

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:196

ANSWERED ON:21.07.2014

EXPLOSION IN GAIL GAS PIPELINE

Ahmed Shri Sultan ;Mahadik Shri Dhananjay Bhimrao

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

- (a) whether a major explosion followed by a gas leak took place recently at a pipeline of the Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) in Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of persons killed/injured in the accident and the steps taken by the Government to provide compensation/medical aid and job to the families of the victims;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any probe/inquiry to find out reasons and to fix the responsibility in this regard and if so, the details and the outcome thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has set up any regulatory body or contemplated any strategy to prevent such accidents and to Monitor Safety Measures in oil and gas sector; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.196 ASKED BY SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK AND SHRI SULTAN AHMED, MPs TO BE ANSWERED ON JULY 21, 2014

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. There was fire and blow out in GAILs Tatipaka-Kondapalli gas pipeline near Tatipaka terminal in East Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh on 27th June, 2014. 21 persons were killed in the incident and 18 others were injured. The injured persons were admitted in the nearby hospitals. Out of the 18 injured persons, 5 have been discharged from the hospital and treatment of remaining 13 persons is presently continuing.

Ex-gratia payment of Rs.25 lakh each to the next of kin of the deceased and Rs.1 lakh each to the injured persons has been handed over on 30.6.2014 and 06.7.2014. Besides, GAIL shall pay Rs.5 lakh each to the permanently disabled persons.

(c): A Committee comprising representatives from Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Oil Industry Safety Directorate (OISD), Petroleum Explosives Safety Organization (PESO), National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL) has been constituted for conducting an inquiry into the incident. The Committee is yet to submit its report.

(d) & (e): In order to ensure safety and security of gas pipelines, various measures are already in place which are being carried out regularly. These include periodical internal cleaning, cathodic protection to prevent external corrosion and intelligent pigging of pipelines to identify internal metal loss, daily foot patrolling in populated/urban centers, periodical technical audit of the pipeline operations and maintenance by authorities such as PNGRB and OISD. Further, after the incident, the following actions are being taken by GAIL to prevent recurrence of such incidents in future:

- (i) Gas sampling and analysis at source point.
- (ii) Undertaking review and benchmarking of standard operating processes with respect to global pipeline operators.
- (iii) Creation of pipeline health monitoring group to monitor pipeline integrity and safety.
- (iv) Increased frequency of internal cleaning of pipelines.
- (v) Intense technical audit of pipeline operations and maintenance by statutory authorities.
- (vi) Increased frequency of various pipeline monitoring activities.

