

**Clause-3—Repeal and Saving**

That at page 1, for lines 10 and 11, the following be substituted namely:—

Ord. 1 "3. (1) The Special Protection Group of 1995. (Amendment) Ordinance, 1995 is hereby repeated"(3)

*The motion was adopted*

**Enacting Formula**

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That at page 1, line 1 for the word "Forty-fifth" the word "Forty-sixth" be substituted". (1)

*The motion was adopted*

**Clause 1—Short Title and Commencement**

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That at page 1, line 4, for the figure "1994" the figure "1995" be substituted." (2)

*The motion was adopted.*

**Clause 3—Repeal and Saving**

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That at page 1, for line 10 and 11, the following be substituted namely:—

Ord. 1 "3. (1) The Special Protection Group of 1995. (Amendment) Ordinance, 1995 is hereby repeated"(3)

*The motion was adopted*

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: I beg to move:

"That the amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill be agreed to."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill be agreed to."

*The motion was adopted.*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I think the hon. Members wanted to know as to what happened with respect to the blow-out. The Minister wants to make a statement.

17.40 hrs.

Statement by Minister

**Fire at the ONGC Well at Pasarlupudi in Andhra Pradesh**

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): Sir, during the zero hour today, hon. Member Shri Balayogi raised the matter regarding the fire at the ONGC well at Pasarlupudi in Andhra Pradesh. I would like to inform the hon. Members the present position in this regard.

A severe blow-out occurred at Well Pasarlupudi 19 located near Devarlanka village, Amalapuram Mandal in East Godavari District (Andhra Pradesh), K. G. Project, Southern Region of ONGC on the 8th of January, 1995 at about 18.58 hours. There was a sudden uncontrolled gushing of natural gas under high pressure and the well caught fire within a very short time. As a result, the mast of the drilling rig collapsed and some of the other drilling equipment also got damaged. To ascertain the reasons of this blow-out a high level Enquiry Committee has already been formed and a report is expected shortly. There was not loss of life due to blow-out and fire on this well. Immediately action was taken by the Project authorities to alert the District authorities, and District authorities promptly evacuated by mobilising buses immediately, as a safety precaution, the families who wanted to move out from the village up to 5 km radius namely, Bodasakurru, Peruru, Gopayalanka, Devarlanka, Mamidithota, Koduripadu and Ventrikona. The District Collector and other senior officers visited the site in the night and supervised the operations of evacuation along with ONGC officers. Medical and relief camps were organised and also food and clothing was distributed in the relief camps. All these steps were taken in close coordination with the District Authorities and they extended full cooperation.

A total of Rs.48 lakh has been advanced by ONGC to the District authorities for relief and rehabilitation work till 18th February, 1995. Of this amount, Rs.33 lakh is to be spent on relief measures and the balance of Rs. 15 lakh is towards construction of temporary shelters.

Simultaneously, action was also taken to mobilise the fire fighting equipment of ONGC and the District Administration for water spraying on Pasarlupudi well No.8, well head and Early Production System which is about 288 metres away and Gas Trunk Pipeline from Tatipaka to Kakinada which is 100 metres away from the blow-out well site for ensuring safety of these installations.

Also immediate action was taken for mobilisation of senior officers from the Regional Office, Madras and experts from the Crisis Management Team, equipment pertaining to Crisis Management Team from Narsapur and Baroda and also excavator for preparation of water pits for blow-out control and fire fighting equipment.

Mr. Neil Adams Fire Fighting Inc., Houston were mobilised and their experts reached the site on 12th January, 1995 for assisting ONGC Crisis Management experts for blow-out control and fire fighting.

Flame height is about 88 Metres and primarily dry gas is blowing out of the well and burning. In about 288 Metres periphery, there is intense heat and there is no pollution due to blow out and burning of this gas. Except for some paddy fields and coconut trees within 588 Metres radius of well mouth which are being affected due to heat and there is no environmental impact. However, this is being continuously monitored.

On 8th January, 1995, approximately 1588 families were moved from these villages to the relief camps and since then a large number of families have returned to these villages and at present about 245 families are residing in relief camps. These families are now being shifted to semi-permanent relief camps near Allavaran and Peruru till the blow-out is finally controlled and well capped.

Senior officers from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas including the Secretary and myself visited the site to review the progress of ONGC's operations to control the blow-out and to cap the well. As directed by me, ONGC have been providing compensation, health-care and relief in consultation with the District Administration. In this regard, a Press Release was also issued on 29.1.1995 at the conclusion of my visit to Andhra Pradesh. The Hon'ble Speaker of Andhra Pradesh Assembly, along with MPs and other MLAs have also visited the blow-out site.

It is to be noted that incidents of blow-out are not uncommon in the oil exploration industry. All over the world, while drilling there have been several severe blow-outs during the history of hydrocarbon exploration.

The detailed action plan to quench the fire is proceeding as per the detailed plan drawn up by ONGC's Crisis Management Group which is backed by M/s. Neil Adams Fire Fighters Inc. All efforts are being made to control the fire... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not allowed in this House.

17.47 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL  
OF CABLE TELEVISION NETWORKS  
(REGULATION) ORDINANCE  
AND  
CABLE TELEVISION NETWORKS (REGULATION) BILL

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: We shall take up items 21 and 22 together. There is a Statutory Resolution. Is there anybody who wants to move it?

*[Translation]*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move: "That this House

disapproves of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) ordinance, 1995 (Ordinance No. 3 of 1995) promulgated by the President on the 17th January, 1995."

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to regulate the operation of cable television networks in the country and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Sir, this Bill provides the following:

First, the registration of cable operators. Secondly the obligation to ensure that the programmes conform to the programme and advertising codes to be notified by the Central Government. Thirdly, Sir, the obligation to retransmit at least two Doordarshan channels, of the choice of the cable operator. Fourthly, obligation to use only such equipments for the cable television network which conforms to the Bureau of Indian Standards' specifications. Fifthly, penalties for violation of the obligations. Sixthly, designation of competent authority having powers to sanction, prosecution and to issue restraint orders in public interest to prohibit the cable operators from carrying out any particular programme. And seventhly, the other incidental and consequential provisions.

Sir, the Bill was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Communications. The Standing Committee on Communications submitted its Report on 27th August, 1993. Based on the recommendations of the Standing Committee and the suggestions made by the cable operators, certain amendments to the Bill were considered essential. In the meantime, Sir, a development took place, viz., the reported attempts being made by certain big companies to buy out smaller cable operators so that they have exclusive control over a large area.

It was therefore, decided to operationalise the cable law immediately through the promulgation of an ordinance so as to provide a sense of security to the small cable operators, ensure adherence to the various codes and to empower appropriate authorities to prescribe the carriage of undesirable programmes or channels. The President, accordingly, promulgated the Cable Television Network Regulation Ordinance 1994 on the 29th of September 1994.

The Ordinance and the rules framed thereunder