

### Fire in Sagar Vikas

\*2. SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:†

SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the financial loss suffered due to the recent fire in Sagar Vikas in Bombay by way of loss of production and loss of equipment;

(b) how soon it is expected to resume its normal operation after replacement of the burnt-up equipment;

(c) what is the total amount paid or payable to the foreign experts who came to control the fire and cap the well; and

(d) what is the actual amount paid to Oil and Natural Gas Commission by the insurance companies on this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The wells in the platform concerned were not in production so that there is no loss in production as such resulting from the blow out and fire. Production from this platform is expected to commence from January 1983.

There were only slight traces of oil while the well was blowing which is difficult to quantify but the quantity was negligible.

The loss suffered by the equipment is being surveyed in detail. It is wholly covered by insurance.

(b) According to the present indications, normal operations are expected to be resumed by the end of this year.

(c) and (d) A sum of US \$ 1.543 million has already been paid to M/s. Red Adair & Co. towards the service

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Indradeep Sinha.

charges of their experts. This amount is expected to be fully reimbursable by the Insurance Company.

SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI: Sir, the hon. Minister, in his statement last time, had said that the cause of this blow out will be investigated thoroughly as soon as conditions permit. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the investigation has been completed and what are the reasons for this blow out?

SHRI DALBIR SINGH: Sir, after the blow out, capping has been done and the well has been killed. But everything is not over with this. After these things had been done, now, assessment will be made. The insurance surveyors are in the process of doing it. Our people are also with them. They are making the assessment and other things. I will be in a position to give a correct picture to the House when this is completed

SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI: I have asked the reasons for the blow out. I have not asked about insurance and other things.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has already answered that they are investigating it and they will inform the House.

SHRI SHIV SHANKAR: Sir, on the question of investigation, I submit that an enquiry committee has been appointed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think, this is quite enough.

SHRI SHIV SHANKAR: This is still under investigation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The fire has been extinguished only a few days back.

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: The only question which I wanted to ask was whether any enquiry committee has been appointed to investigate this matter and at what stage the investigation is, because, the cause of the fire has to be detected and preventive steps taken to see that these things do not recur.

**SHRI SHIV SHANKAR:** I am not able to say, at what stage it is. But as I have already said, the enquiry committee has been appointed and it is going into the matter.

**SHRI SURESH RAO KALMADI:** Sir, the hon. Minister has said that an enquiry committee has been set up. I would like to know, what sort of enquiry committee has been set up, whether it is a CBI enquiry or it is an enquiry by some other agency. I am asking this question because I would like to know whether sabotage has been ruled out. If sabotage has been ruled out and if there is no CBI enquiry, I would like to know whether the Government thinks it is a question of negligence and for this reason, whether they have asked the Chairman of the ONGC, Col. Wahi, to resign.

**SHRI DALBIR SINGH:** The enquiry committee has been set up by the Chairman of the ONGC and there are Members of the ONGC...

**SHRI SURESH RAO KALMADI:** How can the Members of the ONGC be on the enquiry committee? They are a party to it. We want a separate CBI inquiry. It is not a minor matter. It started in Bombay High and it has gone to Baroda. There is a regular...

**SHRI DALBIR SINGH:** Kindly listen to me. The Chairman of the Committee is Member (Exploration). Three other senior officers of the ONGC...

**SHRI SURESH RAO KALMADI:** How can the Chairman of the ONGC be the chairman of this Committee?

**SHRI DALBIR SINGH:** Shri B. B. Sharma... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI PILOO MODY:** We want to listen to the names. (*Interruptions*). Kindly repeat the names.

**SHRI DALBIR SINGH:** This Committee is going into the whole affair. (*Interruptions*).

**SHRI PILOO MODY:** Mr. Chairman, please ask him to repeat the names because we could not hear him

**SHRI SHIV SHANKAR:** Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Inquiry Committee consists of the persons who have nothing to do with the working there, in the blow out.

**SHRI SURESH RAO KALMADI:** How can you say that?

**SHRI SHIV SHANKAR:** I concede that certain highly placed officers of the ONGC have been put in charge of the inquiry for the purpose of going into the investigations of the blow-out of this nature. The Member (Exploration) who has nothing to do with the blow-out occurrence or a part of this job itself, is the chairman along with some senior officers as my friend has just now said. The hon. Members are interested to know the names. One is Shri Raghubir. He is the General Manager (F&A). The others are Shri Dhir, General Manager; Shri Sarin, Director, Institute of Drilling Technology; one is the representative of Oil India Limited, Shri B. B. Sharma; and a representative of the Planning Commission, Shri J. S. Misra, Joint Adviser. All the persons who constitute the Committee.

**SHRI SURESH RAO KALMADI:** Who is the chairman of the Committee?

**SHRI SHIV SHANKAR:** As I said, the Member (Exploration).

**SHRI SURESH RAO KALMADI:** Which department? How can all the persons who are involved, be members on the Committee.

**SHRI SHIV SHANKAR:** Mr. Chairman, I have said that these people have nothing to do with the operations there or with the blow-out itself. As I said, it is absolutely necessary that one should have the

expert knowledge for the purpose of an enquiry of this nature and I assure the House that after I get the report, if it is necessary, I will not shirk in having a different Committee, be it CBI or any other type.

**SHRI SURESH RAO KALMADI:** It is a multi-crore loss. The Chairman of the ONGC should resign.

**SHRI SHIV SHANKAR:** I am sorry, you seem to be after the blood of the Chairman of the ONGC.

**SHRI SURESH RAO KALMADI:** Hundreds of crores of rupees have been blown out.

**SHRI SHIV SHANKAR:** Kindly do not be emotional.

**SHRI SURESH RAO KALMADI:** It is a question of emotion. Hundreds of crores of rupees have been lost. It is the taxpayers' money.

**SHRI PILOO MODY:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the hon. Minister one thing. He has just given us a few names and designations of the people who are on the Committee. I do not see any investigating authorities on that Committee at all. They are all experts who are capable of giving the necessary expertise and information to an Inquiry Committee. They should be giving information instead of turning them into investigators. This is a case that requires investigation. Therefore, you have to put investigators in charge of it along with persons having the expert knowledge required to advise the investigators. I think the Committee as it has been constituted—no matter how good the people on it are will not meet the situation as it has developed. Because from the information or rumour whatever, you may call it, that is available, it is clear that there has been sabotage, there has been a lot of malpractice going on in this matter and there has been a considerable amount of plunder. This is what the insinuation is. Plunder cannot take place without the connivance of the officers or persons or the people involved in the explo-

ration or whatever action was going on.

Therefore, it is necessary that somebody outside should be investigating into the matter and all these people that you have on the Committee can advise them and inform them about the procedures that are adopted.

**SHRI SHIV SHANKAR:** My friend has made two observations. One is with reference to the investigation where certain persons unconnected with the organisation should have been included.

**SHRI SHRIDHAR WASUDEO DHABE:** A High Court Judge.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The suggestion is not for "unconnected" but persons who will be able to apply their mind and investigate.

**SHRI PILOO MODY:** Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**SHRI SHIV SHANKAR:** As I have said, what was felt was that expertise knowledge was necessary for the purposes of the enquiry in this matter. It is in this background that persons who are not connected with the operations there have been thought of. There is none in the Committee who is a man connected with the operations.

**SHRI PILOO MODY:** I accept that.

**SHRI SHIV SHANKAR:** Just a minute. I have already said, Mr. Mody, if on the report of this Enquiry Committee there is something which has yet to be gone into, I will not shirk in referring the entire matter to a different Committee altogether. I have already said that.

**SHRI PILOO MODY:** Mr. Chairman, Sir, if I may observe, what the Minister is telling us is that he, for his own benefit, is trying to find out what could have happened. No investigation has been ordered. This is what, in essence, he is saying. What I am trying to tell him is that an investigation should be ordered and the people who can give useful infor-

mation should be associated with that investigation. This is the point of difference.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Monika Das..just a minute.

SHRI PILOO MODY: Mr. Chairman, please let him react to that. He has ordered no investigation.

SHRI SHIV SHANKAR: Mr. Mody, it is very difficult for any one to react to you. But I have already reacted by saying that once the report is available, I will certainly, if necessary, take the entire House into confidence.

SHRI PILOO MODY: "If necessary" can arise only out of investigation, not out of a report.

MR. CHAIRMAN: They want simultaneous...

SHRI SHIV SHANKAR: There are persons who are outsiders. There is a Planning Commission Officer. I have given his name also. They have nothing to do with it. There is yet another man who is an officer of Oil India Ltd. Therefore, let me get the report.

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : पीलू मोदी जी का मतलब यह है कि क्या सी० बी०आई के किसी बड़े अप्सर को इस इन्वेस्टिगेशन में लगाना चाहेंगे ? सीधी बात यह है ।

SHRI SURESH RAO KALMADI: We demand a CBI enquiry.

SHRI SHIV SHANKAR: As this stage, I do not think it proper to include any CBI officer in the Committee.

SHRIMATI MONIKA DAS: One more incident has happened at Baroda also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Forget that.

SHRIMATI MONIKA DAS: What are the financial losses suffered to put out the blow out? From the newspaper reports, it is seen that the fire at Baroda broke out due to the criminal activities and oil theft by some

unscrupulous people. I want to know from the hon. Minister what action the Government is taking for that and how long it will take to take action. The same thing happened at Baroda.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question does not concern that fire.

SHRIMATI MONIKA DAS: One is at Bombay; the other at Baroda. Two incidents have happened. He must reply to that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You cannot combine the two.

SHRIMATI MONIKA DAS: It is the same—blow out.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. Question No. 3.

### Live Telecast of Asian Games

\*3. SHRI ABDUL REHMAN SHEIKH:

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:†

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to the failure of INSAT-1A many of the T.V. stations will go off the national circuit; if so, what will be its impact on radio, television and telecommunication systems;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the failure of INSAT-1A has adversely affected the project for providing live telecast of the Asian Games in the far flung areas of the country;

(c) if so, whether the use of international telecommunication satellite as an alternative means has since been considered by Government; if so, what decision has been taken in the matter;

(d) what is the estimated cost of this change-over from the domestic to international satellite; and

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Murlidhar Chandrakant Bhandare.