

[Shri Mallikarjun]

illness or any other cause, the Vice-President shall discharge his functions until the date on which the President resumes his duties."

जिस दिन आपरेशन हो गया,
उसी दिन अनेबल हो गए ।
(व्यवधान)

12.13 hrs.

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN

MR. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that under Rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure, I have nominated the following Members as Members of the Panel of Chairmen:

1. Dr. Rajendra Kumari Bajpai.
2. Shri Somnath Chatterjee.
3. Shri V. N. Gadgil.
4. Shri S. M. Krishna.
5. Shri Chintamani Panigrahi.
6. Shri N. K. Shejwalkar.

12.14 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED RECENT INCIDENT OF FIRE IN
ONGC OIL WELL NEAR BARODA AND ACTION
TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY (Midnapore): I call the attention of Minister of Energy to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The reported recent incident of fire in ONGC oil well near Baroda."

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): Sir, I bring to the notice of the House with anguish that on the morning of September 27, 1982 fire broke out in Dabka-15 well of the Oil & Natural Gas Commission situated approximately at 40 kms. from Baroda,

The well caught fire when 3 persons broke through the security fencing around the well and attempted to steal oil from the same, by opening the fittings on the well head. The hydro-carbons that were thereby let out got ignited and an oil tanker which seems to have been brought by these persons was burnt. This subject matter is under investigation by the police.

Smoke from the fire was observed at about 9.30 hrs. in the morning by a security guard at the ONGC Dabka Collecting Station which is located 2.5 kms. from the Dabka-15 well. Immediately the Ankleshwar Project Authorities of the ONGC were informed of the incident, and reached the site of the Dabka-15 well with fire fighting equipment without loss of time. Senior officers and experts of the ONGC including the Chairman rushed to the site on information from different parts of the country. The State officials including the Chief Minister were immediately contacted for all necessary help to deal with the situation effectively and with the utmost speed. Further fire fighting equipment was rushed to the site from the nearby places like Baroda and Ahmedabad etc., including equipment belonging to the army and the air force. The area being a water shortage one, water had to be rushed in tankers to the spot from different places apart from making arrangements from the nearby tubewells. A pit had also to be developed near the oil well to store the water for fighting the fire. The fire was successfully extinguished at 16.25 hrs. on September 30, 1982. The well was controlled and killed on October 1, 1982.

The State police have arrested six persons so far of whom three have succumbed to the fire injuries.

Dabka-15 well which produced oil and gas for about one year was closed in February 1981 when its daily oil production declined to 10 tonnes. No damage has been caused to any oil installations or the inhabitants of the village, barring the 3 persons on the spot who were injured in the fire. All necessary steps were taken to avoid any mishap resulting out of the presence of hydro-carbons.