

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6

ANSWERED ON:24.11.2014

GAS LEAKAGE INCIDENTS

Nath Shri Chand;Venkatesh Babu Shri T.G.

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

- (a) the number of cases of gas leakage and fire incidents in underground natural gas pipelines, refineries and oil fields/wells including Mumbai High oil rig etc. reported and loss of revenue incurred as a result thereof during the last three years and the current year, State and Oil Marketing Company-wise;
- (b) the number of persons injured/killed in such incidents along with the efforts made by the Government to provide compensation/job to the victims/next of kin of the deceased;
- (c) the oil companies/persons and other agencies found responsible for such incidents and the action taken by the Government against them;
- (d) the role and power of the Oil Industry Safety Directorate in regard to safety and security of oil installations and persons/ agencies handling them; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in future?

Answer

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

(a) and (b): Details of number of cases of gas leakage and fire incidents in underground natural gas pipelines, refineries and oil fields/wells including Mumbai High oil rig along with number of persons injured/killed in these incidents, as reported by Oil Industry Safety Directorate (OISD), during the last three years and current year are at Annexure. Due to these incidents, Oil companies sometimes have to stop its operations resulting in revenue loss to a varying extent. Due compensation has been paid by the respective companies to the victims/next of the kin of the deceased as per relevant rules.

(c) The enquiries are conducted in such incidents at various levels depending upon the gravity of the incidents. In major incidents, enquiries are ordered at the level of Ministry. Concerned Oil companies take necessary action against persons responsible for such incidents on the basis of said enquiry reports, as per relevant rules of the company.

(d) OISD, a technical body under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has been established in January, 1986. It has expertise in the design of facilities, operations, maintenance, fire and safety aspects etc.

OISD, over the years has developed technical expertise in overseeing safety in entire Oil & Gas Sector including onland & offshore exploration. OISD conducts safety audits of oil and gas installations at regular intervals and audit reports along with recommendations are sent to respective companies for implementations. OISD has statutory powers only for offshore operations as per the Petroleum and Natural Gas (Safety in Offshore Operations) Rules, 2008.

(e) Some of the major safety measures implemented by industry as on date are as under:-

Installation of Hydro Carbon detectors.

Installation of High Volume Long Range (HVLRS) Monitors for enhancing fire fighting capability.

Installation of Medium Expansion Foam Generators for controlling oil spills.

Installation of CCTV Camera.

Imparting training to fire fighting personal for enhancing their capabilities.

Emergency Kits have been provided.

Installation of LPG mounded bullets by decommissioning the Horton spheres storage.

Relocating the fire station control room to safe area.

Connection of Safety valve discharge to flare.

Provision of hydrocarbon detectors near LPG and Naphtha Pumps and double mechanical seals in LPG Pumps.

Provision of close blow-down system.

Strengthening of work permit system, training for employees and contractors and updation of operating manuals with a view to minimize human error.

Cathodic Protection and Intelligent Pigging Surveys for health integrity of Cross Country Pipelines.

Implementation of Supervisory Control & Data Acquisition (SCADA) system for leak detection and effective monitoring of Cross Country Pipelines.

Implementation of GPS enabled Pipeline Patrolling System.