

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1907

ANSWERED ON:29.11.2001

EXPERT TEAM BY PGCI FOR COLLAPSE OF TOWER IN KOLAR DISTRICT OF KARNATAKA

GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ;GOWDAR MALLIKARJUNAPPA;IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd., has decided to constitute an experts` team to find out the exact reasons for the collapse of the 100-feet towers, under construction in Kolar district of Karnataka, which claimed seven lives on 24th August, 2001;

(b) if so, the outcome of the inquiry;

(c) whether the experts have submitted their report to the Karnataka Government; and

(d) if so, the details of the report?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) : An accident occurred on 23.8.2001 during erection of tower near Kolar sub-station on Kolar-Arakkonam 400 KV S/C Transmission line in Karnataka, which resulted in collapse of the tower and loss of life of seven workers of the contractor, M/s. Hyundai Engineering & Construction Co. Ltd. POWERGRID constituted an Enquiry Committee on 24.8.2001 to inquire into the accident. The Enquiry Committee has submitted its report to the management of POWERGRID. The Committee has opined that the accident was basically caused due to the tower not being erected by adopting proper sequence of erection by the workers of the contractor on 22.8.2001, as the workers were eager to complete the job quickly, so as to be able to celebrate Ganesh Chaturthi festival.

The Committee has observed that the contracting agency, by not giving proper training regarding safe practices and its importance and by not providing effective supervision failed to prevent the accident and is mainly responsible for the accident. POWERGRID has been advised to take special care to provide all assistance and compensation to the affected families and to tighten up the supervision of the contractors so that such accidents do not recur.