

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
STEEL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:573

ANSWERED ON:13.08.2012

ACCIDENT AT RINL

Gowda Shri D.B. Chandre;Jeyadural Shri S. R.;Ramasubbu Shri S.

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a deadly fire broke out at the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL), plant at Vishakhapatnam recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of such accidents that have occurred during the last three years;
- (c) the number of employees who lost their lives and number of employees who suffered injuries in this incident;
- (d) whether the Government has got the matter investigated by a Committee, if so, the details thereof and the findings of the Committee thereon;
- (e) the steps taken by the Government on the findings/recommendations of the Committee and to prevent the re-occurrence of such incidents in future; and
- (f) whether the Government has ordered safety audit of all the public sector steel plants after this incident; if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA)

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b)&(c): On 13th June 2012 while commissioning Converter-1 of Steel Melting Shop-2 in Visakhapatnam Steel Plant of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited, an accident took place due to explosion in the Oxygen Pressure Reducing Station-3. 19 people lost their lives, out of which 9 had died on the spot, while all 10 injured persons succumbed to their injuries. During the last three years that is 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12, there were no such major fire/ explosion incident.

(d)&(e): Government of India has constituted a High Level Enquiry Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. S. R. Jain, Ex-Chairman, Steel Authority of India Limited to investigate the incident and to make necessary recommendations to prevent re-occurrence of such incidents in future. The committee has submitted its report to Ministry of Steel on 27th July, 2012 and RINL has been directed to submit an Action Taken Note on the recommendations of the report within 30 days.

(f) Ministry of Steel has requested Ministry of Labour & Employment to carry out a Safety Audit in Visakhapatnam Steel Plant under Factory Advice Service & Labour Institutes (FASLI) to examine all the safety aspects and to suggest corrective measures. Accordingly a team of officers led by Director (Safety), Regional Labour Institute, Chennai visited Visakhapatnam to conduct the Special Safety Audit.

Ministry of Steel has also shared the findings of enquiry committee with all the steel plants in the private and in the public sectors in the country with a view to minimizing the risk of such accidents occurring again. A copy of enquiry committee's report has also been posted on Ministry of Steel's website.