

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2149
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2001
ACCIDENTS IN NALCO
ANANTA NAYAK;BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the construction of NALCO ash pond at Angul in Orissa has collapsed damaging large agriculture areas and making households unfit for human habitats;
- (b) if so, the reasons for the collapse;
- (c) the extent of damage caused to the agriculture and environment in the state;
- (d) whether there is any proposal to make the cultivable lands fertile that were damaged;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) the details of compensation paid to the affected people in the State ; and
- (g) the steps taken by the Government to plug the loopholes in order to stop any further occurrence of such accident in NALCO plant in future?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES(SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An independent enquiry to inquire into the breach of NALCO `s Captive Power Plant Ash Pond has found that the practices adopted for design, construction, supervision and quality control for the raising of ash dykes have been methodical and professional. The committee has inferred that the breach in ash pond No.2 is possibly due to a deliberate cut to save the embankment and to prevent catastrophic consequences to the adjoining village.

(c), (d), (e) & (f) Several Committees were constituted by the District Authorities to measure the extent of damage, assess the loss and damage of property , the crop, the soil condition, and other restoration measures required in the area. The District Collector reviewed the progress of relief and restoration measures undertaken in the ash pond affected villages from time to time and finally on receipt of the reports from the scientists of Orissa Remote Sensing Application Centre, Environment & Pollution control Department, District Agriculture office, the Health Department, Experts of Orissa University of Agriculture & Technology, Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Wing. The Collector after consulting local MPs, MLAs, Zilla Parishad Members, Sarpanch and other public representatives officials of State Government and NALCO Officials asked NALCO to make immediate payment of 1121.76 lakh through the District Administration for relief and rehabilitation of the affected persons/area for compensation for crop, damage/loss, water supply, repair and renovation of damaged infrastructure etc. NALCO agreed to pay directly to the district administration the amount so recommended for settlement of claims of the ultimate beneficiaries against individual acknowledgment.

(g) The expert from Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore have examined both Ash Ponds of NALCO. The required repairs, reconstruction and strengthening works as suggested are being implemented. In view of the above, there is no likely apprehension of similar accident in future.