

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:28
ANSWERED ON:22.02.2013
FIRE AT IOC DEPOT
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

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

- (a) whether a major fire broke out recently at Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) depot at Hazira in Surat;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with reasons therefor;
- (c) the total loss suffered and the number of persons killed or injured during the accident along with the compensation paid by the Government; and
- (d) the steps taken or being taken by the Government for foolproof fire safety at fuel depots in order to avoid such incidents?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SMT. PANABAAGA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b) Yes, there was a fire incident at around 1230 hrs on 5th January 2013 at Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)'s Oil Terminal at Hazira. MS Tank No.4 at terminal caught fire with loud explosion. Subsequently, the fire spread to Rimseal area of two adjacent tanks. The fire was finally extinguished on 8th January, 2013 at around 0700 hrs. As per Oil Industry Safety Directorate (OISD), the primary cause of the incident was seepage in roof pontoons of MS tank which resulted in the formation of flammable hydrocarbon mixture in the pontoons. The rich hydrocarbon mixture getting some source of ignition, from acts of repair by contractor's workers attempting to repair the leaky pontoon, caused explosion and fire.

(c) As per OISD, loss to the tune of Rs.45 crore is estimated. Three contractor workmen died in the accident and report from police for missing of two workmen have been received.

IOCL has reported payment of ex gratia of Rs. 5 lakh each, to next of kin, of the three deceased workmen and one reported missing workman.

(d) The Inter Disciplinary Enquiry Committee constituted under the convenership of Executive Director, OISD for investigating the incident, has submitted its report. The Committee has made various recommendations to prevent reoccurrence of such incidents.