

Investigation into fire in ONGC oilwell at Olpad, Surat

†2669. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD:
SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether findings of the Oil Industry Safety Directorate to the effect that there was no culpability of anyone in the fire incidents in the ONGC oilwell at Olpad, Surat, are suspicious;

(b) whether the communications received in the Ministry from the Members of Parliament, wherein factual information of this incident is contained and it was suggested that by whom and where the negligence has taken place are included, have been included in this investigation, if so, the details of the ambit of the investigation; and

(c) the number of Members of Parliament/other persons related to it who have written the letters and the action taken on these letters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) The incident of gas leakage and fire at well Olpad# 31 was investigated by OISD with the objective to find out the root cause of incident and suggest remedial measure to prevent such incident in future. Although, no culpability could be established the following lapses were observed:

- (i) Lack of supervision and monitoring of the workover operations by both the operator and charter hired rig operational personnel.
- (ii) The operational personnel of the charter hired rig were not having adequate experience in well control operations and other operations.
- (iii) Standard safe practices like filling of trip sheet during pulling out, conducting regular trip drills, BOP function test and pressure test were not being followed.
- (iv) Not following the standard operating procedures.

(b) Consequent to the receipt of enquiry report dated 30th April, 2015 conducted by OISD, this Ministry received a communication dated 13th May, 2015 from Shrimati Kanak Lata Singh, MP (Rajya Sabha) *inter-alia* highlighting the role of certain officials of ONGC in not taking prompt and timely action to prevent the fire incident. The matter is being examined in consultation with ONGC.

(c) The Ministry has received two reference in this regard, one from President, Brackish Water Research Centre, Surat and another from Shrimati Kanak Lata Singh, Hon'ble MP (Rajya Sabha). The contents of these letters were deliberated

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

in the Ministry. Ministry has taken a serious view and ONGC was directed to ask its sub-committee of Board on Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) to look into organisational set up of HSE, compliance to standard operating procedure, safety audit etc and recommend changes.

Use of obsolete/expired cylinders in Maharashtra

2670. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has received complaints relating to expired/old/obsolete LPG cylinders in circulation particularly from the State of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government and Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs);

(c) the total number of LPG cylinders of various companies which have been detected as obsolete and expired; and

(d) what Government has done to educate the people about the expired LPG gas cylinders and also about safety measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (d) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that no specific complaint relating to expired/old/obsolete LPG cylinders in circulation have been received, including in the State of Maharashtra.

OMCs have reported that LPG cylinders are manufactured as per BIS 3196 through manufacturers approved by Chief Controller of Explosives, Nagpur (CCOE) and having BIS License. Thereafter, the LPG cylinders are checked at the LPG Bottling Plants and only the cylinders which are found to meet BIS standards are filled, checked for quality after filling and are sent to the distributors for distribution to the customers. All new LPG cylinders are required to be put for first Statutory Testing and Painting (ST&P) after 10 years of manufacturing date of the cylinder.

Subsequently, the LPG cylinders are put to ST&P after every 5 years. Such testing of LPG cylinders are done through repairers approved by Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO). LPG cylinders requiring repairs are put for Hot Repairs only once in its lifetime as per BIS codes of practice. Each such Hot Repaired cylinder is certified for use by BIS and accordingly put into circulation thereafter.

Measures adopted for ensuring safety and educating customers are as under:

- (i) Gas distributors are under instruction to carry out mandatory checks of the LPG installation at the customers premises once in two years.