

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2882
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2010
POISONOUS GAS LEAK
Sainuji Shri Kowase Marotrao

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the incidents of leak of poisonous gases in recent past in crowded areas in metropolitan cities has come to the notice of the Government especially in Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the action taken against the company;
- (d) whether the Government is contemplating to formulate an effective policy to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in future; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (e): There was an incident of chlorine gas leakage in Mumbai Port Trust on 14.07.2010. As per information provided by the Mumbai Port Trust, a total of 100 empty cylinders and 5 cylinders with chlorine were stored in the Hazardous Goods Storage facility at Haji Bandar, Mumbai Port. One of the cylinders developed a leak in the early morning on 14/07/10 and chlorine dissipated into the atmosphere affecting more than 100 persons living close to the port area. Action to seal/neutralize the leaking cylinder was completed by the noon of 14th July, 2010. The Ministry of Shipping has directed Mumbai Port Trust to conduct an enquiry into the incident and has constituted a Committee to look into the circumstances leading to the gas leakage. The Maharashtra Pollution Control Board has issued directions to the Mumbai Port Trust under section 31A of Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 read with Hazardous Waste (Management, Handling and Transboundary Movement) Rules 2008 to take immediate remedial measure to identify such types of unclaimed consignments, dispose of chlorine cylinders in a scientific manner under the supervision of experts and take adequate measures so that such incidents should not happen again. The import and storage of gas cylinder is covered under the Gas Cylinder Rules, 2004 being enforced by the Petroleum Explosives Safety Organization under the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.