

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any enquiry has been conducted into the mishap; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A total number of 38 persons were affected in the gas tragedy. Among them 6 persons including two Deputy General Managers died and remaining 32 affected persons have fully recovered and have been discharged from the hospital.

(c) and (d) Committees at various levels have been constituted to investigate/enquire into the incident including a high level committee headed by Shri K.K. Mehrotra, Former CMD, MECON constituted by Ministry of Steel. Investigation by above committees is under progress.

Investigation into gas leakage in Bhilai Steel Plant

†375. SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether poisonous gas had leaked because of bursting of pump in Bhilai Steel Plant on 12th June, 2014;
- (b) whether six people were killed immediately and more than thirty three persons have been affected due to poisonous gas;
- (c) the reasons of the accident;
- (d) whether the workers engaged in repair work in pump house of water supply department were not trained technicians;
- (e) whether masks were provided to the persons sent in rescue operation and the employees engaged in gas plant to ward off poisonous gas; and
- (f) whether a high level investigation will be conducted into this accident?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. On 12th June, 2014, a rupture occurred in the main header of the Pump House No. 2 which supplies water to the Gas Cleaning Plants (GCP) of Blast Furnaces (BF) resulting in sudden loss in water pressure to the GCPs forcing the BF Gas (BFG) from the scrubbers into the water pipelines. There was flooding of the Pump House and BFG entered the Pump House and spread there. The Blast Furnaces 1 to 5 were immediately taken off-blast. The persons who had gone to the Pump House to attend the break-down got affected by the gas. A total number of 38 persons were affected in the gas tragedy. Among them, 6 persons including two Deputy General Managers died and remaining 32 persons affected by the occurrence have fully recovered and have been discharged from the hospital.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) Persons working in the Pump House No. 2 were trained technicians and working there for a number of years and had sufficient work experience. They were also trained in different safety training modules including gas safety.

(e) Presence of blast furnace gas in the Pump House was unexpected and has never happened for last 55 years as it is not a gas prone area. However, when persons who had gone to rescue realized the presence of gas, they used gas masks in rescue operation.

(f) Committees at various levels have been constituted to investigate/enquire into the incident including a high level committee headed by Shri K.K. Mehrotra, Former CMD, MECON constituted by Ministry of Steel. Investigation by above committees is under progress.

Compensation to victims of Bhilai Steel Plant gas leakage

376. DR. T.N. SEEMA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether many people were killed and injured due to a leakage in a methane gas pipeline at a water pump house in the Bhilai Steel Plant on June 12, 2014;

(b) whether any investigation has been conducted to identify the causes of the accident and if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken against the officials found responsible for the accident;

(c) the amount of compensation paid to the injured/families of the deceased persons in this case; and

(d) the details of technological, safety and human resource related measures taken/being taken to prevent such accidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI) : (a) On 12th June, 2014, a rupture occurred in the main header of the Pump House No. 2 which supplies water to the Gas Cleaning Plants (GCP) of Blast Furnaces (BF) resulting in sudden loss in water pressure to the GCPs forcing the BF Gas (BFG) (which contains around 22% of Carbon Monoxide gas) from the scrubbers into the water pipelines. There was flooding of the Pump House and BFG entered the Pump House and spread there. The Blast Furnaces 1 to 5 were immediately taken off-blast. The persons who had gone to the Pump House to attend the break-down got affected by the gas. A total number of 38 persons were affected in the gas tragedy. Among them 6 persons including two Deputy General Managers died and remaining 32 persons affected by the occurrence have fully recovered and have been discharged from the hospital.

(b) Committees at various levels have been constituted to investigate/enquire into the incident including a high level committee headed by Shri K.K. Mehrotra, Former CMD, MECON constituted by Ministry of Steel. Investigation by above committees is under progress.