

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.18
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14th SEPTEMBER, 2020

Fire at Baghjan Oilfield in Tinsukia, Assam

18. SHRI PRADAN BARUAH:

DR. DNV SENTHILKUMAR S.:

DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE:

SHRI MANICKAM TAGORE B.:

SHRI KULDEEP RAI SHARMA:

DR. AMOL RAMSING KOLHE:

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री

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

- (a) whether the massive fire at Baghjan oilfield in Tinsukia, Assam of Oil India Limited (OIL) have had a devastating effect on human capital, livelihood, crops and ecology of the area, if so, the details thereof along with the loss incurred/loss of life reported and the number of people evacuated;
- (b) the details of plan to compensate the effected residents and undertake the resettlement and rehabilitation programme along with the expected timeframe in this regard;
- (c) the details of safeguard measures including disaster mitigation plans put in place by OIL in the perspective of oil well blowout;
- (d) whether the Government has constituted any inquiry in the matter and if so, whether any action has been initiated against guilty officials;
- (e) whether the number of incidents of gas leakage and fire break out in underground natural gas pipelines, refineries and oil fields/wells have gone up, if so, the details thereof along with the number of such incidents and the loss of revenue reported as a result thereof during each of the last three years and the current year; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to avoid pipeline leakages and improve the safety of the pipeline and other petroleum and natural gas infrastructure in the country?

ANSWER

पैट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में मंत्री (श्री धर्मेन्द्र प्रधान)

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)

(a) & (b) : There has been impact on the nearby areas because of the heat and noise generated from the blowout well of Baghjan field. Approximately 3000 affected families were evacuated to rehabilitation camps set up by the district Administration. M/s TERI has been engaged for Ambient Air Quality (AAQ) monitoring and Bioremediation, CSIR North East Institute of Science and Technology (NEIST) has been engaged for Seismological Study and IIT, Guwahati has been engaged for heat impact through Thermal Imaging. There has been no casualty of local residents. However, Oil India Limited (OIL) has lost three employees.

District Administration has constituted a committee for assessment of property loss for which OIL has to deposit the compensation amount to district administration for disbursement to the affected families. So far, 2,756 families have been identified for compensation till 08.09.2020 in Doomdooma and Tinsukia Circle. ₹ 10,93,50,500/- has been deposited with District Administration by OIL for providing one-time compensation of ₹30,000/- each to the 3645 affected families. NGT has also directed payment of interim compensation:-

- a) Category (i) : Rs. 25.00 Lakhs (whose houses have been completely gutted by fire)
- b) Category (ii) : Rs. 10.00 Lakhs (whose houses have been severely damaged).
- c) Category (iii) : Rs. 2.5 Lakhs (whose house have been moderately /partially damaged or whose standing crops and horticulture have been partially damaged).

Under category (i), compensation amount of Rs. 25 lakh each for 12 families was handed over to Deputy Commissioner's (DC) office for disbursement and 57 houses under category (ii) and 561 houses under category (iii) have also been identified for compensation.

(c) : OIL's Safety measures include Safety Awareness, Inspection & Audit, Safe Operating Procedures, Safety Trainings, Emergency Response and Mock Drills, Employees Participation, Occupational Health Monitoring, Personal Protective Equipments, Contractor Personnel Safety Management, regular Safety Meetings, Near Miss Reporting, Accident/dangerous occurrence reporting, investigation and analysis, Monitoring Health Safety & Environment (HSE) and technological upgradation.

(d) : Ministry has constituted a three Member Inquiry Committee to inquire into this incident. In addition, Inquiry Committees have also been set up by Directorate General of Mines & Safety (DGMS), and Oil Industry Safety Directorate (OISD), Govt. of India. Two officers of OIL directly looking after the operations of the well before blowout have been suspended.

(e) : Major onsite incidents in the last three years reported to Oil Industry Safety Directorate (OISD), are given below ::

Sector	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (till Aug'20)
Pipelines	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Refineries	06	10	07	01
Oil Fields/ Wells	08	06	03	01
Total	14	16	10	02

In most incidents of gas leakages in any pipeline, the oil & gas wells are closed immediately to prevent fire/loss of oil and gas and after carrying out leakage rectification job, operations are normalized and production is restored.

(f) : Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas regularly monitors and reviews various safety measures in the oil & gas sector and directs the companies from time to time to take suitable measures to ensure safety in these installations. OISD, a technical Directorate of Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas formulates safety standards for the entire Oil & Gas Industry. The Directorate carries out regular safety audits to check and review whether the safety standards and norms are being followed by the industry. The audits include External safety Audits & Surprise safety Audits at periodic intervals to cover all the existing installations; pre-commissioning safety audit of all new facilities being added to the existing installation & new installation being set up, before commissioning of the facilities. In order to prevent such accidents in future, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are also being re-visited for making improvements, if any.
