

STATEMENT RE: REPORT OF OIL
 AND NATURAL GAS COMMISSION
 FOR THE YEAR 1960-61

The Minister of Mines and Fuel (Shri K. D. Malaviya): At the outset I must admit that the presentation of the annual report of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission for the year 1960-61, placed on the Table of this House on the 8th June, 1962, has been delayed, and I should like to express my regret for this. In the normal course this report should have been submitted to the House at least 6 to 9 months earlier. I may, however, mention that a report of an organisation like the Oil and Natural Gas Commission which carries out very highly specialised and complex technical activities such as gravity-magnetic and seismic surveys, oil well drilling and their testing with the latest electro-logging methods etc. has to be compiled after a very careful scrutiny of the data obtained during the course of one year of working. The analysis of such data, their correlation and assessment take time. For a report to be useful, the data have to be fully analysed and interpreted and the results translated into structural details of the strata at great depths to assess the possibilities of obtaining oil-gas therefrom. Unlike the results of the Geological Survey and exploration for other minerals or results of work done in laboratories etc. which lend themselves to easy analysis and interpretation, the results of oil exploration activities take very considerable time in arriving at proper conclusions.

The report of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission is essentially a report of exploratory activities spread over various parts of the country and in addition to the description of physical work done during the year, the Commission gives in this report the results of its activities. As the field season particularly for geological and geophysical operations does not coincide with the financial year, and it extends well into May and June each year, the compilation, computation and

interpretation of the data collected can only be completed by sometime in August-September each year. Further scrutiny of these data by senior officers and interpretation thereof takes time, and therefore proper assessment of the results is completed only several months after the close of each financial year. In particular, the report of the Commission for the year 1960-61 related to the final year of the Second Five Year Plan period, and the Commission felt that this report should incorporate a review of the exploration work carried out by the Commission during the entire Second Plan period. Such an assessment took some more time and contributed to the delay that has occurred in presenting this report.

As, however, the annual report is intended to give purely the description of the work carried out during a particular year, the Commission have agreed that in future the annual reports will be submitted within a maximum of 6 months after the close of each financial year. The interpretation and the results of the work carried out would be published in the report of the following year.

The Commission's annual report for the year 1961-62 will be submitted to the Parliament within this period, and I trust that the House will find this arrangement to be satisfactory.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad): On a point of clarification. The Minister's statement makes it clear beyond doubt that the staff for the compilation and collation of the various data is either inadequate or the work is so difficult that they are not able to cope with it. Is the House to understand that this delay will be a regular feature, a recurring feature, or will efforts be made to overcome the inadequacy or inefficiency of staff?

Mr. Speaker: He has already stated how far they can make up the deficiency and when the report would be presented.

Shri Morarka (Jhunjhunu): From the statement which the hon. Minister has just now made it appears that even in future several months would be

taken for submitting the financial report and annual report after the financial year is over. In this connection, I beg to draw attention to the relevant provision in the Act which confers a very valuable right on this House. Section 23, sub-section (2) of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission Act, provides:

"Without prejudice to the provisions of sub-section (1), the Commission shall, as soon as possible after the commencement of each financial year, submit to the Central Government a report in such form and before such date as may be prescribed, giving a true and full account of its activities, policies and programmes during the previous financial year and an account of the activities likely to be undertaken during the current financial year."

If the report is to be presented after seven, eight or ten months after the financial year has begun, where would be the time for the House to examine the activities of the Commission for the current financial year. It is for this House to approve or disapprove of those activities and if the report comes much later...

Mr. Speaker: I have followed him. The Minister has stated that it would perhaps take about six months in future.

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Yes, I mentioned it specifically.

Mr. Speaker: He says that he will do it as soon as possible and about six months would be taken. But the objection is, if there is a provision in the Act that it has to be placed before the House and the House has to take into account the current year's project, if there is a delay of six or seven months before placing it on the Table of the House, how would the House get an opportunity to see what programmes are being taken up during the year?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: We learn by experience. The unfortunate thing is that the financial year and the year of working of the Commission do not coincide. It is only after a few months after the close of the financial year that we are able to collect all the data. It is only somewhere in June-July that the Commission gets all the data. Then they have to be correlated and interpreted.

Mr. Speaker: But the objection is that the Act gives a different impression. Therefore some amendment may be thought of.

Shri K. D. Malaviya: That is what I was coming to. We are now considering how some adjustment could be made with a view to come into line with the wishes of the House.

12.35½ hrs.

EXTRADITION BILL*

The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): Sir, on behalf of Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to the extradition of fugitive criminals.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to the extradition of fugitive criminals."

The motion was adopted.

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

12.36 hrs.

APPROPRIATION (NO. 3) BILL*, 1962

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): Sir, on behalf of Shri Morarji Desai,