

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2207
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.09.2020

Baghjan Oil Reserve

2207. SHRI PRADYUT BORDOLOI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has extended any monetary and technical assistance to tackle the unprecedented crisis due to gas and oil spill at Baghjan oil reserve;
- (b) if so, the details of the assistance extended so far; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)

(a)to(c) As per the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, M/s Oil India Limited (OIL), a Government of India Enterprise, has taken steps to minimize the adverse environmental impacts of fire and gas leak at Baghjan oil reserve and recuperate the damage caused to the crops and ecology in the affected area. Reputed technical organizations have been engaged to provide services as follows:

- M/s The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) for Ambient Air Quality (AAQ) monitoring and Bioremediation
- Council for Scientific and Industrial Research – North East Institute of Science and Technology (CSIR-NEIST) for Seismological Study
- Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati for heat impact through Thermal Imaging

OIL has also engaged M/s ERM India Pvt. Limited to carry out a detailed Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) study to assess the damage to the neighbouring environment including flora & fauna and suggest for suitable mitigation measures.

So far, 2756 families have been identified for compensation till 08.09.2020 in Doomdooma and Tinsukia Circle. OIL has deposited ₹10,93,50,500/- with District Administration for providing one-time compensation at the rate of ₹30,000/- for each affected family to 3645 families. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has also directed payment of interim compensation as follows:

- Category (i) – ₹25.00 Lakhs (whose houses have been completely gutted by fire)
- Category (ii) – ₹10.00 Lakhs (whose houses have been severely damaged)
- Category (iii) – ₹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 ₹25 lakh each for 12 families has been handed over to concerned Deputy Commissioner's (DC) office for disbursal. Additionally, 57 houses under 'Category (ii)' and 561 houses under 'Category (iii)' have also been identified for compensation.
