

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।