

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF STEEL

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.310
FOR ANSWER ON 12/12/2018

STEPS FOR SAFETY IN STEEL PLANTS

310. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a recent gas pipeline explosion which occurred in Bhilai Steel Plant of Steel Authority of India Limited has affected employees and claimed the lives of many employees;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this case;
- (d) if so, the details and outcome thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by Government towards safety in steel plants?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR STEEL

(SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI)

(a)&(b): On 09.10.2018, a protocol job was undertaken for de-blanking of 1800 mm diameter Coke Oven gas line located at Column C-50 behind Coke Oven Battery (COB)#11 at about +10 Meter level at Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP) of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL). Necessary clearances were obtained from different agencies as per protocol along with reduction in network pressure. After removal of blank plate, preparation of insertion of ring packing was going on. At that time, flame burst out and employees of Environment Management Department (EMD) & Fire brigade involved in the job got trapped in the fire. As a result, 9 persons died on spot and 5 persons succumbed to their injury in course of treatment at Jawahar Lal Nehru (JLN) Hospital, Bhilai.

(c)&(d): An inquiry committee was constituted by SAIL comprising of experts from different plants of SAIL to ascertain reasons of the incident, suggest appropriate measures to avoid recurrence of such incidents and fix responsibility. Similarly a High Level Committee was constituted by Ministry of Steel to conduct independent inquiry with the causes of the incidence. The reports of both the committees have been submitted.

(e) Both SAIL and RINL have taken a number of measures to avoid occurrence of accidents. These measures, inter-alia, include adherence to maintenance schedule, thrust on systematic approach to safety management, strict adherence to safety procedures, regular inspection, mandatory training and special training on safety awareness, conduct of safety audit, enforcing use of personal protection equipment and proper implementation of emergency plan prepared as per the provisions of the Factories Act, 1948 etc. Further, based upon accident analysis, area specific safety workshop involving all major steel producers have been organised in recent past to facilitate learning from good practices.
