

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2623**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2018**

**INCIDENT OF FIRE**

**2623. SHRI LAXMI NARAYAN YADAV :**

पेट्रो लयम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री

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

- (a) whether an incident of fire in the store of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited located in Mumbai was reported in the month of October 2017;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the quantum and value of oil destroyed in the said fire;
- (c) whether any inquiry has been done to ascertain the reasons of the said incident and if so, the details and outcome thereof;
- (d) whether BPCL has reportedly not followed the recommendations made by the M.B.Lal Committee to check such fire Incidents; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Government in this regard?

**ANSWER**

पेट्रो लयम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री

(श्री धर्मेन्द्र प्रधान)

**MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)**

(a) to (e) : Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL) has informed that on 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2017 at about 16:25 hours during heavy rains and thunderstorm, there was an intense lightning strike in their tank farm area at Marine Oil Terminal-MOT (Butcher Island). At the same time, Tank No. 13 on HSD Service caught fire on the roof. There was no injury or casualties during the entire incident. The total product loss was 17,748.034 KL amounting to Rs 84,03, 91,227/- approximately.

BPCL has also informed that Tank No. 13 was a fixed roof tank. Fixed roof tanks are considered to be inherently self-protecting against lightning; the roof shall have minimum thickness of 4.8 mm as per OISD GDN-180 & NFPA 780. The lightning strike generated high heat which punctured the thinned out/pitted roof and ignited flammable hydrocarbon vapours present inside the tank resulting in fire on top of said Tank.

In this regard, Oil Industry Safety Directorate (OISD) has informed that they constituted a Committee to investigate the incident after fire was reported by BPCL at MOT, Butcher Island. The Committee concluded that the Tank No. 13 roof plates were thinned out/pitted which got punctured due to lightning strike. As flammable hydrocarbon vapours were present inside the tank, it got ignited due to heat resulting in fire on top of HSD Tank No. 13.

BPCL has been asked to take further action in pursuance of the Report of OISD.

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