

[Shri Jawaharlal Nehru]

any misapprehension in anyone's mind in regard to naming a Member.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee rose—

Shri Jadhav (Malegaon): On a point of information. I want only one minute.

Mr. Speaker: I have heard sufficiently.

A point of order has been raised stating that under Rule 374, before a Member is suspended for any particular period, he should be named and the question ought formally to be put to the House. Now, that has not been followed in this particular case. As soon as Shri Jagdish Awasthi got up, I observed:

"I will have to ask the hon. Member to keep out of the House. If he does not go and persists in doing like this, I have no other method than to send him away. (Interruptions). Order, order. The hon. Member may kindly keep out of the House. I have repeatedly seen that he is disturbing this House. He is the one hon. Member who does not care for the ruling of the Chair, however much I may insist. It is not only for one day. I will have to request him to keep out of the House for seven days, if the House concurs with me".

Then some hon. Members said:

"Yes".

I thought this was sufficient in the circumstances.

Some Hon. Members: No, no.

Mr. Speaker: Anyhow, I do not want to stick to that. A motion might have been formally moved and the question might have been put and the motion adopted. But irrespective of this matter, inasmuch as there is a volume of opinion to the effect that Shri Jagdish Awasthi should come back into the House, I have no objection to allow him to come back with retrospective effect.

Now, I would only say that irrespective of any technical observance of the rule, let there be no opportunity or occasion for any hon. Member being asked to keep out of the House even for a day. Let all that has happened yesterday be washed out. Let us start afresh.

Shri Khushwaqt Rai: I wish to seek clarification on one point.

Shri Raghunath Singh (Varanasi): The chapter should be closed.

Shri Khushwaqt Rai: That chapter is closed. But he does not want me to raise a point. You said in your ruling something relating to the previous conduct of the hon. Member. So far as I know about parliamentary democracy, the question of previous conduct has never been taken into consideration in these matters. What has happened in the past is past. So I would request you to have this matter looked into and then clarify it.

Mr. Speaker: The House will now proceed to the next item of business.

12-54 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: TWO AIR ACCIDENTS

Mr. Speaker: Before I call upon the hon. Minister of Transport and Communications to make a statement regarding two air accidents to the Indian Airlines Corporation aircraft, I may inform the House that notice of two Calling Attention motions and 21 questions have already been received on this subject. Inasmuch as the hon. Minister, in pursuance of a previous direction I gave, was willing to make a statement himself, I just wanted to bring to the notice of the House that hon. Members have also been vigilant and wanted to ask questions and elicit answers.

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan): The statement is rather long. With

your permission, I will read out a summary, but if you want that the whole statement should be read out, I am prepared.

Mr. Speaker: He may lay the Statement on the Table.

Dr. P. Subbarayan: I lay the Statement on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 21].

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members may get copies of the Statement.

Shri Hem Barua: What about eliciting information after that?

Mr. Speaker: Not now. Let him read it, and if further elucidation is necessary, I will allow questions.

12.56 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: ACCIDENT TO OIL WELL AT CAMBAY

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister of Mines and Oil wishes to make a statement regarding an accident at an oil well in Cambay. With respect to this also, before asking the hon. Minister to make the statement, I might inform the House that notices of one Calling Attention motion, five starred questions and one Short Notice Question were already received on this subject.

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): I regret to inform the House that a tragic accident took place at Well No. 3 at Cambay in the early hours of 1st February, 1960. It appears that the accident took place due to a terrific blow out when repairing one of the gate valves of the pipe-line through which gas was being led away to be flared, as a result of which four technicians—two Rumanians and two Indians—were killed and one Rumanian was injured. Immediately medical aid was arranged for the injured. The bodies of the two Rumanians were flown to Bucharest.

2. My attention has been drawn to certain Press Reports to the effect

that such an accident "seldom occurred" but it might be due to some mistake in handling the work that the well blew off and resulted in unfortunate accident. Such statements should have been made only after full investigations of the causes and verification of facts. As a matter of fact it is well known that accidents due to blow out are not altogether uncommon in Petroleum fields. In the Cambay field, which is a virgin area, particularly high temperature and pressure conditions are being encountered in our test wells. From the information now available it would appear that these technicians who were involved in the accident gallantly tried to effect the repairs to the valve and also but for the timely action of some of them the whole well might have caught fire. The Oil and Natural Gas Commission are taking steps to investigate the circumstances in which the accident occurred. They are also taking in hand all necessary measures for preventing recurrence of such accidents in future. Soon after the reports of the accident reached Rumania, Mr. Iancu Horatiu, Rumanian Minister, who is himself an expert engineer accompanied by a few experts from that country arrived at Cambay. They, together with our Indian technical experts and Russian advisers, have made on the spot study and further action is being taken to repair the well for carrying out further testing operations.

3. I have conveyed to the Rumanian Authorities and the families of the deceased our deepest sympathies.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon (Mukandapuram): As far as this particular accident is concerned, we all wish to associate ourselves with the sentiments expressed in the statement, with this addition that this is a reminder to the whole House of the tremendous hazards and risks taken by the Indian scientists and technical personnel along with Rumanian personnel in searching for oil in Cambay.