

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:931

ANSWERED ON:03.03.2010

FIRE IN BHABHA ATOMIC RESEARCH CENTRE

Deora Shri Milind Murl;Meghe Shri Datta Raghobaji;Owaisi Shri Asaduddin;Sarvey Shri Sathyanarayana;Singh Shri Bhola;Singh Shri Sukhdev;Yadav Shri Ranjan Prasad

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a major fire broke out at Bhabha Atomic Research Centre in Mumbai leading to death of two young scientists`;
- (b) if so, the main reason of the fire;-
- (c) whether the Government has constituted a Committee to look into the causes of fire;
- (d) if so, the outcome of the enquiry; and
- (e) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to avoid such incidents in future especially in highly protected sensitive security zones?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE FOR PMO, PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):

- (a) A fire ` incident took place on December 29, 2009 in one of the chemical laboratories in Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) resulting in the death of two Ph.D. Students.
- (b) Reason for the fire accident as indicated by the report of investigation Committee set up by BARC is low intensity explosive energy released from accidental mixing of small quantities of reactive chemicals stored in the Chemical laboratory.
- (c) Yes, Sir. A Committee has been set up by BARC to inquire into the causes of fire. The Police are also conducting forensic and other investigations.
- (d) & (e) The BARC Investigation committee has made several recommendations to prevent recurrence of similar incidents. Remedial measures have also been recommended to improve not only safety but also the emergency response to an incident, which can prevent escalation of the incident and can mitigate the consequences. BARC Safety Council is taking further steps for implementation of the recommendations of the Committee to enhance the safety status of all the `aboratories.