Balco chimney collapse

420. SHRI D. RAJA :

SHRI R.C. SINGH :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 20 people were killed and more than 50 people were injured when a chimney of Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd. (BALCO) collapsed on the 23rd September, 2009;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the compensation paid the dependants of the deceased/injured;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted into this tragic incidence; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B. K. HANDIQUE) : (a) Bharat Alumininium Company Limited (BALCO) has informed that on 23rd September, 2009, an under construction chimney at the 1200 megawatt power plant project collapsed leading to the death of 40 workers engaged by Gannon Dunkerley & Company Limited (GDCL), the sub-contractor which was awarded the contract to construct the chimney by SEPCO Power Construction Corporation, the Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) contractor of BALCO.

(b) BALCO has intimated that they have paid Rs. 5,00,000 as compensation to the kin of each of the deceased workers. Besides, the contractor and the sub-contractor put together, have announced compensation of Rs. 5,00,000 to the kin of each of the deceased. Further, an ex-gratia to the tune of Rs. 1 lakh each to the next of kin of the deceased contract labourers in the accident and Rs. 50,000 each to the contract labourers who got injured has been sanctioned from the Prime Ministerus Relief Fund. The State Government of Chattisgarh has announded relief of Rs. 1.00 lakh to each of the kin of the families who have suffered loss of life. State Govt of Bihar and State Government of Jharkhand have announced relief of Rs. 1.00 lakh to the kin of the families of the deceased hailing from their respective States.

(c) and (d) As per information obtained from the State Government, the Government of Chhatisgarh has ordered judicial Inquiry by one man Inquiry Commission to go into the causes of accident and other matters.

Development Programmes under MPLADS

421. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ : Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether success rate of implementation of various development programmes undertaken under the MPLADS has been assessed; and

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating achievement thereof made so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) and (b) The MPLAD Scheme is governed by a set of guidelines. The progress of the Scheme is reviewed at the Central, State/UT and district levels as per the provisions of the guidelines.

Apart from the regular monitoring at the government level, the physical monitoring of works executed under MPLAD Scheme has been entrusted to NABARD Consultancy Services (NABCONS), an independent agency. The NABCONS have found that the MPLAD Scheme is a unique Scheme, having the characteristic feature of decentralized development and has resulted in creation of good quality of assets, which have had a positive impact on the local economy, social fabric and the physical environment. They have further reported that the Scheme has been welcomed by the people due to its inherent strengths and its positive impact on their economic and social life.

Since inception of the Scheme, as of 31.10.2009, an amount of Rs. 20351.25 crore has been released, out of which Rs. 18600.90 crore has been utilized. The percentage of cumulative utilization over cumulative release is 91.40%. About 12.82 lakh works have been recommended, 11.45 lakh works were sanctioned, and about 10.49 lakh works have been completed. The percentage of cumulative works completed to cumulative works sanctioned, is 91.61%.

Priorities for Tribal Projects

422. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the priorities of his Ministry during the current year;

(b) the targets fixed and to be achieved, project-wise;

(c) the amount allocated and spent on each project and scheme of the Ministry during the current year; and

(d) the new schemes likely to be introduced during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI TUSHAR BHAI CHAUDHARY) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs implements varlous Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored Schemes /Programmes with equal priority for the socio-economic development of tribal people in the country. The funds under the various schemes of this Ministry are released to the State/UT Governments based on the proposals submitted by them, which are processed and sanctioned when they fulfill the eligibility conditions of the relevant schemes, subject to the availability of funds and utilization of the previously released funds. The State/UT Governments are required to ensure that the benefits of the schemes reach the target groups/areas.

(c) The details of the funds earmarked and spent under these schemes/programmes during the current year (2009-10) so far are as under:

Budget Estimates - Rs. 3205.50 crore

Amount spent - Rs. 753.29 crore

(d) The Ministry has no proposal under consideration to introducé any new scheme during the current year.

Schemes for the trials

423. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the tribal schemes presently existing in each State especially in Andhra Pradesh; and