

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.

[Shri Narayanankutty Menon]

There is one more point. Two Indian personnel died in the accident. I may suggest to the hon. Minister that whatever might be the technical formalities in awarding compensation to them, even though it will not be possible to compensate their families in terms of money, because the two families were entirely dependent on these two personnel, the hon. Minister may find out whether it is possible to give an interim relief to the families of these two Indian technical personnel who died in the accident.

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** We have already declared our policy in this connection, of taking a very sympathetic attitude on this question of giving interim relief or compensation to those who become victims of circumstances during the operations of oil exploration. That is our policy and we are already pursuing this matter according to that policy.

**Mr. Speaker:** So far as these unfortunate accidents are concerned, certainly our sympathies go to the families of these unfortunate victims. Of course, we send our condolences to the members of the bereaved families. Further, I am sure that better steps will be taken to avoid such accidents in future.

12.59 hrs.

#### BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

##### FORTY-SEVENTH REPORT

**The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha):** I beg to move:

"That this House agrees with the Forty-seventh Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 9th February 1960".

**Mr. Speaker:** Motion moved:

"That this House agrees with the Forty-seventh Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 9th February 1960".

**Shri Narayanankutty Menon (Mukandapuram):** Yesterday, when the Business Advisory Committee met to discuss the business before the House, my motion regarding the recommendations of the Pay Commission was tentatively put in the Order Paper for Friday. On Friday, we will have only 2½ hours for discussion. I request the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs that if at all there is any time in between on Thursday which is available, that may also be devoted for discussion of my motion.

**Shri Satya Narayan Sinha:** Yesterday, as you know, the Business Advisory Committee suggested another 2½ hours for that discussion. We are going to put it down on the agenda for Thursday. If the legislative business on the agenda for that day is finished earlier, we have decided to take it up. If the House agrees and if you so direct, whatever time is left on Thursday after disposing of legislative business may be taken up by the discussion of the Pay Commission Report. I have not consulted the Minister concerned—because he must be present. So far as Friday is concerned, he is prepared. So, I will have to consult him. Subject to that, I will have no objection if the House agrees.

13 hrs.

**Mr. Speaker:** Let it be included in the agenda tomorrow. If any time is available it can be taken up; otherwise, it will be taken up day after tomorrow.

**Shri Satya Narayan Sinha:** It will be there on the agenda for day after tomorrow.

**Mr. Speaker:** Let it start tomorrow if time is available. Whatever time is available may be utilised for that purpose.

The question is:

"That this House agrees with the Forty-seventh Report of the