

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 769
ANSWERED ON- 02/12/2024

OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY OF OISD

769 DR. AJEET MADHAVRAO GOPCHADE:

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

- (a) the measure as on date, Central Government has implemented to enhance the operational efficiency of the Oil Industry Safety Directorate (OISD);
- (b) whether the Ministry closely oversees the operations of the Oil Industry Safety Directorate (OISD) and allocate adequate resources and personnel to it; and
- (c) the measures Central Government has implemented to enhance safety in PSU refineries following past significant fire incidents, the details for each PSU refinery?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS
(SHRI SURESH GOPI)

(a) The Oil Industry Safety Directorate (OISD), a technical directorate under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG), is responsible to formulate standards, oversee its implementation through safety audits with the aim to enhance safety level and reduce risks inherent with oil industry.

(b) OISD is well resourced. It has senior and experienced officers drawn from different Oil and Gas companies. The officers are also imparted necessary training by OISD and are groomed for on-site audit. Oversight of OISD performance is done through the Safety Council chaired by Secretary, Petroleum and Natural Gas (P&NG) and has members which inter alia include the Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of public and private Oil & Gas companies, regulators and industry independent experts. Over the past years, the Safety Council has significantly increased targets for External Safety Audits (ESA) and cross-country pipeline audits. Safety Council had also directed OISD to conduct Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) system audits at the Organizational/Strategic Business Unit level to enhance its Safety Management System. OISD has developed 109 safety standards for the oil and gas sector, revising and updating them periodically to incorporate technological advancements and field experience. OISD is ISO 9001 certified and undergoes regular audits by accredited agencies to assess its performance and activities in alignment with set targets and guidelines. The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) also conducts a compliance audit of OISD every two years.

(c) The PSU refineries have implemented various steps to enhance safety following past significant fire incidents. These measures include careful selection of technology and design considerations, adherence to international and national standards (including OISD Standards), incorporating recommendations of Hazard & Operability (HAZOP) studies and Quantitative Risk Assessment (QRA), safety instrumentation & interlock system for safe operations etc.

Furthermore, OISD conducts investigations into major process-related accidents within the Oil & Gas industry. The investigation report, which includes observations / lapses, root causes and recommendations, is shared with the concerned organization by OISD where these are reviewed by top management/Board of Directors of the companies. Compliance of the recommendations is monitored until closure through the OISD portal.
