

business houses must export and they must earn foreign exchange. Now for the big units also, we are considering to put this condition in the licence.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: You could have said: No, Sir; does not arise.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: Not to your question, but to the main question we are saying this.

[*Translation*]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Mr. Speaker Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister whether his Ministry has received a suggestion that import licenses be given to industrial units instead of exporters? The import licenses given to exporters are sold away. Would it not be better to give import licenses to industrial units and big industrial houses and cash compensation to exporters? May I know the decision taken on this suggestion?

[*English*]

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: This import and export licence is with the Commerce Ministry. It is not with our Ministry.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: It is the recommendation of the Industries Department.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: To encourage exports, we are giving them compensatory allowance of 5 per cent.

Fire at Haldia Unit of India Oil Corporation

*424. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a fire at the Haldia unit of the Indian Oil Corporation during July, 1988;

(b) if so, the details of loss suffered;

(c) whether safety measures were not adequate in that unit;

(d) the details of compensation paid for the loss of life and injured persons; and

(e) whether the repair works have been completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) to (e). A Statement is given below.

STATEMENT

A fire broke out at Haldia Unit of Indian Oil Corporation on 2.6.1988. An overhead reflux vessel, structural members and some field instruments, lighting and instrument cables etc. were damaged. The estimated loss is about Rs. 32 lakhs. Two of the Contractor's men died in this accident.

The safety measures in the Unit were adequate including fire protection facilities which have been provided at the Refinery since its inception.

An amount of Rs. 1.05 lakh has been deposited by the Contractor with the concerned authorities as compensation. In addition, an amount of Rs. 5,000/- has been paid to the families of the deceased as ex-gratia payment by IOC.

The repair works have since been completed.

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA: May I know from the hon. Member.... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: He is a member first and Minister later.

AN HON. MEMBER: MEMBER of the Cabinet.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: He becomes a number too often Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: It is otherwise. If you are not a member, you cannot be a Minister.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: He has referred to the future reshuffling.

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA: May I know from the hon. Minister whether any enquiry was made regarding this fire accident; if so, whether any person was held responsible for this and what action has been taken against that person?

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT: On 2nd June, 1988 at about 4 p.m. fire broke out in Crude Distillation Plant of the Refinery. 10 contractor labourers were removing the scaffolding from the main distillation column. They were asked to move up and remain on top of the column. 8 people remained there and they were not injured. But these two people got panicky. They came down and in the process they got killed. One Senior Production Engineer was accidentally hit by fire water jet, but he has recovered. We have paid compensation under the Act. An enquiry committee was set up by the Indian Oil Corporation to investigate this fire incident. Now we are carrying on safety audit in all our oil installations because of the Haldia incident and yesterday's incident in Mexico.

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA: In his statement, the hon. Minister has said that safety measures in the unit were adequate. I strongly differ with him on this point. There was no safety measures. About 18 workers were working at a height of 41.6 metres. At that time, the fire broke out at the bottom. There was no safety measure for rescuing the people working there. One person jumped and died. Another person tried to escape by coming down through the rope. But he slipped and died. And the hon. Minister has said that the safety measures were adequate. May I know from the hon. Minister whether he will look into the matter or not?

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Funds allotted to Maharashtra State Electricity Board by Rural Electrification Corporation

*408. **SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL:** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allotted by the Rural Electrification Corporation to the Maharashtra State Electricity Board for electricity connections to the agricultural pump sets during 1987-88 and 1988-89;

(b) whether the Maharashtra State Electricity Board has asked for more funds to clear the pending applications for electricity connections;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in the matter; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI):

(a) Year-wise allotment of funds under the Special Project Agriculture (SPA) Programme of Rural Electrification Corporation for release of electric connections to agricultural pumpsets in Maharashtra is as under:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Amount (Rs. in crores)</i>
1987-88	30.24
1988-89	19.83

In addition, during 1988-89 the Planning Commission has allocated Rs. 13.75 crores under the normal programme mainly for electrification of 450 villages and release of 1000 pumpsets.

(b) to (d). The Maharashtra Government have requested for additional funds for clearing 2.5 lakhs pending application for agricultural pumpsets. The proposal of Maharashtra Government for providing additional funds over and above the plan allocation of 1988-89 is being examined in consultation with concerned authorities.

Audit of Accounts of Companies in Joint Sector

*412. **SHRI V.N. GADGIL:** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state: