

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:635
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2010
FIRE AT IOC DEPOT AT JAIPUR
Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada

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

- (a): whether an expert committee probing the Indian Oil Depot fuel fire in Jaipur in October, 2009 has concluded it as 'human error';
- (b): if so, the details thereof;
- (c): whether the proper safety procedure are not adopted by the various fuel depots; in the country;
- (d): if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e): whether the Government proposes to conduct safety audits of oil installations and ensure compliance of recommendations of the Oil Industry Safety Directorate; and
- (f): if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA)

(a) & (b): An Independent Inquiry Committee under the chairmanship of Shri M.B. Lai, Technical Member (P&NG), Appellate Tribunal for Electricity and Ex-Chairman & Managing Director of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited has determined that the immediate cause of the fire accident was non-observance of the normal safe procedure which involves sequence of valve operation in the line up activity.

(c) & (d): Various fuel depots of oil companies have adopted all safety procedures stipulated in Oil Industry Safety Directorate(OISD) standards.

(e) & (f): OISD is carrying out safety audits and inspections and monitors the recommendations for compliance. Further, in order to take preventive steps so that such incidents do not occur in future, the Ministry had convened a meeting on 3.11.2009, to review the safety and security at oil & gas installations in the country, which was attended by the Chief Executive Officers of all public and major private oil companies having installations in the country. It was, inter-alia, decided that all oil and gas installations and transportation systems in the country will carry out self safety audit conforming to statutory norms and risk assessment, including Oil Industry Safety Directorate (OISD) standards by 31.12.2009 and all oil and gas installations will have their safety audit done on quarterly basis. Further, all major as well as minor incidents in any such installations/setups in the country including that of private companies will be reported to OISD.