

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF STEEL

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1120
FOR ANSWER ON 10/02/2021

IMPROVING THE SAFETY STANDARDS OF STEEL PSUs

1120. SHRI SUJEET KUMAR:

Will the Minister of Steel be pleased to state:

the steps being taken by the Ministry to improve the safety standards at the Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) and other plants run by PSUs in view of the RSP mishap that claimed four lives?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STEEL

(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)

Ministry of Steel has formulated a set of 25 Safety Guidelines in 2019-20 for strengthening the safety ecosystem in the iron & steel sector in the country. These have been evolved after extensive interactions with the stakeholders and enable identifying the potential hazards in the iron & steel making industry and measures that need to be adopted to minimise accidents in order to ensure a safe working environment for the workforce.

In order to improve the safety standards at various steel manufacturing PSUs, OHSAS (Occupational Health & Safety Assessment Series) / ISO (International Organization for Standardization) safety standards have been adopted. As a part of the OHSAS/ ISO, Standard Work Procedures which include Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and Standard Maintenance Procedures (SMPs) have been prepared and implemented in various departments of steel plants for ensuring a safe working environment and over all standards of safety.

Some of the specific steps taken to improve the safety standards at Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) and other Plants/Units of SAIL include the following:-

- Permit to work system reviewed and filled-up in addition to safety protocol before starting the work in gas line job.
- Healthiness of gas lines checked at Coal Chemicals Department, RSP and remedial actions taken on priority basis.
- Frequency of gas safety training programme with hands-on training on gas safety equipment for regular employees increased from once in a week to twice per week in RSP.
- Additional safety signages displayed in local language at RSP.
- All the plants/units have been advised to strictly follow SG-21: Safety guideline for handling fuel gas, permit to work system/BIS standards on scaffolding, SOPs/SMPs etc.
- Awareness training in these areas enhanced by organising refresher training programmes for regular employees/contractual workers.
