

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5351

ANSWERED ON:29.04.2013

CHECK ON INCIDENTS OF LEAKAGES OF GASES

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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been a rise in the incidents of leakage of poisonous gases in various parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor and whether these incidents have been probed;
- (c) if so, the State-wise details thereof particularly about the State of Maharashtra;
- (d) the efforts made or being made by the Government to check such incidents in future; and
- (e) the State-wise details thereof particularly in respect of Maharashtra?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) to (e): The main reasons for the gas leakage include non availability or non-functioning of adequate process control systems, smoke detectors for early detection of fire, fire control and fire combat facilities; run away chemical reactions; unprecedented scenario of vapour cloud explosion, etc. The incidents of gas leakages are probed by the concerned departments and agencies. The incidents of poisonous gas leakages in the State of Maharashtra for the year 2010, 2011 and 2012 are seven, three and three respectively.

The State Government Labour Departments are vested with the responsibility of implementation of the Factories Act, 1948, rules made there under, the provisions of the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemical Rules, 1989 and the Chemical Accidents (Emergency Planning, Preparedness and Response) Rules, 1996. Central, State, District and Local Crisis Groups are also set up to check the incidents of accidents including gas leakages. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has issued guidelines on Chemical Disasters in April, 2007. Workshops, training programmes for workers, safety awareness campaigns, special safety drives, mock drills of on-site and off-site emergency plan, etc. are organised by the concerned departments and agencies to ensure adequate safety norms and the measures envisioned in the above rules and guidelines.