

Fire in Chemistry lab of BARC

*46. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether fire broke out in the Chemistry lab of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) located near Mumbai in the month of December, 2009;
- (b) if so, the details of casualties held and losses reported due to fire;
- (c) whether the exact cause of the fire have been ascertained; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and steps taken by Government to prevent recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The accident resulted in fatal injuries to two Ph.D. students viz., Shri Umang Uday Narain Singh and Shri Partha Pratim Bag who were at work in the Laboratory. Losses were estimated to be around Rs.25 lakh.

(c) The Report of the Investigation Committee set up by Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) indicates the cause of fire as low intensity explosive energy released from accidental mixing of small quantities of reactive chemicals stored in the laboratory. Police is also conducting forensic and other investigations.

(d) A fresh review of the implementation of several practices in chemical and other laboratories of BARC is taken-up. BARC Safety Council is taking steps to enhance safety status of all the laboratories.

Spectrum Allocation

*47. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of all 123 Letters of Intent and Universal Access Service Licences given since 10 January, 2008, operator-wise and circle wise;
- (b) the date of allocation of spectrum, date of meeting rollout obligations, and current status of rollout obligations with clear indication of circles in which commercial service has been launched by these operators;
- (c) whether any company has defaulted with regard to new amended conditions relating to rollout obligations; and
- (d) if so, the action taken so far to ensure rollout and to penalize defaulters as per the license, with details, operator/circle wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Company-wise and service area-wise details of all the 128 Letters of Intent (Lols) issued for grant of Unified Access Services (UAS) Licences since 10 January, 2008 are given in the