

I know when we are to get the facts mentioned in the fuller report? Is he going to disclose the facts to the House or is he going to send it to us?

**Mr. Speaker:** The port has just been received. They will look into it.

**Shri Lhadhar Kotaki:** The hon. Minister has told the House that this kind of fire in our oil fields is unusual and we had to get the services of a foreign expert to extinguish the fire. In view of this fact, may I know whether the Government has taken any steps to see that all necessary arrangements are made to save the oilfields from such fires?

**Shri Raghunath Ramalal:** In the first place, we have already in this country a Russian Adviser. Of course, we called in some more technical experts because this was a difficult matter for the experts here to handle. As regards taking precautions, I am sure the Commission would have gone into it.

#### Supply of Gas by the O.N.G.C. to the Gujarat State

\*144. **Shri Yashpal Singh:** Will the Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 588 on the 30th November, 1966 and state:

(a) whether the proceedings in the dispute regarding the price to be paid by the Industries in Gujarat State to the Oil and Natural Gas Commission for the supply of Gas has since been concluded;

(b) whether the arbitrator has submitted his report and given his award;

(c) if so, the broad details thereof; and

(d) if the reply to part (a) above be in the negative, when the report is likely to be received by Government?

**The Minister of Planning, Petroleum and Chemicals and Social Welfare:** (Shri Asoka Mehta) (a) The proceedings are nearly complete.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Since the arbitrator is now a Minister of the Government of India, the question as to how the dispute should be settled is under discussion with the Government of Gujarat.

**श्री यशपाल सिंह :** क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि कब तक यह मिनिस्टर साहब अपनी रिपोर्ट देने और कब तक यह मामला घाये बढ़ सकेगा और कितने दिनों से यह पैडिंग है ?

**श्री अशोक मेहता :** यह मामला 26-2-64 से पैडिंग है। जहाँ तक उनकी रिपोर्ट का मवाल है मैंने बतलाया कि the proceedings are nearly complete. लेकिन उन्हें रिपोर्ट देना है या न देना है इसके बारे में चीफ मिनिस्टर गुजरात के साथ बातचीत चल रही है और उस बातचीत के खत्म होने पर मैं आपको बता पाऊंगा।

**श्री यशपाल सिंह :** क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि सरकार अपनी तरफ से इंटरफीयर करेगी जिस तरीके में सन् 1964 से रिपोर्ट नहीं दी है और तीन साल और न दे तो सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट क्या उसमें मवाबलत करेगी ?

**श्री अशोक मेहता :** मैंने आपसे बतलाया कि जहाँ तक रिपोर्ट बनाने का सवाल है करीब करीब वह तैयार है लेकिन इसके दौरान में आरबिट्रेटर साहब गवर्नमेंट आफ इंडिया के मिनिस्टर बने इसीलिए हमने चीफ मिनिस्टर गुजरात से पूछा क्योंकि आरबिट्रेशन गवर्नमेंट आफ इंडिया और गुजरात के बीच में है तो हम उनसे जानना चाहते हैं कि अपनी भी उनका आरबिट्रेशन कालू रखना है या और किसी तरीके से इस मामले को हल करना है क्योंकि that is the other party to the dispute.

**Prof. E. K. Amin:** May I know from the hon. Minister why it was necessary to appoint an arbitrator in view of the fact that the principles of fixing the prices for gas were already settled in the case of Assam? Why was it necessary in the case of Gujarat? Why was discriminatory treatment in the fixation of gas prices given to the State of Gujarat?

**Shri Asoka Mehta:** This matter must have been gone into at that time; I have not looked up the facts. But the fact remains that the two parties agreed to refer it to arbitration.

**Prof. E. K. Amin:** Because the Central Government disputed it.

**श्री रामसेवक दास :** प्रज्यस महोदय, श्री मंत्री महोदय ने उत्तर देते हुए यह कहा कि रिपोर्ट तैयार है और फिर यह कहा कि चूँकि जो उसके आरबिट्रेटर थे वह यहाँ मंत्री बन चुके हैं इसलिए फिर उसको रैफर किया गया है तो फिर रिपोर्ट आती है और फिर अब बड़ा के मुख्य मंत्री को ब्यो रैफर किया गया और इस मामले को अनावश्यक ढंग से ब्यो बढ़ाया जा रहा है ?

**श्री अशोक मेहता :** मैंने कहा कि The proceedings are nearly complete.

**श्री स० मो० बनर्जी :** नियरली माने कितना ?

**Mr. Speaker:** How can he give the percentages?

**Shri Asoka Mehta:** सवाल है कि This is a dispute between us on the one side and the Government of Gujarat on the other. There was an arbitrator who was independent of both. Now the arbitrator happens to be a member of the Government of India. We are therefore asking the Government of Gujarat as to what their view in the matter is. After all they are the main party concerned. We will find out what is to be done.

2926 (A) LSD—2.

**Shri Manubhai Patel:** According to the latest report in the newspaper the arbitrator is not prepared to give his report and has suggested that the State Government and the Central Government should decide among themselves. Is this a fact?

**Shri Asoka Mehta:** The arbitrator has only raised the question whether in view of the fact that he is now a member of the Government of India they would like him to deal with the matter or they would themselves decide it.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** Government is taking more time to settle the matter. Pending the final decision, may I know how much gas has been wasted up till now and how much loss the Government has suffered?

**Shri Asoka Mehta:** I do not accept the charge that the Government has been wasting time. This is a matter in which both the parties have to be given time to make representations in full. The procedure adopted has been that the submission made by one side is made available to the other side and the other side is given the fullest opportunity to say whatever it has to say in respect of that submission. This has taken a considerable amount of time for which neither the arbitrator is responsible nor anybody else is responsible.

**Shri Shivaji Rao S. Deshmukh:** From the wording of the question it seems the dispute is about the price to be paid by the private industries in Gujarat to the Oil and Natural Gas Commission. How does the Gujarat Government come into the picture. Is it that the gas is initially sold to the Gujarat Government which, in its turn, sells it to the industry?

**Shri Asoka Mehta:** The parties include the State Electricity Board.

**Shri Virendra Kumar J. Shah:** Is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that due to this inordinate delay in deciding the price there is retardation

of the growth of industries using gas and the Gujarat State Electricity Board is also not able to use the gas?

**Shri Asoka Mehta:** This matter will be expedited as much as possible.

**Mr. Speaker:** Next question. **Shri Fernandes.**

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Sir, I would suggest that, if the Minister agrees, Question No 146 may be taken up.

**Mr. Speaker:** You mean both of them should be taken up together?

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** No, Sir Question No. 146 should be taken up first.

**Mr. Speaker:** No that is not possible. Every time I have been requesting hon. Members not to take too much time on each question. Now on each question so many hon. Members want to ask supplementaries with the result that I know some of the important questions are not reached. I cannot help it. We will have to take up No 145 now.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Sir, you may take up Question No. 146 first.

**Mr. Speaker:** No, that cannot be done.

#### Improvement of Urban Areas

\*145 **Shri George Fernandes:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state—

(a) how much money has been earmarked for the improvement of urban areas in the country for the next financial year; and

(b) under what heads these funds have been provided?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Iqbal Singh):** (a) and (b) Improvement of urban areas is essentially the responsibility of the local bodies. The Central Government have no information about the money earmarked by the local bodies for this purpose during the next financial year.

**श्री जार्ज फर्नेंडीस :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरे प्रश्न का वह जवाब नहीं है। मेरा प्रश्न यह है कि हाऊस मच मनी हुब बीन इवर्लाक, किसी लोकल बाडी का सवाल नहीं है। पंचवर्षीय योजना में इस के लिए कोई व्यवस्था है इस किस्म का मेरा यह प्रश्न था जब कि जवाब कुछ और किस्म का है।

**Shri Iqbal Singh:** The improvement of the urban area consists of many things, including the improvement of transport, sanitation, housing and so many other things. It is more or less the responsibility of the local bodies.

**श्री जार्ज फर्नेंडीस :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा पहला मन्लीमेंटरी प्रश्न यह है कि बम्बई शहर जिनमें इम मुल्क के हर 100 आदमियों में से 1 आदमी रहता है उस शहर के विकास के लिए केन्द्रीय सरकार की धोरण में अगले पाच सालों में कोई खास रकम देने की व्यवस्था करने में क्या ध्राई है ?

**श्री इकबाल सिंह :** बम्बई शहर के बारे में माननीय सदस्य को क्वेश्चन करना चाहिए था लेकिन उनका क्वेश्चन एक जनरल क्वेश्चन था। अब इस में उन को स्टेट गवर्नमेंट मदद देगी और हम ने स्टेट गवर्नमेंट को मदद देनी थी।

**श्री जार्ज फर्नेंडीस :** मेरा दूसरा प्रश्न यह है कि क्या मंत्री महोदय इस बात को यहाँ खुलासा कर सकते हैं कि प्रधान मंत्री श्रीमती इंदिरा नेहरू गांधी ने बम्बई में चुनाव के अवसर पर बम्बई प्रदेश काब्रेम अध्यक्ष के जरिए यह कहाया था।

**श्री कंबर सास गुप्त :** मेरा एक व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है। क्या एक मेम्बर को किसी दूसरे मेम्बर को उसके गलत नाम से पुकारने का अधिकार है ? क्या मैं आप से निवेदन कर सकता हूँ कि आप यह बता दें कि उनका सही नाम क्या है (इंटरपंच)।