

(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.

(c) The families of the 5 deceased employees of Bhilai Steel Plant have been paid an *ex-gratia* compensation of Rs. 25 lakh each over and above the statutory payments of PF, Gratuity, Life cover scheme in lieu of Employees' Deposit-Linked Insurance (EDLI) Scheme and compensation under Employees Compensation Amendment Act, 2009. They are also being paid benefits of SAIL Employees Superannuation Benefit Fund and Leave Encashment. The family of one deceased contract labour has been paid an *ex-gratia* compensation of Rs. 10 lakh in addition to statutory benefits available under ESI Scheme, PF, EPS'95 and Gratuity. All other employees affected by the incident have since been discharged from the hospital after attaining fitness and have been paid full wages for the period of temporary disablement.

(d) The measures taken/are being taken to prevent such accidents in future include (i) fixing of online Carbon Monoxide (CO) Gas Monitors inside Pump House at different levels and near each entrance with display and audio-visual alarm, (ii) carrying Portable Carbon Monoxide Gas (CO) monitor while entering underground pump house, (iii) online monitoring of water pressure with audio visual alarms at BF control room, (iv) making available sufficient number of gas masks and (v) carrying out Non Destructive Testing of connected pipe lines.

Investment in RINL to increase its capacity

377. SHRI C.M. RAMESH : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) is planning to achieve 20 million tonnes capacity by 2027 by investing ₹ 60,000 crores;
- (b) if so, the details of the blueprint;
- (c) from where the finances are going to be pooled; and
- (d) what would be the direct and indirect employment that is going to be generated through the above capacity enhancement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) has engaged a consultant to assess the full potential of growth at the existing layout at Visakhapatnam and in line with the report, RINL has revised its mission to attain 20 million tonne per annum (mtpa) capacity. However, the exact cost will be known on freezing of proposals, depending on selection of product mix etc. The details of capacity expansion pertaining to 20 mtpa will be worked out progressively.

RINL has got the Feasibility Report for next phase of capacity expansion to 12 mtpa prepared by consultant for implementing after completion of 6.3 Mtpa expansion. The financing would be from internal accruals with a debt equity ratio of around 1:1. However, it would depend upon cash generation, expenditure required to be met etc. which would be known progressively from time to time.