

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

LOK SABHA

**UN-STARRED QUESTION NO. 460
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.07.2023**

Harmful Gas and Chemical Leaks

460. SHRI CHANDESHWAR PRASAD:

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

- a. whether the Government has taken note of the harmful gas and chemical leaks in the country over the last 10 years and the recent year;
- b. if so, the details thereof, State-wise, yearwise;
- c. the details of the number of people who have died due to such tragedies;
- d. whether any help has been given by the Government to the victims of such tragedies;
- e. if so, the details thereof along with the steps/ action taken against the culprits involved in such tragedies; and
- f. the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to stop such incidents in future?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS

(SHRI BHAGWANTH KHUBA)

(a) to (f): The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) compiles the chemical accident-related data on a progressive basis, including gas/chemical leakages, based on the inputs provided by the Chief Inspector of Factories (CIFs) of various State Governments/ Union Territories. The data is compiled as per the provisions of the Manufacture, Storage, and Import of Hazardous Chemical Rules, 1989 (as amended) and Chemical Accident (Emergency Planning, Preparedness, and response) Rules, 1996 (as amended). Accordingly, in the past 10 years, State-wise data received from CIFs on gas/chemical leakage incidents along with injuries/ deaths resulting from such incidents are placed below:-

State	No. of Incidents of Gas/Chemical Leakage	Fatalities	Injuries
YEAR 2013			
Punjab	1	--	--
Tamil Nadu	1	--	--

Telangana	6	6	1
Uttar Pradesh	5	5	--
YEAR 2014			
Chhattisgarh	1	2	--
Andhra Pradesh	1	16	20
Madhya Pradesh	1	--	--
Punjab	2	--	--
Tamil Nadu	1	--	--
Telangana	6	--	7
West Bengal	2	4	22
YEAR 2015			
Arunachal Pradesh	1	--	--
Assam	1	--	11
Delhi	5	4	7
Gujarat	12	7	24
Haryana	1	--	--
Himachal Pradesh	1	--	3
Jharkhand	3	--	18
Madhya Pradesh	3	--	3
Maharashtra	2	1	--
Punjab	1	6	100
Rajasthan	1	--	--
Tamil Nadu	2	9	--
Telangana	18	35	36
Uttar Pradesh	5	12	21
West Bengal	2	--	--
YEAR 2016			
Assam	1	--	--
Delhi	1	2	--
Gujarat	11	18	--
Maharashtra	8	17	165
Odisha	1	--	--
Rajasthan	5	14	1
Telangana	26	35	17
Uttar Pradesh	1	1	--
YEAR 2017			
Delhi	1	--	475
Gujarat	2	1	--
Maharashtra	4	2	1
Odisha	4	3	9
Rajasthan	6	20	20
Tamil Nadu	1	--	--
Telangana	1	--	--
Uttar Pradesh	1	--	200
West Bengal	3	6	8
YEAR 2018			

Assam	7	1	--
Bihar			
Gujarat	6	5	12
Maharashtra	1	1	11
Telangana	9	12	14
Uttar Pradesh	1	--	--
YEAR 2019			
Assam	1	--	--
Gujarat	10	5	--
Maharashtra	6	4	2
Odisha	2	--	--
Telangana	8	7	9
YEAR 2020			
Andhra Pradesh	4	14	4017
Assam	2	2	---
Guajarat	8	31	96
Maharashtra	7	6	16
Tamil Nadu	1	6	--
Telangana	19	11	25
Uttar Pradesh	1	--	--
YEAR 2021			
Andhra Pradesh	1	3	3
Assam	3	--	--
Karnataka	1	--	--
Kerala	1	--	--
Maharashtra	4	23	7
Tamil Nadu	3	32	60
Telangana	7	1	2
Uttar Pradesh	1	--	--
YEAR 2022			
Assam	4	--	--

The State Govts./ UT Administrations, along with the District Administration are the first responders to provide accident relief during the incidents of chemical accidents, including gas leakage incidents, to the victims.

The Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change administers the Manufacture, Storage, and Import of Hazardous Chemical (MSIHC) Rules, 1989 (as amended) and Chemical Accident (Emergency Planning, Preparedness, and Response) Rules, 1996 (as amended) to establish a preventive mechanism for chemical safety in industrial operations. As per the provisions of MSIHC Rules, 1989, the concerned Chief Inspector of Factories (CIFs) (appointed under the Factories Act, 1948) are the nodal authorities to implement rule provisions in respect of Major Accident Hazard (MAH) Units and undertake enforcement measures. Accordingly, the MoEFCC does not undertake independent inspections. At the Central level, the Factories Act, 1948 is implemented by the Ministry of Labour and Employment through the Director General Factory Advice Service and Labour Institutes (DGFASLI). The MSIHC Rules, 1989 are administered by MoEFCC through concerned sectoral safety regulators to maintain an operational

safety regime in MAH units. However, CIFs (appointed under the Factories Act, 1948) are empowered to take penal actions under the provisions of the Factories Act, 1948.

The MSIHC Rules, 1989 mandates the occupier of major accident hazard (MAH) units to update the Safety Audit Report once a year by conducting a fresh safety audit and submitting a copy to CIFs within 30 days. The occupiers of MAH units are also responsible for the preparation and update of the 'On-site emergency plan'. The MSIHC Rules, 1989 also assigns the responsibility of preparing of Off-site Emergency Plan of a district to the District Collector or designated District Emergency Authority (DEA) by State Government. The CIF, appointed under the Factories Act,. 1948, is required to assist the DEAs in the preparation of the Off-site Emergency Plan.

Recently, the MoEFCC and Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) have developed an 'Integrated Guidance Framework for Chemicals Safety in respect of Isolated Storage(s) and Industries covered under MSIHC Rules, 1989 in compliance to the directions of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal. The framework was circulated to the Chief Secretaries/ UT Administrators of all States/ UTs in January, 2022. The Integrated Guidance Framework prescribes for regular inspections of industrial and chemical sites, ensuring preparation of the on-site emergency plans, undertaking safety audits, and sharing information among other stakeholders agencies, in case of observed non-compliance.
