

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1867  
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2011  
FIRE IN IOC DEPOT  
Hussain Shri Syed Shahnawaz

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

- (a) whether a devastating fire had broken out in the fuel depot of Indian Oil Corporation located at Jaipur;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether preliminary inquiry has since been conducted to find out the reasons for this fire outbreak;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether any responsibility has been fixed for the accident; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to check recurrence of such incidents in future?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH)

(a) & (b) Yes, Madam. On 29.10.2009, during routine tank line up job, when an operator was doing valve operation, there was massive leakage of Motor Spirit (MS) from the valve of one of the tanks, which led to formation of vapour cloud. Spark from an unknown source resulted in explosion of the vapour cloud, which started the fire in all the 11 tanks of the depot. In the incident, petroleum products worth approximately ` 191 crore were lost and the replacement cost of Indian Oil Corporations (IOC) buildings and machinery was estimated to be over Rs. 160 crore. 11 deaths were confirmed of which 6 were employees of IOC. 7 persons were seriously injured. The blasts in the Depot damaged the roof, window panes and walls of nearby factories, shopping complex, some residential buildings etc.

(c) & (d) Yes, Madam. An independent Inquiry Committee under the chairmanship of Shri M.B. Lal was constituted to find out causes of Jaipur fire accident. The committee has given 118 recommendations for implementation at Terminal and Depots, which have been accepted by the Government. Immediate cause of accident was non- observance of normal safe procedure involving sequence of valve operation in the line up activity and an engineering design which permitted use of hammer blind valve.

(e) In connection with the incident of fire at Jaipur Terminal during Oct, 2009, IOC has initiated disciplinary action against Shri K.N. Agrawal, Foreman (F) and Shri Ashok Gupta who was Shift In-charge on that day. Rajasthan State Police is also investigating the incident. Eight officers and one workman including the then General Manager, Rajasthan State Office of IOC were arrested on 2.07.2010.

(f) A Joint Implementation Committee (JIC) has been appointed to implement M B Lal Committee recommendations. JIC is closely monitoring the implementation of recommendations made by M B Lal Committee.