

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3558
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2010
LEAKAGE OF CHLORINE GAS
Tewari Shri Manish

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of people got injured in the leakage of chlorine gas at the Mumbai Port recently;
- (b) whether there was no Standard Operating Procedure (SOPs) in place to detect, contain, isolate and neutralize the gas leakage;
- (c) if so, whether the officials involved in the containment efforts were actually searching Google and You Tube to find out ways of containing the leakage;
- (d) if so, whether it took the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) more than 8 hours to get the scene of occurrence;
- (e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the responsibility fixed and action taken against official responsible for this occurrence; and
- (f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that such an accident does not reoccur?

Answer

MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN)

- (a): In all 118 persons affected by the incident were admitted to various hospitals. No person was seriously affected in the incident.
- (b): Storage of dangerous and hazardous goods is regulated under the Mumbai Port Trust (Transport, Handling and Storage of Dangerous Goods) regulations 2007. Part-IV of the regulations deals with precautions and handling measures to be taken for storage of dangerous goods.
- (c): There is nothing on record regarding Google and You Tube search by any Mumbai Port Trust officials concerned.
- (d): Incident of Chlorine Gas leakage occurred on 14.7.2010 at 3.15 A.M. and National Disaster Response Force reached the site at 1.00 P.M.
- (e) & (f): Deputy Chairman, Mumbai Port Trust, has been appointed to inquire into the causes of the incident, identify lapses and those responsible as well as to suggest remedial measures to ensure that an incident of this type does not reoccur.

A High level committee involving Jt. CCE, DG (Factory Advice Service & Labour Institute), MPCB and Director, Industrial Safety Maharashtra has also been constituted to examine the cylinders/packages and advise on the measures to be taken/methodology to be followed for neutralization of chemicals/gases and ultimate disposal of all the uncleared hazardous cargo lying in the Port.

A Committee has been constituted on 9.8.2010 by Ministry of Shipping under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary (Ports). The terms of reference of the Committee are as under:

- (i) reasons of gas leakage
- (ii) reasons of storing hazardous goods for long periods
- (iii) mechanism available to handle such accidents
- (iv) legal provisions available to deal with hazardous goods, and
- (v) to suggest improvement in the existing procedure and avoid recurring of such accidents .

The committee will submit its report within one month.

Strict directions have been issued to all the Major Ports to dispose off all the hazardous/inflammable cargo lying in port area since long time.