

there cannot be an accident. But, unfortunately, because it was raining and because of a landslide, this accident occurred.

श्री राम विलास पासवान: गलती किस की थी?

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: That is another issue. What I am saying is, in an open cast mine, an accident normally does not occur. This is probably an exceptional case.

श्री राम विलास पासवान: मजदूर को खान में क्यों घुसने दिया गया?

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: Now, with regard to the Safety Measures Committee, the Department of Coal had constituted a Committee of Safety consisting of the representatives of management and workers in the public sector coal companies, the Ministry of Labour and the Central Research Station. The Committee has recommended about 200 items of measures to be taken.

श्री राम विलास पासवान: कितने दिनों में इन्क्वायरी पूरी हो जायेगी?

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: We are taking some of the measures. Some of the measures have already been taken.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: For example?

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: For example, safety precautions, setting up of an internal safety organisation, replacement of timber supporters by steel props, including hydraulic and friction props, installation of automatic warning system along rickers, nallas, etc. to alert coal miners about the rise in water level beyond "danger mark" and all that. If you want me to read, I can read all the items. I am not saying that all the recommendations have been taken into account. But we have accepted many of the recommendations. I can assure the House that we will give special attention to the recommendations of safety measures.

12.39 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. FINDING OF GAS AND OIL IN THE BAY OF BENGAL

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): Speaker, Sir, With your permission I would like to make a statement regarding promising oil and gas discoveries made by the Oil & Natural Gas Commission in the Bay of Bengal last week. I am sure Hon'ble Members will be happy to hear the news.

As Hon'ble Members may be aware, Oil & Natural Gas Commission have been drilling exploratory wells in the Krishna-Godavari off-shore Basin as well as in the off-shore of Andamans Island.

Seismic surveys carried out by ONGC in the last two years in the off-shore Krishna-Godavari basin have identified two structures. The first well on the Godavari structure situated at about 60 kilometers North-East of Machallipatnam town and 25 kilometres away from the Andhra coast was spudded on 1-12-1979. The drilling which was suspended on 24-3-1980 due to high sea currents was resumed at this location on 13-6-1980. Bearing in mind the technical conditions the production testing was started on 20th June, 1980.

Production testing has indicated a flow rate of over 600 barrels of oil per day through half-inch bean with gas oil ratio of 110. The testing of gas zone is in hand. It is proposed to take up further drilling shortly to enable the determination of the extent of the reservoir.

The significance of this discovery is:

(a) It is first time that oil has been struck in the Bay of Bengal;

(b) This find improves significantly the prospects of finding hydrocarbons on the east coast of India.

I am also happy to inform that gas has also been discovered in the first exploratory well under drilling in Andamans off-shore. Based on the seismic and geological interpretations, an exploratory well was spudded on 18-3-1980. The well is situated at a distance of 19 kilometres north-east of Port Blair on the eastern shelf of Andamans Island. Gas shows were noticed in the circulating mud commencing from 1700 metres depth down to 3650 metres depth. In two zones taken up for testing gas has been discovered. The testing started on 21st June, 1980. The gas flow is @ 1.8 lakh cu. metres per day through an 1/2 inch choke. Further assessment wells will have to be drilled before potentialities of commercial production and the possibilities of oil find are established.

12.42 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. CANCELLATION OF NOTIFICATION FOR HOLDING INVESTIGATION INTO CRASH OF PITTS S-2A AIRCRAFT ON 23RD JUNE, 1980 AT NEW DELHI

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT AND TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A .P. SHARMA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, under Rule 372 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha I wish to make a statement to remove the confusion caused by the cancellation of Notification under Rule 75 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937 for holding an investigation in to the crash of the aircraft VT-EGN PITTS S-2A on 23 June, 1980 at New Delhi.

It was decided to order a formal investigation under rule 75 of the Indian Aircraft Rules, 1937, by a judge of the Delhi High Court. A notification was issued accordingly on

23rd June, 1980. However, the Director-General of Civil Aviation functions under the Aircraft Rules which confer independent powers upon him. He is entitled to exercise them without any reference to the Central Government. He had already invoked his powers under rule 71 by ordering the investigation into the accident. This is the normal procedure followed under the Aircraft Rules in cases of all accidents of small aircrafts including those belonging to flying clubs. At the time of Government's notification it had not been brought to their notice by the DGCA that he had already appointed an Inspector of Accidents to investigate the accident and to submit his report in terms of sub-rule (5) of rule 71 of the Aircraft Rules. Under this rule, the Inspector is required to state all relevant facts with regard to the accident and his conclusions, adding any observations which he may think fit. He is required to submit his report to the Director-General who, in turn, will forward it to the Central Government with his comments.

Under the circumstances, Government have cancelled the order instituting a formal investigation under Rule 75 of the Indian Aircraft Rules, 1937 by a judge of the Delhi High Court.

(Interruptions)

श्री राम विलास पासवान (हाजीपुर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, इस पर डिस्कशन होना चाहिए। (व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: I have already stated that you can give a Motion and we can discuss it under Rule 193.

श्री मनी राम बागड़ी (हिसार): अध्यक्ष महोदय, कोई मामूली इन्सान की मति नहीं हुई है

अध्यक्ष महोदय: आप इसको रूल 193 में डिस्कस कर सकते हैं।