

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF STEEL

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.476
FOR ANSWER ON 05/02/2020

GAS LEAK IN BHILAI STEEL PLANT

476. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that five workers were injured in first week of January, 2020 due to leakage of gas in the biggest and state-of-art Blast Furnance-8 of Bhilai Steel Plant;
- (b) the reasons for the leakage of gas;
- (c) whether alarm did not ring even after the pressure became more than 200 ppm in the plant; and
- (d) if so, the details of the incident and the steps taken for the prevention of such incidents in future?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STEEL

(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)

(a)&(b): Five workers were partially exposed to the Blast Furnace (BF) Gas for sometime in BF- 8 area of Bhilai Steel Plant on 03/01/2020. The main reason for gas leakage was failure in the gas evacuation system due to failure of actuator of pressure regulating Control Valve.

(c)&(d): Carbon Monoxide (CO) gas monitor with audio alarm and hooter already exists in BF Complex - 8. There was an indication of high parts per million (ppm) of CO in fixed type CO alarm set up in BF Complex. The alarm rang. However, as the working area in the vicinity is noisy, it might have gone unnoticed by workers. An Internal Enquiry Committee comprising of senior executives from other Plant/Units of SAIL was constituted to inquire into the incident. The major recommendations of the Committee are as under:-

- Incorporation of system of opening of Bleeder No. 2 whenever gas network pressure exceeds safer limit independent of any other signal of valve opening, etc.
- Installation of more audio safety alarms at identified strategic locations, especially near all water "U" seals in gas network.
- Strengthening of existing clamping mechanism between pressure regulating valve and actuator to prevent any such failure in future
