

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS & PETROCHEMICALS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1393
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.07.2016**

Fire incidents in Chemical Factories

1393: SHRI RAJESH VERMA

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:-

- (a) the details of fire incidents in the chemical factories during the last two years in the country;
- (b) the loss of life and property in these fire incidents;
- (c) whether any inquiry has been conducted by the Government in this regard and if so, the details and outcome thereof; and
- (d) the action taken so far by the Government to prevent incidents of fire and explosion in chemical factories in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS, SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA)

(a) to (d) The number of chemical accidents during the last two years and current year in the country is as under:

Year	Accident	Death	Injury
2014	7	16	24
2015	40	38	206
2016 (till date)	3	15	162

The Government of India in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified two sets of rules under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 viz (i) Manufacture Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemicals (MSIHC) Rules, 1989 (ii) Chemical Accident (Emergency, Planning, Preparedness & Response) (CAEPPR)

Rules, 1996, to ensure the chemical safety in the country. The rules are being implementing by the concerned authority given in the Schedule in the rules.

The main objectives of the MSIHC rule are to (i) prevent major accidents arising from industrial activities (ii) limit the effects of such accidents. The Rules endeavour to achieve these objectives by having a quantity based approach. The MHIHC rules require the occupier to disclose the necessary information to the public in the neighbourhood that is likely to be affected by a major accident at the site.

The Chemical Accidents (Emergency, Planning, Preparedness & Response) Rules, 1996 complement the MSIHC Rules and provide much needed statutory backup for Crisis Management setup and organizational support.

Government of India, Ministry of Environment Forests & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has also initiated various activities such as (i) Hazard Analysis and Rapid Safety Audit in selected industrial pockets; (ii) Preparation of Offsite Emergency Plan in selected districts; (iii) Establishment of Emergency Response; (iv) Training and Awareness; and (v) Capacity building of state authorities.

Government of India, Ministry of Environment Forests & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has also developed web based online Chemical Accident Information and Report System (CAIRS) in association with National Informatics Centre, New Delhi to facilitate online reporting by State agency. A Central Crisis Group Alert System i.e Red Book has also been brought out by Government of India, MoEF&CC to facilitate quick information exchange during chemical emergencies.
