

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:373  
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2013  
FIRE IN REFINERY OF HPCL  
Ramasubbu Shri S.

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

- (a) whether a major fire broke out at the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) refinery at Visakhapatnam recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the number of persons died/injured at the incident and the losses incurred to the HPCL as a result thereof;
- (c) whether any probe has been ordered over the incident;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to prevent the recurrence of such incidents?

**Answer**

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

- (a) Yes, Madam. On 23rd August, 2013, a major fire took place at the New Cooling Tower of HPCL Visakhapatnam Refinery.
- (b): On 23rd August, 2013 at about 16:46 Hrs, during the commissioning of the New Cooling Tower at HPCL Visakhapatnam Refinery, an explosion followed by a major fire occurred. A total of 46 persons were injured due to the incident out of which 28 persons succumbed to burn injury. As of 28th November, 2013, one person is undergoing treatment at the hospital while all the remaining injured persons have been discharged after treatment.

The following are the estimated losses:

a) Crude Throughput loss of 850-900 TMT. Based on the average GRM of H1 of 2013-14, this comes to Rs.75-85 Cr.

b) Expenses for situation handling:

Compensation to the deceased	-	Rs.6.63Cr.
Medical & Others	-	Rs.3.98 Cr.
Projected further expenses:		
Compensation to the injured	-	Rs.2.0 Cr.
Medical & others	-	Rs.2.0 Cr.
Cooling tower restoration cost	-	Rs.12.5 Cr.

(c) & (d): Yes, to investigate the incident a committee was constituted under the Executive Director, Oil Industry Safety Directorate (OISD). The Committee has submitted its report on 3rd September, 2013. Recommendations made by Enquiry Committee have been sent to HPCL for necessary action.

(e): The Government has instructed the PSU Oil & Gas Companies (as well as Pvt/JV companies) to take preventive steps to ensure that similar incidents do not recur at any other installation in the country by ensuring strict adherence to the safety protocols and procedures as recommended by the OISD from time to time.