

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:131

ANSWERED ON:22.11.2012

FIRE IN BHEL PLANT

Muttemwar Shri Vilas Baburao;Rana Shri Jagdish Singh

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that a major fire broke out at Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) plant in Bhopal;
- (b) if so, the details and causes of the said fire incident;
- (c) the total estimated loss caused by the said fire incident; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to check the recurrence of such incident in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b): The fire incident occurred at 10:00 A.M. on 10-10-2012. It occurred in Block-3 while conducting a test in which a unit of a capacitor bank, having mineral insulating oil, burst with sparking. Spilled oil got ignited and the resulting fire spread to other adjoining equipments / cables / testing sub-systems etc.

(c): There was no loss of human life in the said fire incident. The estimated loss of assets (at book value), finished goods & work in progress is around Rs.12 Crore.

(d): BHEL has initiated the following steps to avoid recurrence:

- (i) Installation of capacitor bank in isolated arena with fire walls and wall bushings for electrical isolation.
- (ii) Installation of Automatic Foam-Spray system in Transformer Test Plant.
- (iii) Installation of test transformers in separate cells surrounded by fire walls.
- (iv) Water sprinkler system in cable galleries/basements.
- (v) Foam tenders in test halls.
- (vi) Improved and fast-response electrical protection system according to test load conditions.