

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACEUTICALS**

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 315
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 22nd July 2025

Anakapalli pharma plant explosion

315 Shri Meda Raghunadha Reddy:

Will the Minister of **Chemicals and Fertilizers** be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of safety inspections conducted at Escientia Advanced Sciences Private Ltd. prior to the recent explosion, including any violations or non-compliance issues identified;
- (b) the specific safety regulations and protocols in place for handling hazardous chemicals in pharmaceutical manufacturing units, whether these protocols were followed by the company involved in the Anakapalli incident, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of compensation and support measures provided to the families of the deceased and injured workers, and status of any ongoing investigations or audits into the incident?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS

(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a): The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has informed that the factory named M/s Escientia Advanced Sciences Pvt. Ltd., registered under the Factories Act, 1948, was first inspected on 2.2.2018 and thereafter a third-party expert safety audit was conducted in the year 2021 and its report submitted on 17.11.2021, followed by a departmental inspection that was carried out on 19.10.2022. The State Government has further informed that during these visits, certain non-compliances with certain safety protocols, as detailed below, were observed and duly communicated to the factory management for necessary compliance:

- (i) Lack of adequate condition monitoring of plant and equipment;
- (ii) Inadequate risk assessments;
- (iii) Inadequate standard operating procedures;
- (iv) Inadequate emergency response plan;
- (v) Ventilation systems improvement; and
- (vi) Inadequate fire safety systems, etc.

(b): The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) informed that it has notified the Manufacture, Storage, and Import of Hazardous Chemical Rules, 1989 to establish a preventive mechanism for chemical safety in industrial operations. The said rules have provisions for the preparation of safety audit reports by the occupier of major accident hazard units, preparation of on-site emergency plan by the occupier and off-site emergency plan by the authorities concerned.

In addition, the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has informed that under rule 97 of the Andhra Pradesh Factories Rules, 1950 a schedule on safety protocols to be followed for “Chemical Works” is provided, and that equipment- or process-specific safety protocols are provided under rules 61-I, 61-O etc. The said rules are also applicable to pharmaceutical factories. With a view to achieve compliance with safety protocols in the said factory, special drive inspections were conducted in respect of the factory on 10.11.2023, 31.1.2024 and 30.4.2024, leading to the achievement of 93.5% compliance with safety protocols, aimed at preventing chemical accidents, before the occurrence of the accident. Further, as per records, the factory conducted six mock exercises for emergency response and held six meetings of the safety committee prior to the accident, involving the workers and enhancing participation levels.

(c): The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has informed that the management of the company has paid the following amounts to the dependents of deceased and injured workers:

S. No.	Details regarding the deceased or injury status of workers	Number of workers	Compensation paid to each person	Total compensation paid
1	Deceased workers	17	₹ 1 crore	₹ 17 crore
2	Seriously injured workers	21	₹ 50 lakh	₹ 10.5 crore
3	Workers with minor injuries	18	₹ 25 lakh	₹ 4.5 crore
Total compensation paid				₹ 32 crore
