

Shri Shivannaappa: May I know the possibilities of getting sulphur in the State of Mysore?

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: The investigation in Mysore is going on. There have been some favourable reports also, but I am not in a position to say the exact amount of deposits just now.

श्री जगत वर्मान इस प्रश्न के उत्तर में माननीय मंत्री जी ने बताया कि बिहार, मैसूर और देश के अन्य भागों में खोज-बीन की जा रही है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि ये देश के अन्य भाग कौन कौन से हैं, जहाँ इस की सम्भावना है और जहाँ खोज-बीन की जा रही है ?

श्री सत्येन्द्र प्रसाद सिन्हा : बिहार, राजस्थान, पाँध्र, उत्तर प्रदेश, मैसूर, जम्मू-काश्मीर, सभी जगह कोशिश की जा रही है और खान-बीन की जा रही है।

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: The hon Parliamentary Secretary has said that 9 million tons of pyrites have been proved in Bihar. May I know when we shall be able to exploit these deposits?

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: A company is going to be formed, which will be in the public sector; the investigation is also going on simultaneously; it will still take some time to complete the thorough investigation.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know the approximate period that it will take?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If he had known that, he would have given the information.

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): May I supplement the information given by my colleague? The investigations are practically completed, and the body that has to do it has also been formed; and we hope that very soon, perhaps before the next Budget Session commences, we shall start operations for mining.

Shri Narasimhan: May I know the name of that body?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question.

Advances against Foodgrains

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*1374. { **Shri S. M. Banerjee:**
Shri Sadhan Gupta:
Pandit Manishwar Dutt
Upadhyay:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new restrictions have been imposed on advances against foodgrains by scheduled banks, and

(b) if so, the nature of the restrictions imposed particularly in the case of rice and paddy?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha): (a) Yes

(b) A statement giving the requisite information is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 85].

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know the total amount advanced by various banks against foodgrains during 1958-59, and to what extent it has now been reduced?

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: I can give the figures from month to month in 1959. In January, it was Rs. 2.60 crores.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is it not available in the statement?

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: No, this information is not contained in the statement.

In February, it was Rs. 11.14 crores, in March Rs. 11.40 crores, in April Rs. 11.64 crores, in May Rs. 16.20 crores, and in June, Rs. 17.08 crores.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: May I know how these advances given in 1959 compare with the advances given in 1958?

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: They are less.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether there is any special reason why 120 per cent. of the advances given in 1958 are being made available against paddy and rice stock for the Orissa merchants?

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: What advance?

Shri Tangamani: In respect of paddy and rice, so far as the Orissa State is concerned, now, the advance will be about 120 per cent. of what has been advanced in 1958. Is there any special reason why the percentage of advance has increased?

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: So far as the paddy area is concerned, that is, mainly, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh, the need for allowing additional credit facilities is due to the fact that in Andhra Pradesh and Orissa, they are required to hold stock on behalf of Government.

Shri Tangamani: I wanted to know about Orissa.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: Mostly, this is the guiding consideration on the basis of which the advances have been increased.

Shri Morarka: May I know whether any comparative study is made of how this expansion of credit against food-grains affects the prices of the food-grains?

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: Certainly, this is under constant study.

Shri Morarka: May I know where the data of the studies are available?

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: The Reserve Bank is continuously making the inquiries and collecting the data; this is a continuing process.

Oil Survey in Saurashtra

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*1375. { **Shri Tangamani:**
 Shri A. K. Gopalan:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state whether

Oil and Natural Gas Commission has investigated the possibility of existence of oil in the Gohilwad District of Saurashtra?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (**Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha**): The region is being investigated by the Geologists of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission.

Shri Tangamani: The area that is mentioned in this question is No. 9 in the map entitled 'Distribution of Geological Field Parties in 1957-58'. May I know whether this party started the survey in 1957-58, and if so, how long they will take to complete the survey?

The Minister of Mines and Oil (**Shri K. D. Malaviya**): We started with a single party in 1957-58; now, as the systematic geological oil exploration goes ahead, we have increased the number of persons. Geological investigation is the first part of oil exploration, and we hope we shall soon finish it, and then go ahead with the second part of oil exploration, namely, geophysical investigation.

Shri Tangamani: In view of the fact that there is a possibility of the existence of an underground long belt of oil on the coastline, will this survey be completed and chemical examination of the subsoil made?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I wish I could accept the presumptions of my hon. friend. So far there are no data with us to presume as my hon. friend has done. But as our investigations proceed further, we shall be able to know more about it.

Shri Narayananketty Menon: Directly related to the exploration going on in different parts of the country is Government's proposal to revise the petroleum concession rules. May I know when Government propose to finalise these rules and make them known to Parliament?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: The petroleum concession rules are in the last stage of finalisation.