

Delhi in November/December, 2017. The Indian Ambassador to China in his follow up action sent another *Note Verbale* on 10th November, 2017 to the Director General of Ministry for Commerce, China to indicate convenient dates for convening the 11th JEG this year in India. The Chinese side is yet to communicate their response. Being a biennial meeting there was no JEG meeting held between India and China in the year 2015.

Violations of oil industry safety directorate standards

*170. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Oil Industry Safety Directorate (OISD) standards are being followed for laying of pipelines of natural gas;
- (b) the steps being taken by Government to ensure that these standards are being complied with;
- (c) whether Government maintains a record of violations of these standards;
- (d) if so, the details thereof including action taken against the violators;
- (e) whether these standards are periodically reviewed and updated; and
- (f) if so, the frequency of such review and the last update of those standards?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (d) Oil Industry Safety Directorate (OISD), a technical directorate under Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas was setup to oversee safety of Oil and Gas industry in India and it formulates safety standards for the sectors *i.e.* Upstream, Midstream and Downstream in Oil and Gas industry.

OISD carries out periodic audits including pre-commissioning audit for cross country pipelines. The Shortcomings noticed during audits and the measures for improvement of safety are communicated to the concerned organizations by OISD for rectification. These safety gaps are reviewed in the apex level meeting of the Safety Council wherein CEOs of all the Oil and Gas Companies participate and is constituted at the Ministry, and chaired by Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. Companies are advised in the meeting for necessary compliance. As per the directive of the Safety Council, all the audit findings of respective Oil and Gas companies are required to be reviewed at Board level on quarterly basis.

Government has issued directive to all Public Sector Oil Companies in July, 2014, indicating that in cases of any breach in safety systems and practices leading to incidents, the respective functional Directors of the companies concerned will be held accountable. Regional Heads (GMs/EDs) would be held responsible for any violation of any of the laid down engineering operations and maintenance practices including non-compliance with statutory requirements and audit findings.

OISD maintains record of violation of Standard of the pipelines which it audits, which are of the nature of non-pigging of pipelines, encroachment on ROU, non-provision of leak detection systems etc. Actions is taken through the Safety Council/ or by recommendations of the committee constituted by the Ministry.

Details of the numbers of the Safety audits of Public/Private sector installations carried out by OISD of Natural Gas Pipelines during last three years and current year are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(e) and (f) OISD standards are reviewed periodically to ascertain the need for developing new standards, updating / amending existing standards to incorporate the latest technological developments as well as current experiences on the ground. During the last three years *i.e.* 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 and current year 2017-18 (till September, 2017), OISD has developed seven new standards and a total of 22 existing OISD standards have been revised / amended for entire Oil and Gas Industry.

The last update of OISD standards on Gas pipelines was done in standard OISD-STD-226 for Natural Gas Transmission Pipelines and City Gas Distribution Networks in October 2013.

Statement

Details of Safety Audits conducted by OISD of Natural Gas Pipelines during last three years and current year

Sl. No.	Year	No. of Pipelines audited
1.	2017-18 (upto 31.12.2017)	4
2.	2016-17	6
3.	2015-16	4
4.	2014-15	5