

[श्री प्रार० एन० राकेश]

सारे डाकुमेंट्स को हम दिये लेकिन आपके मंत्रालय ने सारे डाकुमेंट्स को गायब कर दिया। रजिस्टर में दर्ज है लेकिन सारे डाकुमेंट्स गायब हैं। आपने लिखा है कि रेलवे के इंटेलिजेंस विभाग द्वारा उसकी जांच हो रही है, रेलवे द्वारा उसकी ईकवायरी की जा रही है। कहीं किसी के पास प्रब वे डाकुमेंट्स नहीं हैं।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं आपकी इन पूरक मांगों का विरोध करता हूँ। मंत्री जी आप मंत्री नहीं हैं, रेलवे बोर्ड के चेअरमैन मंत्री हैं। जब तक आप में यह क्षमता नहीं आ जायेगी कि रेलवे में आपका आदेश चलेगा, चेअरमैन रेलवे बोर्ड का आदेश नहीं चलेगा, तब तक मैं आपके बजट का काम कर और जम कर विरोध करूँगा।

अन्त में मैं आप से यही कहता हूँ कि जो मैंने कहा है उस पर आप ध्यान दें।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the Minister of Petroleum, Chemicals and Fertilizers will make a statement. I have allowed him. Shri Shiv Shanker.

#### STATEMENT RE BLOW-OUT IN A WELL BEING DRILLED IN BOMBAY HIGH FIELD.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have to inform the House that a blow-out occurred at 9.30 P.M. on July 30 on Platform SJ located in the southern part of the Bombay High offshore field in position 19° 26'N 71° 18'E, about 100 miles from the shore. There is an uncontrolled flow of gas with traces of oil.

The jack-up rig 'Sagar Vikas' was drilling a well on this platform into a new formation where the available geological and reservoir data indicated the presence of hydrocarbons. The blow-out occurred when drilling at a depth of about 1660 metres. Seventy-four ONGC personnel who were on board the rig were evacuated in this dangerous situation, by helicopters without mishap. Despite the serious danger, an ONGC officer was able to climb on to the rig on August 1, 1982

and switch off the generators to prevent further mishaps. Unfortunately the well caught fire early this morning at 0617 hours.

The ONGC has mobilised all possible resources to control this situation. A multi-support vessel with sophisticated fire-fighting chemicals and equipment, spares and materials together with five off shore supply boats, are at the site of the blow-out. A jet of water is being sprayed over the well to check the spread of the fire in the well. Naval ships, planes and helicopters have also been mobilised to provide assistance. Two naval ships are in position near the site and naval aircraft immediately carried out reconnaissance. Coast Guard personnel are also on board to control and monitor any pollution that might arise. Other pollution control devices have also been mobilised in case such a danger arises.

The leading world experts in the control of blow-outs have been called in to assist the experts of the ONGC who have been working all hours of day and night at the site in a difficult and dangerous situation. Experts of the consultants already available in India are also at the offshore site.

Blow-outs are not uncommon in oil exploration. In the Bombay High offshore area itself, a blow-out occurred some years ago and it was possible to control it soon. Similar blow-outs have occurred in Narsapur, Arunachal Pradesh and Assam and of course elsewhere in the world. The cause of this blow-out will be investigated thoroughly just as soon as conditions permit.

I will not minimise the dangers in this situation but can assure the House that whatever can be done to control this blow-out in the shortest possible time is being done. I am sure the House will join me in extending to the ONGC, our full support that their efforts in controlling the blow-out will quickly succeed.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): This should not rest with the statement. A discussion on this very important subject should be allowed. Our Calling Attention Motions are under consideration, I believe.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : My request will be that if the discussion is held after investigation, that will be better. You kindly permit us to complete the investigation and then we will have a discussion. I have no objection to that.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA : How long will you take ?

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE (Howrah) : Sir, we express full support to the staff and the scientists who are working there to control the situation.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : Sir, may I have the permission to convey the feeling of the House to the staff working there

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : We hope they will succeed.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (RAILWAYS). 1982-83.

SHRI JAMILUR RAHMAN (Kishanganj) : Sir, I want to make a submission with regard to the facilities which we used to get in the Parliament House Railway Booking Office. These facilities have been withdrawn by the DRM. Now, we cannot purchase tickets of 1st class for our relations and friends from here. We will have to go to Connaught Place. The facilities of quota which we used to get has been reduced to half causing great inconvenience to the Members of Parliament.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think you have drawn the attention of the hon. Minister.

SHRI JAMILUR RAHMAN : We cannot go on tolerating the\*\* action of the DRM.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Member has used certain unparliamentary word. It will be expunged.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : Sir, such orders were issued but when I came to know of it. I immediately cancelled these orders. The original position has been restored and all reservations of the hon. Members and their guests will be done from the

Parliament House booking office and DRM has been asked that on such policy matters he should not issue any orders without consulting the Ministry.

SHRI JAMILUR RAHMAN : I wrote a letter in this connection to DRM. The result was that the Supervisor of the Railway Booking Office has been transferred from here. This is the respect that the DRM has paid to the Members of Parliament. It is not by the grace of DRM that we are getting it but it is as a matter of right and privilege that we are getting the tickets from here. (*Interruptions*)

PROF AJIT KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur) : We want to know whether any action has been taken against the DRM.

SHRI P. C. SETHI : The step has been re-traced and I have further instructed the DRM not to issue any such orders in future otherwise action will be taken against him.

Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Members who have participated in the debate. While presenting the Railway Budget for the current year, I had mentioned that considering the crucial role of the Railway in the economic development of the country, it would be possible for some more allocations to be given to the Railways during the course of the year. It was also the consensus of the House that the Annual Plan allocation for the Railways particularly for their Rehabilitation Programme needed stepping up. It is against this background that the present Demands for Supplementary Grants aggregating Rs. 190 crores in the net are before the House.

One of the hon. Members has mentioned here that we should not come piecemeal with such demands. But the main question is that we have recently been granted this additional amount which we are disbursing for which we need Parliament's sanction and, therefore, I had to come with this additional demand. It is only a demand for the sanction of the amount which has been given to us by the Planning Commission and it is not any budget imposing any new levies or taxes.

As the House must have noticed, the important highlights of the Plan allocation are that Rs 60 crores are intended for ex-

\*\*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.