

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5918
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2001
COLLAPSE OF NTPC TOWER
NEDURUMALLI JANARDHANA REDDY;SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAI

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some persons have died and injured due to collapse of a coolant tower of NTPC at Parvada near Vishakhapatnam as reported in the `Pioneer` dated March 30, 2001;
- (b) if so, whether any preliminary investigations have been conducted;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the losses suffered by NTPC as a result thereof; and
- (e) the compensation paid to the victims by NTPC and the steps taken to prevent such accidents in future?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA)

(a) : The construction work of Cooling Towers at Simhadri Thermal Power Project of the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) is being executed by M/s National Building Construction Corporation (NBCC), a Government of India Undertaking, under a turnkey contract. The temporary access to facilitate transport of material was made of scaffolding pipes to the height of 165 meters. This temporary access scaffolding collapsed at about 10.30 PM on 28.3.2001 due to which six persons of sub-contractor of M/s NBCC succumbed to injuries and one person being treated at King George Hospital, Visakhapatnam, is progressing well.

(b) & (c) : A high level Enquiry Committee has been constituted by NTPC to enquire into the accident which is required to submit its findings by 15th May, 2001.

(d) : NTPC has not suffered any financial loss as a result of this accident.

(e) : An ex-gratia of Rs.2.50 lakhs to each family of those killed in the accident is being paid by the contracting agency, M/s NBCC apart from the statutory payment of compensation under the Workmen Compensation Act which may come around Rs.2 lakhs. In addition, Rs.25,000/- was paid as cremation expenses. Further, the treatment charges of the injured person are also being met by M/s. NBCC.

Since the accident is unique and the first of its kind occurred in NTPC projectsites and involves various issues of technology, the Enquiry Committee as well as M/s NBCC are interacting with various consultants, experts etc., and also going through literature/data relevant to similar structures to finalize the findings. NTPC has been advised to take all necessary precautions to prevent recurrence of such accidents in future.