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Title: Request the Government to apprise the House about the major fire took place in one of the ONGC sea wells in Mumbai offshore and also requests the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas to make a statement thereon.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER (TENALI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I want to seek some information from the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas. There had been a fire in the Mumbai High and since the Minister is present here, why does he not make a statement? Will he apprise the House as to what had happened there?

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THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI VAZHAPADYK. RAMAMURTHY): Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I want to share with the House that a major fire took place in one of the O.N.G.C. gas wells in Mumbai Offshore, not in the Mumbai High Sea. Since it is an uncontrolled gas, the fire could not be brought under control, so far. Four O.N.G.C. ships are under operation for putting out the fire. The fire took place on the 11th of March at 12 Noon and our entire O.N.G.C. team is there. We have also summoned the experts from the American side. Two experts are coming and they may be landing this night. Further, I would like to share that there is no loss of human lives nor is there any environmental problem, because it is a gas field. However, I assure the House that so far the gas supply to our industries in Mumbai and other places is not affected, on account of fire. We are trying to increase of gas to this area from other gas wells.

Four wells, which are producing gas, have been closed because of the fire. A detailed statement will be made in the House by Monday.

MR. SPEAKER: All right.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : The statement may kindly cover the cause and the loss that would be there to the ONGC or the Government of India.

SHRI VAZHAPADYK. RAMAMURTHY: Yes; the entire thing will be covered.

MR. SPEAKER: On Monday.

SHRI P. UPENDRA : This is an accident to my speech.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not a railway accident.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (AHMEDABAD): You are delayed by your own colleague.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : Then, there is no delay. ... (Interruptions)