

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
STEEL
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:432

ANSWERED ON:07.05.2012

ACCIDENTS AT STEEL PLANTS

Khaire Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao;Swamygowda Shri N Cheluvarama Swamy

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) the number and nature of accidents that took place in various steel plants in the country during each of the last three years and the current year, plant-wise;
- (b) the number of persons injured/died in these accidents during the said period;
- (c) whether any investigation has been conducted to identify the causes of such accidents;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken against the officials found responsible for such accidents;
- (e) the amount of compensation paid to the injured/families of the deceased persons in such cases alongwith the average annual expenditure on the maintenance of these plants; and
- (f) the concrete steps taken/being taken to avoid recurrence of such accidents in future?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA)

(a)to(f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (F) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.432 FOR ANSWER ON 07TH MAY, 2012 BY SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE AND SHRI N. CHALUVARAYA SWAMY, MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT REGARDING ACCIDENTS AT STEEL PLANTS

(a)&(b): Details of accidents which occurred in different public sector steel plants and units of the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) during the requisite period are given at Annexure. The number of persons injured/died in these accidents in respect of SAIL and RINL is as under:

Year SAIL RINL

Injured Died Injured Died

2009	121	28	57	11
2010	115	33	46	10
2011	86	21	46	8
2012	23	09	14	2

Steel is a deregulated sector. There are a large number of steel factories/plants in the country. Therefore, in regard to the private steel sector, the requisite data/information is not maintained by the Ministry of Steel.

(c)&(d): Yes, Madam. All fatal accidents are investigated by a plant level enquiry committee to identify the causes of such accidents and give recommendations to prevent recurrence of such incidents. Status of implementation of the recommendations made by the committee are monitored and reviewed at appropriate levels for their timely compliance. Wherever recommended by the Plant enquiry committee appropriate actions are taken against the erring employees/officials for violation of safety norms leading to an accident. In case of contractual employees, the same is done as per the penalty provisions given in the terms and conditions of the contract.

(e) In case of contract labour, compensation/dependent benefit is paid under the Employee State Insurance Scheme (ESIS) by the ESI Corporation. In case of fatal accidents to regular employees, the compensation is given as per the law/company policy. SAIL and RINL provide compensation to their employees in case of death/disablement due to accident arising out of and in course of employment as per the Workmen's Compensation Act, Employee Family Benefit Scheme and company policy. SAIL and RINL have paid a total of Rs.3,47,34,618 as compensation from 2009 till date. The annual expenditure on maintenance of different plants of SAIL & RINL during 2010-11 was Rs.5276.47 crore & Rs.616.37 crore respectively.

(f) Measures taken by SAIL Plants/Units to avoid occurrence of such accidents in identified areas of concern are as follows:-

- i. Enforcing usage of job specific Personal Protective Equipments (PPEs) by all concerned, mandatory use of full body harness in place of safety belts;
- ii. Campaign and training on rail and road safety;
- iii. Use of retardant dress while handling liquid metal;
- iv. Provisions of automatic gas leak detection and alarm system in hazardous areas, Conducting periodic mock drills as per emergency plan;
- v. Strict adherence to Inter Plant Safety Standards procedures;
- vi. Enforcement of safety induction training;
- vii. Strict adherence to safety procedures, medical fitness and height pass; and
- viii. Adoption of systematic approach for safety management (OHSAS-18001 implementation, internal & external safety audits etc.)

Based on the findings of the enquiry committees which probe into the incident of each fatal accident, the cause of each accident is identified and the following measures are taken in RINL:

- i. Conducting periodic mock-drills as per the emergency plan.
- ii. Provision of automatic gas leak detection alarm in critical and gas prone areas.
- iii. Enforcing usage of job specific personal protective equipment.
- iv. Spreading safety awareness through training programs and workshops for employees and contractor workers.
- v. Conducting inspections and suggesting corrective measures on unsafe acts and conditions observed.
- vi. Development and adherence to safe operating and maintenance procedures are re-emphasized.