

CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS
be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that after drilling a well at Bodra, near Canning in West Bengal at a depth of nearly 400 metres it was suddenly stopped;

(b) whether gas with highest pressure (3000 atmosphere) has been found in this well and crude oil was also extracted;

(c) if so, the reasons for suspension of further drilling;

(d) whether in the same area another site Bodra-3 was selected for drilling and nearly Rs. 10 lakhs have been spent for preliminary work but it was stopped and the equipments for the well drilling were sent to Jammu and Kashmir State;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by Government for full scale and early exploration of oil resources in the Canning and other areas of South Bengal and the Coastal region of the State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN) : (a) and (b). The drilling was stopped at the depth of 4197.5 metres on account of a stuck up of the drill string, which could not be released in spite of all efforts.

(c) No.

(d) A location for drilling another well (Bodra-3) has been released and an expenditure of Rs. 40.36 lakhs (exclusive of the compensation for use of land) had been incurred on that location. Subsequently it was decided not to drill at that location.

The drilling rig has not been sent to Jammu and Kashmir State. It remains in West Bengal. Some of the ancillary items of drilling equipment and materials are however, being sent to the other projects of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission, where such items are in short supply.

(e) The decision not to drill Bodra 3 was taken in view of the results of drilling Bodra 1. Being structurally lower than Bodra well No. 1, Bodra Well No. 3 is not expected to find hydrocarbons in view of the unfavourable results in Bodra Well No. 1.

(f) Seismic surveys are being continued in the region. If the surveys lead to the discovery of a favourable structure, undertaking drilling to test the structure will be considered.

Western Kosi Canal Project

148. **SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA :**
SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI :
SHRI BABURAO PATEL :
SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD
MANDAL:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether approval of the Government of Nepal for the execution of the Western Kosi Canal Project has been received;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps to be taken thereafter;

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Government of Nepal wants shifting the proposed alignment of the Western Kosi Canal further North-wards and simultaneous construction of the embankments of river Kamala extending Northwards from Jainagar; and

(e) if so, Government reaction thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESWAR PRASAD) :
(a) to (c). The approval of His Majesty's Government of Nepal is still awaited.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Oil Exploration in Jaisalmer (Rajasthan)

149. **SHRI R. K. BIRLA :** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMI-