GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2701
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11TH AUGUST, 2021

ONGC BARGE ACCIDENT

2701. SMT. PHULO DEVI NETAM:

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

(a) the details of the communications from Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) to all installations warning them of cyclone Tauktae, including the dates of such communications and the recipient installations;

(b) whether the Ministry has constituted a High Level Committee to probe the sinking of the ONGC barge P-305; and

(c) if so, the details thereof including the date of such constitution, the persons appointed to such Committee, and any findings of the Committee thus far and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAMESWAR TELI)

(a): The chronological details of the communications from ONGC to all installations regarding cyclone Tauktae are as under:-

11-05-2021
India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued first advisory (press release) on cyclone Tauktae at 14:00 hours.

12-05-2021
The IMD advisory was discussed in Joint Operation Review Meeting (JORM) of Mumbai Offshore, ONGC. Deliberations with all senior officers of the Mumbai region on the urgency of cyclone preparedness were held. All Platforms/Rigs/ Vessels were asked to take action and also due precautions as per Emergency Response Plan (ERP), Regional Contingency Plan (RCP) and Corporate Disaster Management Plan (CDMP).
Rig move cell at Western Offshore, Mumbai issued an advisory to all the rigs deployed in Western offshore to be prepared to take precautionary measures as

mentioned in the rig-specific Marine Operating Manual / SOP / Cyclone Contingency Plan, if situation eventually warrants.

13-05-2021

The weather advisory received via email at 08:30 pm from Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (Mumbai) (MRCC) at Radio Room (Commission-One) at Vasudhara Bhavan in Mumbai was informed to all ONGC Installations, Rigs and Vessels at 08:37 pm with an advice to take preventive actions/measures as per Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). All barges in the field were instructed by respective installations over radio communication to plan for movement to safe location, in view of the impending cyclone.

14-05-2021

IMD issued an update along with Track Forecast of Tropical Disturbance. Informed all concerned about plot of Path of the Tropical Disturbance with respect to rigs / installations and the General Advisory. ONGC asked all the Barges in field to move to safe locations.

15-05-2021

IMD Cyclone Advisory Bulletin regarding cyclone conveyed to all the installations, rigs and vessels by mail (08:47 pm) from ONGC Radio Room (Commission-One) at Vasudhara Bhavan in Mumbai. ONGC Drilling Section had a video conferencing with all stakeholders. The rigs were conveyed to go into storm survival mode from the evening of 16th May 2021.

16-05-2021

Considering the enormity of the cyclone, an Emergency Control Room was set up in Vasudhara Bhavan to co-ordinate with all installations, ODAG, Commission-One Radio Room, Helibase Radio Room, Nhava Radio Room etc.

The Base control room/ radio room was in constant coordination with Rigs, platforms, ODAG, Helibase radio room, Nhava radio room during the cyclone Tauktae.

(b) and (c): To inquire into the sequence of events leading to the stranding of ONGC vessels and accidents, the Government has constituted a High Level Committee, on 19.05.2021, consisting of following members:

(1) Shri Amitabh Kumar, Director General of Shipping
(2) Shri S.C.L. Das, DG-DGH
(3) Smt. Nazli Jafri Shayin, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Defence

The committee has not yet submitted final report.