

They rushed to the spot of accident thinking that they might get kerosene from there as there is always scarcity of kerosene in this Adivasi area and all this led to the tragedy(Interruptions)..... Mr. Speaker, Sir, I urge upon the Central Government and the prime Minister to make a statement on it and inform the House about the action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard. I also demand that Central Government should give compensation to the next kin of the persons killed in the tragedy.

[English]

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE (Bombay North Central): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also would like to draw the attention of the House to the same incident to which Mr. Ram Naik has referred to. Sixty one people have been charred to death because of this turning of this truck. I would urge upon the Central Government in this respect to reconsider the Motor Vehicles Act and to amend it in such a manner that stern action can be taken against such owners of the truck who allow the drivers who are illiterate and who are not conversant with these facts or who do not have special experience as far as carrying of such inflammable liquids are concerned.

Therefore it is necessary to look into the Motor Vehicles Act promptly and to bring forward necessary amendments so that stern action can be taken in this respect.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Azamgarh): I want to draw the attention of the House and also the Government that the major trade unions of our country have decided to go on All-India strike on 29th November, 1991. The trade unions of all Public undertakings, airlines undertakings, insurance companies and all major trade unions have decided to join hands to give a call for All India strike on 29th November. This will paralyse the entire industry and will

also cause a great damage to the country because they have a feeling that the Government's economic policies and their approach to public undertakings is anti-people and anti-working class.

I want to bring to the notice of this House and the Government that the Government must initiate talks with the major trade unions to save the situation. Government should also try to take certain remedial measures in consultation with the trade unions so that such a situation does not arise.

I want to know whether the Government is taking notice of this serious situation.

The Prime Minister has already said in the House that he would not like this distorted view to prevail in the country that Government is taking anti-public sector attitude. The Prime Minister himself said that he wants a fullfledged discussion in this house. But to make such a general statement on the floor of the House is not enough if the trade unions are not being contacted and if certain concrete initiatives are not taken.

I would like to know whether the Government is observing the situation and is going to take any initiative on that.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): This is a very vital issue concerning the very future of this country and its industrial and economic policies. We have found that even before coming to parliament and even without taking the parliament and the people into confidence, important changes have been made in our industrial and economic policies, thus completely giving a go-bye to the national commitment to public sector.

We now understand that loan has been taken from IMF. We do not know the particulars till today. We are yet to know the terms and conditions.

So far as the change in the industrial policy is concerned, the change has been made and some discussion has taken place now after the event has happened. Policy changes have been made. Mere discussion is not enough. The Government must declare here and now that they will not pursue further the anti-national and anti-people policies about which the whole country is in the dark and this is nothing but a sell-out and surrender of our economic interests to those multi-nationals and World Bank and IMF. I am sure many many national, hon. Members on the other side are also perturbed about it. What the trade unions can do? Important policy decisions are taken and changes are effected by which thousands and thousands of workers will be directly affected and they are already affected. They are not taken into confidence before these decisions were taken. Therefore, it is essential that the Government should immediately put a halt to the change of the policies and then have a really meaningful discussion. Mere Prime Minister's offer to have a three hour discussion on the floor of the House is not sufficient. That is why, to register their protest, the union and the workers will go on strike. The strike will take place. There is no doubt about it and it will be a successful strike. INTUC and BMS have combined. This will be a successful strike.

Therefore, I request the Government to seriously ponder over this. Do not make it a prestige issue. Please declare that this has to be put a halt to and no further action will be taken. Then only the situation can be altered and properly considered.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura):
Leader of the House is here. He should respond.

[*Translation*]

SHRI. SHANKERSINH VAGHELA
(Godhra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, about a month

back a devastating fire broke out in the Gandhar Oil Field. There is always a possibility of fire breaking but in places where oil and natural gas are available. The saying "to dig a well when fire breaks out" applies cent percent on O.N.G.C. We have not succeeded in controlling the fire so far. Today, the entire machinery is now engaged on constructing a water tank O.N.G.C. did not have sufficient means to put out the fire. Army was called and the value was removed with the help of an Army Tank. But the fire could not be controlled. It is continuing even today.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the fire mishaps have become a routine feature there. Fire breaks out due to pilferage. It had happened earlier also. The O.N.G.C officers connive to bring down the level of production and officers holding top ranking office such as General Manager etc. quit O.N.G.C. and go to Muscat. The work is left to be done by junior officers so it becomes difficult to control the fire. Our hon. Minister Shri Shankaranand met me. He has visited that place and as such he should tell his experience to the entire House. In the event of such fires, latest fire extinguishing equipments should be made available so the fire is controlled at the earliest. Nearly a month has gone but the fire has not been controlled. It has caused tremendous loss to the country and the people. The hon. Minister should make a statement on it and efforts should be made to ensure that fire mishaps do not take place in future and if at all they take place these may be controlled at the earliest.

SHRI LAL KRISHNA ADVANI (Gandhinagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would urge the hon. Minister to give a detailed statement on it because he has personally visited the site. I had sent three legislators of my party to the site and they have reported that a constable is carrying out the investigation. There is another report which suggests that it may be a case of Sabotage. But it cannot be said with certainty whether it was an accident or