

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:641
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2011
RECOMMENDATIONS OF M.B. LAL COMMITTEE
Kataria Shri Lal Chand;Singh Shri Uday Pratap

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

- (a) whether the M.B. Lal Committee constituted to enquire into the Jaipur fire incident has submitted its report;
- (b) if so, the salient features and the recommendations thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is implementing the said recommendations;
- (d) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government against the guilty oil companies; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY)

(a) to (e): Yes, Madam. An Independent Inquiry Committee under the chairmanship of Shri M.B. Lal, Technical Member (P&NG), Appellate Tribunal for Electricity and Ex-Chairman & Managing Director of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, constituted by this Ministry to probe the incident of fire at IOC's POL Terminal at Jaipur has determined that the immediate cause of the fire accident was non-observance of the normal safety procedures, which involve a sequence of valve operation in the lineup activity.

The Committee has pointed out lapses at operator, supervisory and management levels. The Committee has also recommended numerous short-term as well as long-term measures for preventing such incidents in future. This Ministry has accepted the recommendations made by the Committee for improvement and ensuring safety and emergency preparedness at POL installations and terminals and advised OMCs to implement the recommendations within a time frame. Joint Implementation Committee (JIC) is closely monitoring the implementation of recommendations made by M. B. Lal Committee.

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.