

Blast inside Bhilai Steel Plant

†378. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a blast had occurred recently inside the Bhilai Steel Plant in Chhattisgarh;
- (b) whether Government has ordered an inquiry into the incident of blast in this plant;
- (c) whether several deaths resulted due to this blast;
- (d) whether stampede took place in the plant at the time to blast and it also caused the damage and financial loss to the steel plant; and
- (e) if so, the details regarding all the above events?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI) : (a) No, Sir. There was no incident of blast at Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP). However, the incident which occurred on 12th June, 2014 involved Blast Furnace Gas leakage from a ruptured water pipe line in a Pump House.

(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.

(c) 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.

(d) There was no stampede at the time of incident. The incident led to loss of production resulting in financial loss to the plant.

(e) 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.

Proposal to hike salary of non-executive workers

†379. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to hike the salary of non-executive workers of public sector steel companies;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.