

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4654
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22ND JULY, 2019**

Fire Breakouts at Oil Storage Tanks

4654. SHRI DEVUSINH JESINGBHAI CHAUHAN:

पैट्रो लयम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री

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

- (a) the details of the fire breakouts at Oil Companies storage tanks in the country during the last three years and the current year, year-wise;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with loss of revenue incurred as a result thereof, location-wise;
- (c) the persons injured/killed in these accidents and the compensation/jobs provided to the victims/next of kin of the deceased;
- (d) the oil companies/persons found responsible for such incidents and the action taken by the Government against them; and
- (e) the effective measures taken/being taken by the Government to prevent such incidents in future?

ANSWER

पैट्रो लयम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री
(श्री धर्मेंद्र प्रधान)

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)

- (a) to (e) The details of the fire breakouts reported by three Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies at their storage tanks in the country during the last three years and the current year are at Annexure- I, Annexure-II and Annexure-III.

Annexure referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of the Lok Sabha unstarred question No. 4654 asked by Shri Devusinh Jesingbhai Chauhan for answer on 22.07.2019 regarding Fire Breakouts at Oil Storage Tanks.

The details of the fire breakouts at IOCL storage tanks during the last three years and current year, year wise are as under:

Year	No. of Fire Outbreaks in Oil Storages	No. of Persons Injured	No of fatalities	Compensation paid (₹ in lakhs)	Loss of revenue (₹ in lakhs)
2016-17	Nil	NA	NA	NA	NA
2017-18	Nil	NA	NA	NA	NA
2018-19	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	400
2019-20 (Till 16.07.2019)	Nil	NA	NA	NA	NA

NA- Not Applicable

IOCL has informed that at Barauni Refinery on 28th April, 2018, a fire broke out in CRU (NSU) feed tank 251 due to over filling which resulted in lifting of external floating roof and hitting tank internal generating spark. The fire was controlled within one hour. The fire incident at Barauni refinery was investigated by a Committee constituted by Oil Industry Safety Directorate (OISD) and also by Internal Committee of Indian Oil. All the recommendations have been complied with at Barauni Refinery. IOCL has also informed that disciplinary proceedings were initiated against 07 IOCL employees. Major penalty was awarded to 1 employee and minor penalty on 2 employees. Recordable warning was issued to 4 employees.

Annexure referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of the Lok Sabha unstarred question No. 4654 asked by Shri Devusinh Jesingbhai Chauhan for answer on 22.07.2019 regarding Fire Breakouts at Oil Storage Tanks.

The details of the fire breakouts at BPCL storage tanks during the last three years and current year, year wise are as under:

Year	No. of Fire Outbreaks in Oil Storages	No. of Persons Injured	No. of fatalities	Compensation paid (₹ in lakhs)	Loss of revenue (₹ in lakhs)
2016-17	1	3	2	185	1305
2017-18	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	8403
2018-19	Nil	NA	NA	NA	NA
2019-20 (Till 16.07.2019)	Nil	NA	NA	NA	NA

NA- Not Applicable

BPCL has informed that in the year 2016-17, at Budge Budge terminal, West Bengal on 23rd January, 2017, Motor Spirit (MS) was being transferred from one tank to another tank in order to empty the tank for tank cleaning and disposal. During the product transfer, when the tank was almost empty, there was a fire in the tank resulting in serious burn injuries to two Officers and three contract workmen. One Officer and one contract workmen succumbed to injuries in the subsequent days. The reason for above fire incident was (i) violations in the work permit system and (ii) use of Non FLP main switch and MCB combination and fitted very close to the tank. BPCL has issued chargesheet and taken disciplinary action against two officers. BPCL has also made Holiday listing of contractor for Engineering Jobs.

In the year 2017-18 at Marine Oil Tank (MOT) on 6th October, 2017 at about 16:25 hrs. during heavy rains and thunderstorm, there was an intense lightning strike in the BPCL tank farm area at MOT. At the same time, Tank No. 13 on HSD Service caught fire on the roof. In order to reduce risk from fire and to salvage the product from MOT, product from Tank No. 13 (Tank on fire) and adjacent HSD Tanks Nos. 12 and 14 were evacuated. The balance product in Tank No. 13 was allowed to burn off in controlled environment.

In order to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future BPCL has leveraged use of Technology for improving the safety and prevent such incidents in future. The initiative taken by BPCL are (i) utilization of software solutions for Implementing Online Work permit system and Online Incident Reporting System, (ii) conduct of hazard and operability study (HAZOP) & Quick Reaction Alert (QRA) for any modification in the existing plants, (iii) live Fire Fighting training to all Officers and staff, (iv) automation of operations in its operating plants, (v) Pipeline leak detection system like Supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) in pipeline operations, (vi) safety *programmable logic controller* (PLC) based Fire fighting system at locations etc.

Annexure referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of the Lok Sabha unstarred question No. 4654 asked by Shri Devusinh Jesingbhai Chauhan for answer on 22.07.2019 regarding Fire Breakouts at Oil Storage Tanks.

The details of the fire breakouts at HPCL storage tanks during the last three years and current year, year wise are as under:

Year	No. of Fire Outbreaks in Oil Storages	No. of Persons Injured	No of fatalities	Compensation paid (₹ in lakhs)	Loss of revenue (₹ in lakhs)
2016-17	Nil	NA	NA	NA	NA
2017-18	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
2018-19	Nil	NA	NA	NA	NA
2019-20 (Till 16.07.2019)	Nil	NA	NA	NA	NA

NA- Not Applicable

HPCL has informed that On 29th July,2017 heavy thunder clouds started gathering above Visakh Refinery and lightning with moderate rain starting at about 18:20 hrs. At around 18.39 Hrs, a lightning struck on crude tank 01D. Alarms on the control room panel and the F&S repeater panel indicated fire on the rim seal of the tank. Fire trucks and foam tenders reached site immediately and the fire was effectively controlled and extinguished by 1915 hours.

There was no human error or negligence or departmental unsafe practice involved in this incident. The fire was due to lightning strike and was effectively controlled with the fire protection facilities without any loss.

In order to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future HPCL has ensured fire protection systems as per the OISD standard 116 and also functionality/reliability of the installed Rim seal fire protection system checking.
