LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2153
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24th December, 2018

Blast in BPCL Refinery

2153. SHRI VENKATESH BABU T.G.:

पैट्रोलयम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री

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

(a) whether the Government is aware of the recent incident of blast reported in the Mumbai's Chembur BPCL refinery;
(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons for such blast;
(c) the number of persons injured/died in the incident and the estimated loss incurred to the exchequer along with any probe ordered therein and the outcome thereof;
(d) whether any steps are being taken to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in future; and
(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER
पैट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री (श्री धर्मेन्द्र प्रधान)
MINISTER OF PETROELUM & NATURAL GAS
(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)

(a) & (b) BPCL has reported that an incident of explosion and fire took place on 08.08.2018 in the Reactor Effluent Air Cooler (REAC) section of Hydrocracker unit of Mumbai Refinery due to fabrication defect during manufacturing process of REAC and influence of hydrogen diffusion on the weld area and/or Stress corrosion cracking mechanism due to presence of sulphide or chloride.

(c) No fatalities were reported in the incident, however 41 persons were injured in the incident. The loss comprises of material damage and loss due to business interruption, which are covered under insurance. The incident has been investigated by 3 agencies viz. Internal Investigation Committee of BPCL, Oil Industry Safety Directorate (OISD) and Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB). Metallurgical failure and poor welding workmanship during the fabrication of the equipment have been reported as the reasons for the incident.

(d) & (e) To prevent the recurrence of such event, the failed REAC along with other 03 nos of REACs (Duplex Stainless Steel Metallurgy) have been replaced with new REACs with Carbon Steel (CS) Metallurgy.

****