

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF POWER**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3942
ANSWERED ON 19.12.2024**

INVESTIGATION OF NTPC BOILER EXPLOSION CASE

**†3942. SHRI CHHOTELAL:
SHRI ADITYA YADAV:**

**Will the Minister of POWER
be pleased to state:**

- (a) the number of persons found guilty in the investigation of NTPC boiler explosion case occurred in Unchahar of Raebareli on 01 November, 2017 along with the action taken against the guilty persons;**
- (b) the number of investigations conducted in Unchahar boiler explosion case;**
- (c) the details of the findings of the investigations and the action taken thereon;**
- (d) whether it is a fact that a person who was found guilty in the said case was terminated from service of NTPC but was provided a job in NTPCs joint venture company EESL after two months of his/her termination and retired comfortably and if so, the details thereof; and**
- (e) whether the Government proposes to investigate the said incidence and take action against the guilty persons in this regard, if so, the details thereof along with the action likely to be taken in the matter and if not, the reasons therefor?**

A N S W E R

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER

(SHRI SHRIPAD NAIK)

(a) to (e) : In exercise of powers conferred under section 161(2) of the Electricity Act, 2003, a committee was constituted by Ministry of Power, Govt. of India on 06.11.2017 under the Chairmanship of Member (Thermal), CEA to fix up responsibility for boiler explosion occurred in Feroze Gandhi Thermal Power Plant (TPP) of NTPC Ltd. at Unchahar, Raebareli-district of Uttar Pradesh on 01 November, 2017. A memorandum of charge-sheet under NTPC Conduct, Discipline & Appeal (CDA) rules was issued to the then General Manager(Operation & Maintenance), NTPC TPP at Unchahar responsible for said incidence and further, based on internal inquiry, the employee was imposed with the penalty of Compulsory Retirement from the Services of the Company (NTPC Ltd.) which does not disqualify for future employment under the Government or corporation / company owned or controlled by the Government.

EESL (Energy Efficiency Services Limited) had taken his services as a consultant for limited period.

To investigate the causes of the accidents, six (06) nos. of enquiry committees were constituted. Reports submitted by these committees which inter-alia mentioned high ash build up and consequent tube failure due to dislodging of this build up ash in the boiler as one of the causes of accident in the boiler. The key recommendations/findings of these Committees along with the actions taken thereon are given as under:

Recommendations of the Committees:

- 1. Accumulation of ash should be controlled, and continuous ash removal should be ensured without blocking the furnace bottom opening and ash hopper.**
- 2. All Technical considerations of plant operating conditions should be part of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).**
- 3. The plant Engineers and operation general team should have adequate and relevant experience as per the duties.**
- 4. Opening of manhole doors/scaffold doors during operation is not resorted and water injection for dislodging should be avoided.**
- 5. Whenever people attend to any problem during boiler operation, there should be a clear checklist for safe practice.**
- 6. The protocol of work permit for carrying out any activity in the unit should be strictly adhered to.**

Action Taken by NTPC Ltd.:

- Operation guidance note was reviewed with additional points of safety and guidelines in consultation with OEM.**
- NTPC executive trainees undergo 12 months training at entry level covering all aspects of the power plant. Further, regular trainings are being conducted across all stations in respect of assigned duties.**
- Training program for contractors' employees are being conducted at all sites on regular basis covering all relevant topics on occupational health and safety.**
- Safety behavior index has been introduced in the Performance Management System (PMS).**

- **Cross functional safety task force for operating plants and under construction projects are functional at all projects/stations to monitor and ensure safe working conditions.**
- **For early detection of Ash build up, Cameras have been installed for monitoring by Desk Operator.**
- **Internal and external safety audits are undertaken by NTPC safety officers and external (third party) safety auditors at regular intervals.**
- **Job Safety analysis has been made a part of permit to work system, and stations are strictly following it.**
- **For early detection and mitigation of the on-site emergencies, effective control systems are provided at all operating stations.**
- **Regular Mock drills are conducted to check the health of the systems, and any abnormalities are immediately rectified.**
- **Awareness program on disaster management plan are also conducted regularly.**
- **To inculcate safety culture, various messages/instructions are displayed in the form of posters/hoardings at various vulnerable locations of working sites. Different competitions and campaigns on safety are also organized time to time to enhance the safety awareness of employees, contractors' workers and nearby villagers.**
- **Regular Medical examinations are conducted to monitor the health condition of workers at work place. Safety trainings and pep-talks are also organized for workers at sites to make them aware about the hazards at workplace.**
- **Disaster management plan and emergency action plans are prepared in consultation with district & state authorities and nearby industries to tackle any emergency situation.**
