

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2373
ANSWERED ON- 16/12/2024

**FIRE AT INDIAN OIL CORPORATION'S REFINERY LOCATED AT KOYALI IN
VADODARA**

2373 SHRI SHAKTISINH GOHIL:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that two people died in a fire that broke out at Indian Oil Corporation's refinery located at Koyali in Vadodara in November 2024;
- (b) the precautions taken by IOCL to prevent such accidents;
- (c) the amount spent by the refinery so far to avoid such incidents of fire or accidents;
- (d) the details of the persons held responsible for these accidents;
- (e) the penalty imposed, in rupees, by Gujarat Pollution Control Board on IOCL; and
- (f) the reasons IOCL personnel could not provide technical details to the firefighting team?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (f) Two fatalities were reported in a fire incident at Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) Refinery at Koyali in Vadodara in the month of November, 2024. As informed by IOCL, the technical details including type (with MSDS - Material Safety Data Sheet) and quantity of hydrocarbon in all the nine tanks in the affected dyke and nearby dykes were provided to emergency response team members involved in firefighting at site. IOCL has provided monetary compensation to both the bereaved families in accordance with its approved norms.

The incident is under investigation by a Committee constituted by IOCL as well as by Oil Industry Safety Directorate (OISD), a technical directorate under Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG). Refineries adhere to stringent fire safety measures that encompass both regulatory requirements and OISD standards, ensuring comprehensive safety coverage. Refineries follow OISD-STD-108 for 'Oil Storage and Handling' and OISD-STD-116 for 'Fire protection facilities'. Overall, OISD has developed 109 Safety Standards for the oil and gas sector.

IOCL refinery at Koyali has well laid fire water network and fleet of fire tenders. IOCL has initiated various precautionary measures to prevent recurrence of such incidents which inter-alia includes strict adherence to Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), frequent check to ensure earthing healthiness of Class-A tanks, ensuring healthiness of sampling device, provision of alternate sampling point and re-fresher training for samplers and related personnel. Expenditure is made on priority in ensuring constant readiness of refinery fire- fighting system and ensuring compliance to OISD norms. In Financial Year 2024-25 so far, IOCL Koyali Refinery has made an expenditure of approximately Rs. 11 crore towards fire and safety measures.

An interim environmental compensation of Rs. One Crore has been imposed on IOCL by Gujarat Pollution Control Board (GPCB).
