

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
STEEL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3444

ANSWERED ON:18.08.2003

EXPLOSION IN BHADRAVATHI STEEL PLANT

BASUDEB ACHARIA;CHANDRA NATH SINGH;NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA;NIVEDITA MANE

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether an explosion which took place in SAIL`s Bhadravathi Plant in Karnataka is reported to have claimed many lives and damaged huge properties;
- (b) if so, the details and facts thereof;
- (c) whether adequate safety measures were not taken in the plant;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) by when a thorough probe is likely to be conducted;
- (f) the compensation proposed to be paid to the next of the kin who killed or injured in the blast; and
- (g) the steps taken by the Government to check such incidents?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY)

(a)&(b): An eruption of slag and metal from the mouth of L.D. converter No.2 took place in Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Plant (VISP) Bhadravati on 31st July, 2003. This resulted in casualties/injuries to the employees present on the spot. While seven employees including one contract worker were identified as brought dead at the hospital, another nine employees who suffered injuries were admitted for treatment. Two of the injured employees succumbed to their injuries and expired on 1st and 8th August, 2003.

(c)&(d): No, Sir. Adequate safety measures were in place in the plant.

(e) A Committee consisting of senior officials of SAIL was constituted to enquire into the accident which has already submitted the report.

(f) Monetary payment ranging from a minimum of Rs. 8.02 lakhs to a maximum of Rs. 25.33 lakhs will be provided to the affected employees. The compensation, if any, in respect of injured employees shall be made as per the rules of company. Further, employment to one member of each of the deceased`s families has been offered.

(g) Steps taken by Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)/VISP to check such incidents are:

Structured safety training programme is being imparted.

Safety talks are being given to the concerned employees by Shift In-charge at the beginning of each shift in all departments of VISP.

Safety personnel are being associated during prolonged breakdown maintenance jobs on critical equipments.

Boards indicating Do`s and Don`ts have been prepared for display at steel melting shop.