

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4580

ANSWERED ON:25.08.2005

SECURITY MEASURES AT BOMBAY HIGH

Badiga Shri Ramakrishna; Chandrappan Shri C.K.; Murmu Shri Hemlal; Nayak Smt. Archana; Pandey Dr. Laxminarayan; Ponnuswamy Shri E.; Rawat Shri Kamla Prasad; Shakya Shri Raghuraj Singh; Sugavanam Shri E.G.; Vallabhaneni Shri Balashowry

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has constituted any enquiry committee to go into the causes of major fire broke out in offshore oil platform in Bombay High recently;
- (b) if so, the details of composition of the said committee alongwith the time fixed for submitting its report;
- (c) whether the Government had set up a committee on Security Measures at the time of fire in MHN platform three years ago;
- (d) if so, the details of recommendations made by the said committee;
- (e) whether the Government has implemented the recommendations made by the said committee;
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (g) the preventive measures taken or proposed to be taken to check recurrence of such incidents in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS AND PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYER)

- (a) & (b) An enquiry committee is being constituted by Government of India in this regard.
- (c) Regarding the fire incident at BHF platform (Bridge connected to Mumbai High North) on 14.02.2001, a one-man enquiry committee comprising Major General (Retd.) S.C.N.Jatar, former CMD of Oil India Ltd. and former MD of ONGC Videsh Ltd., had been constituted by ONGC. The committee submitted its report in April 2001.
- (d) A number of precautionary measures were reemphasized for future revamping jobs in the Offshore by the Committee. These were as under:-
 - (i) Improved work practices.
 - (ii) Enhanced coordination and Permit to Work (PTW) system.
 - (iii) Laying down a clear procedure during revamping activities.
- (e) to (f) Based on the recommendations, the following procedures were strengthened by ONGC:-
 - (i) Introduction of Integrated Permit To Work system (PTW), and providing for such systems at strategic control locations.
 - (ii) Enhanced coordination.
 - (iii) Standard Operating procedure and guidelines on safety during revamping activities.
 - (iv) Development of Simultaneous Operations matrix (SIMOP)
 - (v) Standby Multi Supply Vessels (MSVs) and offshore supply vessels (OSVs) for Fire Fighting.

(vi) Mandatory Sea Survival and Basic Fire Fighting for all offshore crew belonging both to ONGC and its contractors.

(vii) Pre and post revamping Hazard and Risk analysis.

(viii) Development of Management of Change (MOC).

(ix) Improved regular house keeping audit.

(x) Deployment of Third Party Certifying Agencies during execution of any revamping job.

(g) Since then, a number of revamping actions have been undertaken and interfacing of new facilities like MNW (platform), MSP (platform) and MUT (Mumbai High Uran Trunk Lines for Gas and Oil transportation) carried out. During pre-monsoon 2005-06, massive construction activities involving about 200 boats/ barges and vessels with more than 4000 personnel of 43 nationalities for 12 major projects costing Rs.6,500 crore were carried out without any accident. ONGC is already in the process of upgrading its standard operating procedures for operation of MSVs and OSVs close to the installations. In view of the tragic incident at BHN platform on the 27th July,2005 a high-powered committee consisting of former Chairman, ONGC, former Chairman GAIL and former Director (Technical), ONGC has been constituted by ONGC to ascertain the causes of accident, review the emergency response and recommend action for correction and improvements. Besides, the Government is also in the process of setting up an Independent High Level Inquiry Committee as stated in reply to part (a) of the question. The recommendations of the two committees, once these are received, would be examined and measures would be taken to further tighten the safety of assets / installations of ONGC and ensure security of lives of personnel.