

[Shri K. D. Malaviya]

oil in different parts of the country over the last 2½ years and in this we have followed a policy of selective dispersal of activities rather than concentrating at one place. The House may recall that drilling has been going on at Jawalamukhi, and more recently at Hoshiarpur. In the West Bengal Gangetic plain also the Indo-Stanvac project had undertaken drilling operations. Recently drilling was commenced in the Cambay area by the Oil and Natural Gases Commission.

I deem it my duty to report to the House that at the Cambay site we have penetrated into what appears to be an oil bearing stratum. A small underground structure was independently delineated by our Indian specialists at a depth of 3,000 ft. some five miles north-west of Cambay. (Shri Tyagis Very good.) There were exposures of marine rocks and gas around the fringe of the basin. It was thought that this was a region of marine sedimentation and a decision was taken to test the structure by drilling to a depth of 10,000 ft.

After the necessary preparations, drilling operations were started on 25th July, 1958 with a Russian Ural-mash-3D turbo drill and a depth of 5368 ft. was reached on the morning of the 3rd September when drilling was stopped for taking electro-logging data. On 4th instant when the drilling mud was circulated in the morning, thin films of dark brown oil were seen to come to the surface with the return mud. When the casing was lowered on the 8th and mud circulation resumed, oil started to reappear and flowed with the mud in a continuous stream for about 15 minutes. The pressure of the drilling mud at the bottom of the hole was about 190 atmospheres suggesting that the oil was under considerable pressure.

While there is reason for cautious optimism on the basis of the results obtained so far, it will be necessary to continue fairly intensified drilling

and testing for a period of roughly 3 to 12 months before we can be certain as to whether we have struck a commercially exploitable oilfield. The fact remains that the discovery of oil in this region has enormously increased the possibilities in this part of the country which remained neglected hitherto.

We propose to increase the number of drills in this area as also in some of the other promising areas so as to speed up the work. We are extremely fortunate to strike oil at such shallow depth in an unknown virgin area within a short time and at negligible cost and the credit goes to the hard work, determination and enthusiasm of our young Indian engineers. We are also indebted to the Russian and Rumanian experts who are helping us in our work.

As the House is already aware, at Jawalamukhi despite our meeting with the normal hazards of drilling, we were fortunate enough to strike gas recently and the drill-hole there is being further developed and our investigations continue.

I will take the earliest opportunity to report to the House any further development that comes to our notice from these areas.

12.48 hrs.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Shri B. G. Mehta (Gohilwad): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (8) of Rule 254 read with sub-rule (1) of Rule 311 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, one Member from among themselves to serve

as a member of the Committee on Estimates for the unexpired portion of the term ending on 30th April, 1959, vice Shri J. Rameshwar Rao resigned."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (3) of Rule 254 read with sub-rule (1) of Rule 311 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, one Member from among themselves to serve as a member of the Committee on Estimates for the unexpired portion of the term ending on 30th April, 1959, vice Shri J. Rameshwar Rao resigned."

The motion was adopted.

12.48½ hrs.

HIGH COURT JUDGES (CONDITIONS OF SERVICE) AMENDMENT BILL*.

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the High Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Act, 1954.

The motion was put and adopted.

Pandit G. B. Pant: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

12.49 hrs.

DELHI RENT CONTROL BILL

Mr. Speaker: The House will now resume further discussion on the following motion moved by Shri Datar on the 10th September, 1958, namely:—

"That the Bill to provide for the control of rents and evictions, and for the lease of vacant premises to Government, in certain areas in the Union Territory of

Delhi, be referred to the Joint Committee of the House consisting of 45 members; 30 from this House, namely Shri Radha Raman, Choudhry Brahm Perkash, Shri C. Krishnan Nair, Shri Naval Prabhakar, Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani, Shrimati Subhadra Joshi, Shri N. R. Ghosh, Shri Vutukururu Rami Reddy, Dr. P. Subbarayan, Shri Kanhaiyatal Behrulal Malviya, Shri Krishna Chandra, Shri Kanhaiya Lal Balmiki, Shri Umrao Singh, Shri Kalika Singh, Shri T. R. Neewi, Shri Shivram Rango Rane, Shri Chandra Shanker, Shri Bhola Raut, Shri Phani Gopal Sen, Sardar Iqbal Singh, Shri C. R. Basappa, Shri B. N. Datar, Shri V. P. Nayar, Shri Shamrao Vishnu Parulekar, Shri Khushwaqt Rai, Shri Ram Garib, Shri G. K. Manay, Shri Uttamrao L. Patil, Shri Subiman Ghose, Shri Banamali Kumbhar and 15 members from Rajya Sabha;

that in order to constitute a sitting of the Joint Committee the quorum shall be one-third of the total number of members of the Joint Committee;

that the Committee shall make a report to this House by the first day of the next Session;

that in other respects the Rules of Procedure of this House relating to Parliamentary Committees will apply with such variations and modifications as the Speaker may make; and

that this House recommends to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do join the said Joint Committee and communicate to this House the names of members to be appointed by Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee."

Yesterday, Shri Mulchand Dube got up in the end. I was prepared to allow him to speak before calling upon the hon. Minister to reply. Shri Dube.

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†Introduced with the recommendation of the President.