

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF STEEL

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2753
FOR ANSWER ON 21/03/2013

ACCIDENT IN VIZAG STEEL PLANT

2753. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether one of the worst industrial accidents in steel industry took place in Vizag Steel Plant in June this year where twenty people were charred to death;
- (b) if so, the details of the accident;
- (c) the reasons behind accident;
- (d) the action the Ministry has taken on the culprits; and
- (e) the reasons that in the recently released data by Centre for Science and Environment green ratings, VSP is at the rock bottom?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STEEL

(SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA)

(a)&(b): Yes, Sir. On 13th June 2012 while commissioning Converter-1 of Steel Melting Shop-2 in Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP) of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL), an accident took place due to explosion in the Oxygen Pressure Reducing Station-3. 19 people lost their lives. Among the victims 12 were employees of RINL-VSP while 4 and 3 were the employees of Consultant and Contractors respectively.

(c)&(d): Government of India constituted a High Level Committee to investigate the incident and to make necessary recommendations to prevent recurrence of such incidents in future. The recommendations made by the committee are taken into consideration while finalizing the new specification for revival of the unit. The inquiry was also got done by Directorate of Factories by a three member committee and RINL has taken actions for compliance of recommendations. A training programme was also exclusively got conducted on 'Prevention of Fire in Oxygen enriched systems' by a renowned professor from IIT, Kharagpur. Safety department has been further strengthened with appointment of an Executive Director.

(e) RINL is one of the top 3 steel companies as rated by Centre for Science and Environment, New Delhi. RINL has also been awarded '3 leaves' and is rated among the top three performing steel plants in respect of environment by Centre for Science and Environment.
