

decision on these applications will be taken within the next few months.

**Shri Heda:** The hon. Minister has said that applications have been invited from private parties. May I know the number of applications received so far?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** I think the number is three or four, but I cannot give the exact number just now.

**Shri Ranga:** Between three and four, the hon. Minister could not make up his mind?

**Shri Heda:** May I know whether there was any scheme that the Andhra Pradesh Government themselves should take up the question of setting a steel plant, and if so, what has happened to that scheme?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** The Andhra Pradesh Government would know better, but I think that their Plan has already been published, and whatever is contained in the Plan is public property.

**Shri Venkatasubbaiah:** May I know whether any exhaustive geological survey has been made so as to assess the real quantity of iron ore available in Andhra Pradesh?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** Some investigation has been made, but I would not say that it is very exhaustive yet. But even the survey that has been made so far shows that a plant of this size can be established there.

**Shri Ranga:** Are we to understand that if the Andhra Pradesh Government wish to start their own concern, there would not be any scope for any of these private parties to start their own plants there?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** That is a hypothetical thing. That depends upon the resources of the Andhra Pradesh Government.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Member wants to know whether if the Andhra

Pradesh Government themselves will undertake the starting of this plant, the others will be prevented from starting their own plants?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** Not necessarily; it will be considered if that eventuality arises.

#### Ankleshwar Oilfield

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**Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:**  
**Shri S. A. Mehdi:**  
**Shri P. G. Deb:**  
**Shri D. C. Sharma:**  
 \*169. **Shri Hem Barua:**  
**Shri Assar:**  
**Shrimati Mafida Ahmed:**  
**Maharajkumar Vijaya**  
**Ananda:**  
**Shri P. C. Borooah:**

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

(a) whether Government have completed inquiry into the mishap to the seventh oil well at Ankleshwar on the 19th May, 1961; and

(b) if so, the result thereof?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha):** (a) and (b). The Oil and Natural Gas Commission who have enquired into the matter, have stated that it has been established that the blow-out was quite unexpected as it occurred from a very shallow sand horizon in which the presence of gas under high pressure was not apprehended as it was not encountered in two wells closeby. The gas sand appears to be lenticular and very localised. The producing sands of the field are not effected by this blow-out. The personnel took all steps to salvage the equipment against all hazards. Steps have been taken to be prepared for such high pressure sands even at shallow depths in the wells to be drilled in future in this field. None of the workers was injured.

**Mr. Speaker:** What is the difficulty in reading the answer freely and

clearly? I have not been able to follow the answer because it has been read out in dribblets.

**Shri Ranga:** He is not the only person who does so; there are several other Ministers also who read like him.

**Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha:** I shall read out the answer again.

*(The answer was again read out)*

**Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:** May I know what is the latest position? Has the damaged well been repaired?

**The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya):** The accident is over. Now everything has been repaired. Whatever could be done has been done to salvage all the parts of the equipments that could be salvaged. Machinery worth about Rs. 7 lakhs to Rs. 8 lakhs has been lost in this accident.

**Shri Hem Barua:** May I know whether technical and other inquiries into the causes of this blow-up were conducted by any experts, and if so, what is their opinion about it?

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** Yes, all inquiries have been conducted by the experts available to us. We know that this was perhaps unavoidable. At shallow depths from sand horizon some blow-out of gas does occur unpredictably. So the accident was unavoidable.

**Shri P. C. Borooah:** May I know if the report of the inquiry reveals that the mishap could have been avoided with a little bit of more cautiousness?

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** That was what I said. Perhaps such accidents are not avoidable because no one knows at what depth and at what pressure such gas or oil could be encountered. At any rate, the accident was not very serious and no damage has been done to the main oil well.

### Ban on Communal Parties

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Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:  
Shri Chuni Lal:  
Shri Prakash Vir Shastri:  
Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:  
Shri S. M. Banerjee:  
Shri Vajpayee:  
Shri Kodyan:  
Shri Narayanankutty Menon:  
Shri Punnoose:  
\*170. { Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:  
Shri M. K. Kumaran:  
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:  
Shri N. R. Muniswamy:  
Shri Sarju Pandey:  
Shri Khushwaqt Rai:  
Shri Hem Raj:  
Shri Warior:  
Shri Nagi Reddy:  
Sardar Iqbal Singh:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1905 on the 4th May, 1961 and state:

(a) whether Government have considered the proposal to ban communal parties; and

(b) if so, the decision taken in this regard?

**The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shrimati Alva):** (a) and (b). Government have given some thought to this proposal. It will be further considered at the forthcoming Conference with Chief Ministers of States.

**Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:** In answer to the original question, it was stated that Government would have to define what is a communal party. May I know whether any decision has been taken in this regard?

**Mr. Speaker:** That is what was said. The Chief Ministers are meeting shortly.

**Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:** I want to know whether any decision has been taken regarding the definition of a 'communal party'.

**The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri):** No such defi-