

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ATOMIC ENERGY
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 25.02.2010
ANSWERED ON
FIRE IN CHEMISTRY LAB OF BARC

46

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA

Will the Minister of COAL, HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE, INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether the fire broke out in the Chemistry lab of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) located near Mumbai in the month of December, 2009;
- (b) if so, the details of casualties held and losses reported due to fire;
- (c) whether the exact cause of the fire has been ascertained; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and steps taken by Government to prevent recurrence of such incidents in future?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES (INDEPENDENT CHARGE), PMO, PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS.

(SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 46 BY SMT. SHOBHANA BHARTIA REGARDING FIRE IN CHEMISTRY LAB OF BARC DUE FOR ANSWER ON 25.02.2010.

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The accidents resulted in fatal injuries to two Ph. D. students viz., Shri Umang Uday Narain Singh and Shri Partha Pratim Bag who were at work in Laboratory. Losses were estimated to be around Rs. 25 Lakh.

(c) The Report of the Investigation Committee set up by Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) indicates the cause of fire as low intensity explosive energy released from accidental mixing of small quantities of reactive chemicals stored in the laboratory. Police is also conducting forensic and other investigations.

(d) A fresh review of the implementation of several practices in Chemical and other laboratories of BARC is taken up. BARC Council is taking steps to enhance safety status of all the laboratories.