered necessary.

(b) These facts and figures are well-known.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether the draft resolution of the U. N. O. Trusteeship Committee on this discrimination has been approved by the U. N. O. General Council?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I have no information on the matter.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether any further instances of terrorism and smuggling have reached Government since November last when M. Pignon denied the charges?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Earlier in the session I have already placed all relevant facts in our possession before the House.

Shri K. Subrahmanyam: Is it proposed to establish a Customs cordon on the Indo-French border at Yanam?

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Shri Anil K. Chanda: There is already a customs cordon.

Dr. Suresh Chandra: May I know whether the Government have received any proposal from the French Government to renew the Customs Union with India?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): There has been a customs cordon but owing to geographical and other circumstances it is not quite easy to prevent smugglers going through. Therefore it has been decided to tighten the cordon. As regards the other question of the hon. Member, in view of other developments, there is no question at the present moment of our having a customs agreement with the French Government.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether any legislative measures have been taken or promulgated by the French Settlements not to discriminate against Indians?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: There is no information, Sir.

OIL REFINERY

*967. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state when the oil refinery to be set up by the Standard Vacuum Oil Company at Trombay Island near Bombay will go into production? •

(b) What is the refinery's projected capacity of refining crude oil?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) The refinery is expected to go into production in January 1953, provided the ancillary facilities, and especially the marine facilities, can be completed by then.

(b) Approximately 1.3 million long tons of crude oil per annum.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know the estimated approximate yield of refined petroleum from this factory?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I am sorry I can not give the figure off-hand.