GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3674 TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.12.2021

CASUALTIES OF WORKERS IN FACTORY IN GANDHINAGAR

3674. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a)whether the Government is aware of the fact that in the recent past, five workers died after inhaling toxic gas while cleaning an underground effluent tank at a pharmaceutical factory in Gandhinagar of Gujarat;
- (b)whether it is mandatory for the service provider to provide proper gear with helmet and gas mask to the workers before entering into the effluent tanks for cleaning where the presence of toxic fatal gases is certain;
- (c)whether the Government plans to compensate the family of those workers who lost their lives in harness, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d)whether the Government plans to take action against the factory owner and the service provider responsible for the death of the workers due to deliberate irresponsible behaviour?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAMESWAR TELI)

(a): Yes, Sir. As per information collected from the State Government of Gujarat, five persons died on 6th November, 2021 around 12.30 p.m. due to suffocation while cleaning an Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) tank at M/s. Tuttson Pharma Pvt. Ltd. at Khatraj in Gandhinagar of Gujarat.

- (b): The Gujarat Factory Rules, 1963 framed under the Factories Act, 1948 contain provisions for providing relevant Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), by the factory occupier, required to be used by workers employed in 'hazardous process or dangerous operations'.
- (c): The compensation to the workers for the accidents occurred is provided by the respective factory owners in terms of relevant provisions of the Employees' Compensation Act, 1923.

As per information made available by the State Government of Gujarat, the factory occupier has deposited a demand draft amounting to Rs. 30,70,810/- (Rupees Thirty Lacs Seventy Thousand Eight Hundred Ten only) to the Labour Court (Workmen Compensation Commissioner).

(d): The criminal case has been filed by the State Government of Gujarat against the occupier of the factory for the violation of the provision of the Factories Act, 1948. Also, prohibitory order has been issued under the Factory Act, 1948.
