

Fourteenth Loksabha**Session : 5****Date : 28-07-2005****Participants : [Aiyar Shri Mani Shankar](#)**

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Title: Regarding fire accident in Mumbai High North Platform of ONGC.

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12.03 hrs.

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STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

Fire accident in Mumbai high north platform of ONGC

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a major fire accident occurred on Mumbai High North (MHN) processing platform at 4.05 p.m. on 27th July, 2005 resulting in the loss of the facility. The accident took place when ONGC's multi-purpose support vessel "Samudra Suraksha", under Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) operation, was engaged in a medical evacuation operation. According to available information, the MSV lost control, drifted, and collided with the platform causing a major fire which also engulfed the MSV.

Given the intensity of the fire and consequent damage, the platform was abandoned according to a well-rehearsed abandonment drill used in offshore operations. Similarly, personnel from the multi-purpose support vessel (MSV) were evacuated, except for six divers who are now undergoing decompression and are expected to survive. Personnel on board the chartered drilling rig in NC Yester deployed in the area were also evacuated. The MHN platform was totally lost in less than two hours along with a Pwan Hans helicopter positioned on it. ONGC support and supply vessels and three chartered helicopters were quickly mobilised for search and rescue operations. Indian Navy and Coast Guards provided prompt assistance by deploying ships and aircrafts.

A total of 384 personnel had to abandon the affected platform and the two vessels. Of them, 351 have been rescued in addition to the six divers who are undergoing decompression.

The injured persons were provided first aid by doctors and paramedics immediately on rescue. 129 of those rescued are reaching Mumbai Docks today in the morning. They perhaps would just be about to arrive there[[pkp1](#)].

The remaining rescued personnel are expected to reach Mumbai by late evening. The search for missing persons is continuing.

So far, ten personnel are confirmed dead. These include six from ONGC and one each from the MSV and NC Yester. Two bodies are yet to be identified. On behalf of the nation, I extend my deepest sympathies to the bereaved families. Their rehabilitation will be our duty.

In spite of the severe destruction caused by floods and rains in Mumbai, all possible resources for rescue and relief were mobilised immediately. This was in spite of the fact that the control centre at Bandra (East) was non-functional as a result of power outage, all communication links were destroyed and the fleet of 12 chartered helicopters at Juhu helibase was completely grounded because of the flood situation. An emergency control centre was set up immediately to manage the response effectively. CMD, ONGC and other officers of ONGC have already reached Mumbai on 28th early morning, that is today, by the first civilian flight to land on the opening of Mumbai Airport. I am leaving for Mumbai immediately after making this *suo motu* statement.

Though the loss of the platform would immediately impact 110,000 barrels per day of crude production, it is expected that 70 per cent of this production would be restored over the next four weeks. The platform was insured for US \$ 195 million and the MSV for US \$ 60 million under ONGC's offshore package insurance policy.

CMD, ONGC has constituted an internal enquiry committee to go into the causes of this tragic accident with the help of outside experts.

I would like to draw the attention of the House to the outstanding successes of ONGC in carrying out the prescribed safety drill at the site of the accident, as also to extend the nation's grateful thanks to the Navy and the Coast Guard -

through our hon. *Raksha Mantri*, who is present here now - who have mounted a remarkably rapid and extremely successful search and rescue operations. My thanks are also due to M/s. Cairn Energy and M/s. British Gas who have offered their helicopters for the rescue operations.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT 2362/05)

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: We shall have a discussion. I have already committed that.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: All those things cannot be gone into now. The hon. Minister has to go there and I have accepted it. He said that the enquiry was going on.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: No. Please give a notice and I shall allow a discussion.

... (Interruptions)

श्री मोहन रावले (मुम्बई दक्षिण-मध्य) : महोदय, मैं एक ही क्वेश्चन पूछना चाहता हूं। ... (व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow a full-fledged discussion. It has already been agreed, Shri Mohan Rawale.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the hon. Home Minister Shri Shivraj Patil to make a *suo motu* statement.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We will allow a full-fledged discussion to which I have committed.

श्री मोहन रावले : इसके पहले कि माननीय गृहमंत्री जी कुछ कहें, मैं एक प्रश्न पूछना चाहता हूं।... (व्यवधान)

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No. This will open up a discussion now. This is not the system here and you know that very well. You may take part in the discussion; I will allow you.

... (Interruptions)

श्री मोहन रावले : अगर इस ओर ध्यान नहीं दिया गया तो मुंबई शहर को खतरा हो सकता है।

MR. SPEAKER: Now, hon. Home Minister will make a statement. Shri Mohan Rawale, please cooperate. He has to go to Mumbai now.
