

ACTION TAKEN STATEMENT ON THE TWENTY SECOND REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (2022-23) ON ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE NINETEENTH REPORT (17th LOK SABHA) ON THE SUBJECT “SAFETY AND SECURITY OF OIL INSTALLATIONS OF PUBLIC SECTOR OIL COMPANIES WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO BAGHJAN BLOW-OUT INCIDENT”

Recommendation of the Committee (To be reproduced from original report i.e. 19 th report)	Reply of the Government (To be reproduced from Action Taken Report i.e. 22 nd report)	Comments of the Committee (To be quoted from Chapter I of Action Taken Report i.e. 22 nd report)	Final reply of the Government
<p><u>Recommendation No. 5</u> <u>Need for enquiry by the Ministry</u></p> <p>The Committee note that three Committees constituted to enquire about Baghjan incident had found a series of lapses on the part of officials of OIL concerned with the planning and execution of workover at Baghjan-5. The Committee further note that the lapses caused great damage to the people and the environment of</p>	<p>A three member High Level Committee was constituted vide this Ministry's order dated 11.06.2020 to enquire into the incident of blow out and fire at Baghjan oilfield. The report of the High Level Committee has been accepted by the Government and OIL was asked to take action on the recommendations of report and also against the officers responsible for lapses. Action has been taken up by OIL to ensure proper safety and security system to avoid repetition of similar incidents in</p>	<p>The Committee in their original Report had recommended the Ministry to institute an enquiry into lack of proper supervision and monitoring in workover programme at Baghjan-5 and fix appropriate responsibility and accountability to bring out any erring and incompetent officials of OIL. The Ministry in its written reply has stated that OIL has initiated Prosecution has been initiated by OIL against the (i) Nominated Owner of the company (ii) Agent, (iii) Mine Manager, (iv) Deputy Mine Manager, (v) Installation manager, (vi) Chief Engineer – Oil & Gas services M/s OIL (Agent), for the contravention of the provisions of the Mines Act 1952 and Oil Mines</p>	<p>The prosecution was initiated against the (i) Nominated Owner of the company (ii) Agent, (iii) Mine Manager, (iv) Deputy Mine Manager, (v) Installation manager, (vi) Chief Engineer – Oil & Gas services (Agent), for contraventions of the Mines Act 1952 and Oil Mines Regulation 2017. All these persons were then the employees of M/s Oil India Ltd. As a consequence of the blowout, DGMS conducted enquiry and Inspector of mines, Directorate General of Mine Safety, Guwahati region, filed a complaint against officials of OIL connected with the Baghjan blowout before Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate, Tinsukia for an offence under section 73 of the Mine Act, 1952, The Magistrate took cognizance of the complaint vide order dated 03.12.2020. Against the said order, OIL filed petition before the Hon'ble High Court Guwahati for quashing the criminal proceeding in the complaint as well as the order dated 03.12.2020. Hon'ble High Court set aside the cognizance order since the petitioners did not violate all the provisions mentioned in the complaint and directed Ld. Magistrate to reopen the case by taking cognizance on specific provisions and pass appropriate order. Accordingly, Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate again heard the matter and has taken cognizance of the matter vide order dated 31.10.2023. Presently, the case is pending.</p>

<p>surrounding areas besides causing huge financial loss. The Committee further note that the crisis management of the incident could have been better. While initially 18 officials were suspended in the wake of disciplinary proceedings, two were found guilty. The Committee observe that fixing of responsibilities in this regard is grossly inadequate to the proportion of damages caused and lapses committed at procedural levels by the personnel of OIL. The responsibility of ensuring a safe work procedure vest with Oil PSUs and they need to be accountable. The role of senior</p>	<p>future and majority of the HLC recommendations have been implemented by OIL. The Government of India had also constituted a five-member committee in compliance of order dated 19.02.2021 passed by the Principal Bench of National Green Tribunal. New Delhi (NGT) in Bonani Kakkar Vis Oil India Limited & Others, Original Application No. 43/2020 (EZ). The recommendations of committee were accepted and forwarded to upstream companies for implementation. OISD monitors the status of implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on quarterly basis and a review meeting is taken by Ministry once in six months with Heads/senior representatives from</p>	<p>Regulation 2017. The Committee while being satisfied with the action taken by OIL on this issue, would like to wait for the outcome of the prosecution against the officials.</p>	
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<p>officers is more of supervisory nature but the same was missing in this case. Accordingly, this Committee recommend Ministry to institute an enquiry into lack of proper supervision and monitoring in workover programme at Baghjan-5 and fix appropriate responsibility and accountability to bring out any erring and incompetent officials of OIL.</p>	<p>DGMS, DGH and other major E&P companies (both PSU & private). Safety Council reviews status of implementation of the recommendations of the Committee once every year.</p> <p>After the incident at Baghjan well No. 5 of M/s Oil India Limited, an inquiry was conducted by the officer of DGMS to ascertain the causes and circumstances that led to the incident. Based on the findings of the inquiry, action has been taken against the persons responsible for the incident.</p> <p>Prosecution has been initiated against the (i) Nominated Owner of the company (ii) Agent, (iii) Mine Manager, (iv) Deputy Mine Manager, (v) Installation manager, (vi) Chief Engineer – Oil & Gas services M/s OIL (Agent), for the contravention of</p>	
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	<p>the provisions of the Mines Act 1952 and Oil Mines Regulation 2017.</p> <p>Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas O.M. No. Expl-12023(11)/1/2021-EXPL-II-PNG dated 03.07.2023</p>														
<p><u>Recommendation No. 6</u> <u>Need for observance of Environmental Laws</u></p> <p>The Committee note that the Justice B.P. Katakey Committee Report had found that, OIL did not have the mandatory clearances under several Acts to operate in the particular well. The Committee further note that the replies of the Ministry and OIL inform that it had mandatory consent to</p>	<p>The checklist for carrying out OISD external safety audit also includes compliance of environmental requirements. Checklist shall be further reviewed to make it more inclusive of the requirements. OISD is also revising standard OISD-RP-201 on 'Environment Management in E&P sector' with extended scope to cover entire oil & gas industry. As far as OIL is concerned, it routinely obtains, monitors and renews regulatory clearances (e.g., forest clearance,</p>	<p>The Committee in their original Report had noted that as per Justice B.P. Katakey Report, OIL did not have mandatory clearances under several environmental acts to operate in the particular well. Thereafter, this Committee had recommended the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to take up with all Oil PSUs and review compliance of all environmental laws which were applicable to oil and gas fields. The reply of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas mentions extant practices being followed by OISD. It does not mention about any review done or being done for all necessary clearances in position of Oil PSUs. Therefore, the Committee are</p>	<p>OISD is reviewing the compliance of various environmental laws, as applicable to the oil and gas industry and its installation during the external safety audit. Based upon the recommendations of the Standing Committee on PNG, OISD has further reviewed the compliance of applicable environmental laws of the major Oil PSUs as per details submitted by them. The Oil PSUs have confirmed that environmental laws, as applicable are being followed. The Oil PSUs have further confirmed that necessary approval/ consent / clearance is available/ applied for renewal. OIL has obtained all the necessary statutory clearances and compliances for all applicable environmental laws.</p> <p>I. Environmental Approvals</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1146 998 1976 1416"> <thead> <tr> <th>S. No</th> <th>Approval</th> <th>Availability</th> <th>Exception if any with details</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>EC Clearance</td> <td>Available. Environmental Clearance obtained from MoEF&CC/ SEIAA where E&P operations have started. *Note for OALP blocks where E&P activities have commenced, EC has been obtained. EC applications under process/will be applied for blocks where E&P activities are planned in future.</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>PCB Consent</td> <td>Available. Consent to Establish</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	S. No	Approval	Availability	Exception if any with details	1	EC Clearance	Available. Environmental Clearance obtained from MoEF&CC/ SEIAA where E&P operations have started. *Note for OALP blocks where E&P activities have commenced, EC has been obtained. EC applications under process/will be applied for blocks where E&P activities are planned in future.	-	2	PCB Consent	Available. Consent to Establish	-
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<p>establish or operate under abovementioned laws on the day of the blow out of Baghjan-5 and subsequent fire on 09.06.2020. However, the Ministry have stated that OIL had obtained all mandatory statutory clearances as per the requisite applicable laws. The Committee note that a number of licenses and approvals are required under various laws pertaining to the mining and protection of environment for exploration and extraction of oil and gas. The Committee further note that these licenses are for a specific period, and they are</p>	<p>environment clearances, CTO, CTE, etc.) for all of its operations and installations. All essential conditions stipulated in such clearances are also followed.</p> <p>In addition to the above measures, it may be pertinent to mention that recently on the environmental front, OIL has included ESG activities under project "KAVACH", with objectives of meeting following targets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OIL to be net zero by 2040. • Emission reduction of 45% from 2005 level by 2030. • Develop Strategy & Policy to fulfil National & Global Standards. • Adoption of Alternative 	<p>disappointed to note neither the Ministry nor the OISD has undertaken such review of compliance of all applicable laws by Oil PSUs and accordingly, they reiterate their earlier recommendation to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and OISD to take up the issue with all Oil PSUs and review compliance of all environmental laws which were applicable to oil and gas field.</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>(CTE) & Consent To Operate (CTO) obtained from respective State Pollution Control Boards</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>CRZ Clearance</td> <td>Available for all applicable locations. Note: 3 applications i.e 2 in Andhra Pradesh and 1 in Kerala is under process.</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>Forest Clearance</td> <td>Available for all applicable locations. Note: 1 FC application for Tripura Block under process.</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>Ground water approval</td> <td>Obtained for applicable Blocks/Locations</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>Any other approval/NOC/Clearance Hazardous Waste Authorisation</td> <td>Available, Hazardous Waste Authorization was obtained from State Pollution Control Board</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>			(CTE) & Consent To Operate (CTO) obtained from respective State Pollution Control Boards		3	CRZ Clearance	Available for all applicable locations. Note: 3 applications i.e 2 in Andhra Pradesh and 1 in Kerala is under process.	-	4	Forest Clearance	Available for all applicable locations. Note: 1 FC application for Tripura Block under process.	-	5	Ground water approval	Obtained for applicable Blocks/Locations	-	6	Any other approval/NOC/Clearance Hazardous Waste Authorisation	Available, Hazardous Waste Authorization was obtained from State Pollution Control Board	-																		
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<p>required to be renewed after the lapse of the same. If these were to be reviewed by Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH)/Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas from time to time, such lapses could have been noticed. There is need to institutionalise such a mechanism. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to take up the issue with all the PSUs and review the compliance of all applicable laws in the oil and gas fields that are currently in operation. Action taken in this regard may be intimated within</p>	<p>Cleaner Fuels in its Operations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on Energy Efficiency. • Focus on CCUS, Flare reduction. • Offset Mechanism & Green Energy (Biofuel, Green Hydrogen, Renewables), carbon credits etc. <p>ONGC complies with applicable laws, rules/regulations and guidelines in the oil and gas fields. Compliance of these is regularly checked by the Regulatory/Competent authorities during regular External Safety Audits/ Inspections. Compliance is also checked during the Internal Safety Audits, carried by Multi-Disciplinary Teams of ONGC officials. It is</p>			1986					
				a)	Environmental Impact Assessment Notification-2006	Under Process (EC No: F. No. IA-J11014/64/2022-IA-I dtd. 30.09.2016) for Drilling of 20 numbers of wells)	The Company shall carry out long term subsidence study by collecting base line data before initiating drilling operation till the project lasts. The data so collected shall be submitted six monthly to the Ministry and its Regional Office at Bhopal. (Specific condition of Environment Clearance: xvi)	Bagewala Field, Rajasthan	OIL has initiated action for signing of a MoU/contract with National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), ISRO for undertaking a land subsidence study in OIL(RF)'s operational areas in Rajasthan fields.
				b)	Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Trans boundary Movement) Rules, 2016	Complied	No deviation	All applicable Installations	NA

<p>three months.</p>	<p>ensured that action is taken on the audit observations at earliest. Compliance status of observations is monitored at Highest Level of Management. Action taken on the observations is also submitted to the concerned Regulatory/Competent authorities.</p> <p>Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas O.M. No. Expl-12023(11)/1/2021-EXPL-II-PNG dated 03.07.2023</p>		<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="1125 190 1192 358">c)</td> <td data-bbox="1192 190 1392 358">Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemical Rules, 1989</td> <td data-bbox="1392 190 1545 358">Complied</td> <td data-bbox="1545 190 1703 358">No deviation</td> <td data-bbox="1703 190 1856 358">All applicable Installations</td> <td data-bbox="1856 190 1992 358">NA</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1125 358 1192 443">d)</td> <td data-bbox="1192 358 1392 443">Noise Pollution (Regulation & Control) Rules</td> <td data-bbox="1392 358 1545 443">Complied</td> <td data-bbox="1545 358 1703 443">No deviation</td> <td data-bbox="1703 358 1856 443">All applicable Installations</td> <td data-bbox="1856 358 1992 443">NA</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1125 443 1192 527">e)</td> <td data-bbox="1192 443 1392 527">The Batteries (Management & handling) Rules</td> <td data-bbox="1392 443 1545 527">Complied</td> <td data-bbox="1545 443 1703 527">No deviation</td> <td data-bbox="1703 443 1856 527">All applicable Installations</td> <td data-bbox="1856 443 1992 527">NA</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1125 527 1192 612">f)</td> <td data-bbox="1192 527 1392 612">The Solid Waste Management Rules</td> <td data-bbox="1392 527 1545 612">Complied</td> <td data-bbox="1545 527 1703 612">No deviation</td> <td data-bbox="1703 527 1856 612">All applicable Installations</td> <td data-bbox="1856 527 1992 612">NA</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1125 612 1192 724">g)</td> <td data-bbox="1192 612 1392 724">The Plastic Waste Management Rules</td> <td data-bbox="1392 612 1545 724">Complied</td> <td data-bbox="1545 612 1703 724">No deviation</td> <td data-bbox="1703 612 1856 724">All applicable Installations</td> <td data-bbox="1856 612 1992 724">NA</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1125 724 1192 812">h)</td> <td data-bbox="1192 724 1392 812">E-Waste (Management) Rules</td> <td data-bbox="1392 724 1545 812">Complied</td> <td data-bbox="1545 724 1703 812">No deviation</td> <td data-bbox="1703 724 1856 812">All applicable Installations</td> <td data-bbox="1856 724 1992 812">NA</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1125 812 1192 899">i)</td> <td data-bbox="1192 812 1392 899">Permission for Ground Water Withdrawal</td> <td data-bbox="1392 812 1545 899">Complied</td> <td data-bbox="1545 812 1703 899">No deviation</td> <td data-bbox="1703 812 1856 899">All applicable Installations</td> <td data-bbox="1856 812 1992 899">NA</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1125 899 1192 987">k)</td> <td data-bbox="1192 899 1392 987">Coastal Regulatory Zone - 2011/2019</td> <td data-bbox="1392 899 1545 987">Complied</td> <td data-bbox="1545 899 1703 987">No deviation</td> <td data-bbox="1703 899 1856 987">All applicable Installations</td> <td data-bbox="1856 899 1992 987">NA</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1125 987 1192 1092">l)</td> <td data-bbox="1192 987 1392 1092">The Public Liability Insurance Act</td> <td data-bbox="1392 987 1545 1092">Complied</td> <td data-bbox="1545 987 1703 1092">No deviation</td> <td data-bbox="1703 987 1856 1092">All applicable Installations</td> <td data-bbox="1856 987 1992 1092">NA</td> </tr> </table>	c)	Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemical Rules, 1989	Complied	No deviation	All applicable Installations	NA	d)	Noise Pollution (Regulation & Control) Rules	Complied	No deviation	All applicable Installations	NA	e)	The Batteries (Management & handling) Rules	Complied	No deviation	All applicable Installations	NA	f)	The Solid Waste Management Rules	Complied	No deviation	All applicable Installations	NA	g)	The Plastic Waste Management Rules	Complied	No deviation	All applicable Installations	NA	h)	E-Waste (Management) Rules	Complied	No deviation	All applicable Installations	NA	i)	Permission for Ground Water Withdrawal	Complied	No deviation	All applicable Installations	NA	k)	Coastal Regulatory Zone - 2011/2019	Complied	No deviation	All applicable Installations	NA	l)	The Public Liability Insurance Act	Complied	No deviation	All applicable Installations	NA
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<p><u>Recommendation No. 8</u> <u>Need for Single Safety Agency for Petroleum Sector</u> The Committee</p>	<p>A working group has been constituted by Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, comprising of members drawn from the Oil and Gas</p>	<p>The Committee in their original Report had recommended that the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas to undertake serious deliberations and take effective steps towards</p>	<p>The report submitted by the Working Group is under consideration. Comments have been invited from various stakeholders and the same is presently under examination. After the report is accepted, the same will be shared with the Committee.</p>																																																						

<p>note that the Oil and Gas sector is being regulated by many agencies like Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS), Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO), Oil Industry Safety Directorate (OISD), Petroleum & Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB), Directorate General of Shipping (DGS), Fire Departments and Lifts Departments from State Governments, etc., for different activities in the petroleum sector. One of the safety enforcement agencies in the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas is OISD, but it has no statutory</p>	<p>Industry (Upstream, Midstream and Downstream), PNGRB, OISD, Academia, Shipping and Fire Services with the scope to review the whole gamut of safety system and suggest necessary changes for Petroleum Sector in India, identify gaps in extant laws and recommend way forward to establish single safety regulator for petroleum sector. The Working Group is expected to submit its report by August 2023.</p> <p>Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas O.M. No. Expl-12023(11)/1/2021-EXPL-II-PNG dated 03.07.2023</p>	<p>formation of single regulatory body for oil and gas industry.</p> <p>The Ministry in its written reply has stated that it has constituted a Working Group comprising of members drawn from the Oil and Gas Industry (Upstream, Midstream and Downstream), PNGRB, OISD, Academia, Shipping and Fire Services with the scope to review the whole gamut of safety system and suggest necessary changes for Petroleum Sector in India, identify gaps in extant laws and recommend way forward to establish single safety regulator for petroleum sector. The Working Group is expected to submit its report by August 2023.</p> <p>The Committee note that the Ministry has constituted the above Working Group and the Report of the group is expected by August, 2023. The Committee would like to await for submission of the Report and its recommendation/conclusions.</p>	
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<p>powers as it is only a technical directorate, and all its officials are on deputation. Since many agencies are performing focused and limited role in enforcing the rules and regulations under the laws mandated to them, a holistic approach is missing for the sector. Many a time the gaps in legislation is also not noticed as many regulators are busy enforcing their mandate alone.</p> <p>The Committee further note that they had vide their recommendation No. 3, in their Report No. 12 (15th Lok Sabha) and recommendation No. 10, in their Report No. 24 (16th Lok Sabha) and</p>			
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<p>recommendation No. 5 in their Report No. 13 (17th Lok Sabha) recommended for formation of single agency to enforce safety related rules and regulations in the petroleum sector. The Committee also note that the High-Level Committee (HLC) constituted by the Government of India to enquire into the sequence of events leading to stranding of vessels and accident after the Cyclone Tauktae had also concluded that the Government consider setting up a single statutory regulator for exercising effective oversight on safety aspects of all onshore and offshore oil fields. This Committee</p>			
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<p>reiterate their earlier recommendation for a single safety agency for oil and gas sector and expect the Ministry to implement the same for ensuring the safety culture in Oil PSUs and regulating agencies. A weak safety framework is detrimental to not only general public but also to the oil companies. The accidents besides derailing their normal activities, lower confidence of the public and investors. Therefore, formation of a single regulatory authority for the oil and gas sector is a requirement of the time in the interest of the industry. Accordingly, this Committee again</p>			
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<p>recommend to the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas to undertake serious deliberations and take effective steps towards formation of single regulatory body for oil and gas industry.</p>			
<p><u>Recommendation No. 10 Restructuring HSE Management System by Oil PSU's</u> The Committee note that a series of lapses at the planning and execution level caused the Baghjan-5 incident. The Committee further note that the justice Katake Committee had observed that OIL did not have the mandatory consent to establish or</p>	<p>HSE management system of OIL has been reviewed and approved by the respective Head of Fields. The OIL HSE Management System (HSE-MS) is to provide the framework and structure for the delivery of the highest level of HSE Performance in accordance with the best exploration, production, and transportation practice. It is a dynamic system, and the HSE-MS will continually evolve to respond to</p>	<p>The Committee in their original Report had recommended that the Ministry/ DGH and the safety agencies like OISD/ DGMS to review the existing structure and implement a mechanism by which the safety functions are headed by officials from other PSUs to ensure reasonable autonomy to the safety functionaries and help in developing a strong safety culture in the organization. The Ministry in its written reply has stated that HSE management system of OIL has been reviewed and approved by the respective Head of Fields. The Ministry has further stated that OIL is implementing project KAVACH which envisages to</p>	<p>In line with the HLC recommendations, in most PSUs, the Head of HSE directly reports to the Chairman/ Head of the organization, thus ensuring reasonable autonomy and independence. With respect to restructuring HSE Management System at Oil PSUs, feedbacks were taken from the public sector oil companies to implement a mechanism by which the safety functions of one organization are headed by officials from other PSUs. Based on the feedback from the Oil PSUs, this may not yield the desired result, as submitted below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The procedures and work culture varies from one oil PSU to another. Safety is a critical function and hence the understanding of the procedure and work culture of the company by Head of Corporate Safety is of utmost importance. • The HSE officials in an upstream organization are manned and headed at various levels by personnel who have considerable exploration and production experience. This criteria facilitates better understanding of various functions and measures required for strengthening of the operational safety. There is no other upstream PSU except ONGC having offshore experience. • Organizational culture, administrative functioning, association with fellow colleagues and field personnel are

<p>operate under various environmental laws on the day of Blow out incident at of Baghjan-5 i.e. 9" June, 2020. These lapses and disregard of environmental laws have led this Committee to conclude that the monitoring from higher level functionaries of OIL was weak. The Committee desire OIL to introduce an IT-enabled system to Drilling, Workover and Production operations to ensure availability of real-time information on critical Well operations to key personnel and senior management for strengthening of Oil Well Services. Accordingly, the Committee</p>	<p>changing needs and emerging operational requirements as the Mines/ Departments is going through a period of transition.</p> <p>Amongst the various documents in the HSE management system, the HSE-MS manual is the most important and essential document. The specific purpose of the Manual is to document the core elements of the HSE management system, their relationship and interaction.</p> <p>The OIL HSE Management System is integrated into the overall management system. HSE Management System cuts across the functional boundaries of different departments and installations/facilities and is managed in an integrated and coordinated way.</p>	<p>further reinforce transformational standardization of HSE Organization and Management System through Establishment of Integrated HSE Organization, conducting perception survey and gap analysis. The Ministry has also stated that High Level Committee in Baghjan Accident, had advised for strengthening of HSE functioning by recommending for direct reporting of Chief HSE to CMD and in compliance to the recommendation, ONGC has changed the reporting structure of Chief HSE, from Director-l/c to Chairman & CEO.</p> <p>The Committee note that the original recommendation of the Committee regarding increasing the frequency of meetings of HSE Sub-Committee of OIL and heading of safety functions in Oil PSUs by officials from other PSUs have not been addressed by the Ministry. The Committee reiterate their earlier recommendation to increase the frequency of meetings of HSE Sub-</p>	<p>some important aspects of safety management system in a company. All these aspects require sensitivity through understanding of the functioning of organization and it may take considerable time and effort for a personnel from other organization to align with the same.</p> <p>The existing Safety structure of OIL is given below:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1129 394 1980 1393"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3">Safety Structure of OIL</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S.N</th> <th>Level/ Area</th> <th>Function</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1.</td> <td>Board Level</td> <td>HSE Committee of Board</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2.</td> <td>OIL Management</td> <td>Director (Operations) is the overall in-charge of HSE of OIL</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3.</td> <td>Corporate Level</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety at Corporate level is headed by Chief General Manager (HSE) who directly reports to Director (Operations). </td> </tr> <tr> <td>4.</td> <td>Field Head Quarters, Duliajan</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety at Field level is headed by ED (HSE), who reports to Resident Chief Executive (Head of Fields), who in turn reports to Director (Operations) Mines Safety Officers report to Mines Manager who reports to Asset manager, who in turn reports to Resident Chief Executive </td> </tr> <tr> <td>5.</td> <td>Pipeline Services (PLS)</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety at Pipeline Services is headed by Chief General Manager (S&E) who reports to ED(PLS) (Head of Pipelines), who in turn reports to Director (Operations) </td> </tr> <tr> <td>6.</td> <td>Rajasthan Fields (RF)</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety at Rajasthan Fields is headed by DGM (ES & HSE) who reports to ED(RF) (Head of RF), who in turn reports to Director (Operations) Mines Safety Officers report to Mines Manager who in turn reports to ED(RF) </td> </tr> <tr> <td>7.</td> <td>Krishna Godavari Basin & Mahanadi Basin project (KGB & MBP)</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety at Krishna Godavari Basin & Mahanadi Basin project is headed by DGM (HSE) who reports to ED(KGB & MBP) (Head of KGB & MBP) who in turn reports to Director (Exploration & </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Safety Structure of OIL			S.N	Level/ Area	Function	1.	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<p>recommend OIL to increase the frequency of meetings of Health Safety Environment (HSE) sub Committee and also strengthen its HSE management system in the light of lessons drawn from Baghjan-5 incident and other incidents in the upstream sector. The Committee further feel that the current safety structure may need review as the HSE Officials in PSU organizations report to their top management and hence could be under pressure to allow violations/ be indifferent to complete the work on time. Therefore, the Committee recommend that the Ministry/DGH</p>	<p>Project KAVACH envisages to further reinforce transformational standardization of HSE Organization and Management System through Establishment of Integrated HSE Organization, conducting perception survey and gap analysis.</p> <p>High Level Committee in Baghjan Accident, had advised for strengthening of HSE functioning by recommending for direct reporting of Chief HSE to CMD. In compliance to the recommendation, ONGC has changed the reporting structure of Chief HSE, from Director-I/c to Chairman & CEO.</p> <p>Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas O.M. No. Expl-12023(11)/1/2021-EXPL-II-PNG, dated</p>	<p>Committee of Oil PSUs. The action taken reply of the Ministry is also silent about review of safety function and hierarchy and manning by officials from other PSUs at senior level. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation to Ministry/ DGH/ DGMS to review the existing safety structures in Oil PSUs and implement a mechanism by which the safety functions are headed by officials from other PSUs to ensure reasonable autonomy to the safety functionaries and develop a strong safety culture in the organization.</p>	<p>Development)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mines Safety Officers report to Mines Manager who in turn reports to ED(KGB & MBP) 																																
<p>HSE matters are monitored both at Corporate Level and Field level. At installation level, officials are posted as per Oil Mines Regulation (OMR) 2017 to ensure the compliance. Activities at all drilling, work over and production installations begin with toolbox meeting in every shift/day. Next level of monitoring is carried out at Pit level under the stewardship of Installation Manager (IM)/respective engineers. After the Pit level, respective Mines Managers deliberate and examine HSE issues of their respective mines before monitoring at departmental level by Head of departments (HoD). Post departmental level, there is monitoring at Field level which is chaired by the Resident Chief Executive for operations at OIL's field headquarters at Duliagan, Assam and for other spheres & projects, the respective Sphere Heads and Project Heads chairs the meeting. At the highest level, there are two committees that review and take stock of HSE matters of the company, viz. the Apex level HSE committee comprising of Directors and Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) and the HSE committee comprising of Functional Directors and Independent Directors. The structure and frequency of safety meetings held at OIL for systematic HSE monitoring is as under:</p>																																			
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<p>and the safety agencies like OISD/DGMS to review the existing structure and implement a mechanism by which the safety functions are headed by officials from other PSUs to ensure reasonable autonomy to the safety functionaries and help in developing a strong safety culture in the organization.</p>	<p>03.07.2023</p>		<p>8</p>	<p>HSE Committee</p>	<p>Board Level</p>	<p>As per Agenda (but not more than a gap of 6 months)</p>
<p>In addition to the periodic departmental safety meetings the recognized trade union is also actively involved in various Safety matters. Increasing the frequency of meetings of HSE Sub-Committee of OIL:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequency of Apex level safety meeting chaired by CMD has been increased from one per annum to two since 2022. <p>HSE Sub – Committee Meeting of OIL is presently held as per agenda, but not more than a gap of 6 months. However, it is now intended to hold minimum 3 (three) in one year.</p>						
<p><u>Recommendation No. 11</u> <u>Strengthening of Infrastructure near Oil Installations</u> The Committee note that there are many oil and gas Installations in the North East and several new projects are being undertaken. The Committee observe that North</p>	<p>OIL's Crisis Management Team (CMT) has been strengthened with fire-fighting appliances & equipment which will ensure availability of fire-fighting resources & PPEs like SCBA sets & proximity suits on the central level which will be deployed in the shortest possible time during any major fire or</p>	<p>The Committee in their earlier original Report had recommended that the Ministry should do comprehensive area survey of the North-Eastern Region and map all the oil and gas fields/installations /units etc. and also the nearest road/rail/ airport infrastructure available for handling disaster management equipment/machineries required in case of emergency and take</p>	<p>Improvement in infrastructure is a continuous process. All E&P companies working in North-Eastern Region have Contingency Plans and Disaster management Plan (DMP) based on relevant and realistic emergency scenarios. These Contingency Plans and Disaster management Plan (DMP) are updated as per latest emergency scenarios and situations.</p> <p>Guwahati Airport is equipped to receive Code-C and D aircraft (A 320 and B737/757). The runway is capable of receiving Code E aircraft with prior intimation of 24 hours. The runway of Dibrugarh Airport has been extended by 461 m from 1829 m to 2290 m for A321 type of aircraft operations.</p> <p>As per Ministry of Development of North-East Region's PIB Release dated 31 JUL 2023, "A total of 19 railway infrastructure</p>			

<p>East region including Assam and Tripura has got oil and gas fields, refinery in Assam, LPG bottling plants and city gas distribution pipelines. Indradhanush Gas Grid Ltd. (IGGL) is also laying pipelines under North-Eastern Natural Gas Grid project to connect major cities across North-Eastern Region with a gas grid to provide sufficient supply of natural gas. In this scenario, it is essential that along with energy infrastructure the associated safety, security and environment related response system should also be augmented and kept in readiness to meet any</p>	<p>blowout emergencies. Field Communication Department is developing a system for Quick deployment of communication facilities to the site of crisis/disaster and manage the requirement of the situation in case of any emergency. Every service department is expanding its capability to improve the infrastructure to meet the emergency needs. An Emergency Response Centre (ERC) is being set up under the aegis of OIL / NRL at a central location (Jorhat town), so as to respond to emergencies at all nearby oil producing installations / Refineries. Improvement in infrastructure is continuous process. Guwahati Airport is equipped to receive</p>	<p>coordinated action in association with the Ministries concerned to strengthen the aviation/rail and road infrastructure in the region. The Ministry in its written reply has stated that Improvement in infrastructure is a continuous process. Guwahati Airport is equipped to receive Code-C and D aircraft (A 320 and B737/757). The runway is capable of receiving Code E aircraft with prior intimation of 24 hours. The runway of Dibrugarh Airport has been extended by 461 m from 1829 m to 2290 m for A321 type of aircraft operations. The Committee note that the reply of the Ministry talks about aviation infrastructure alone and is silent on needed improvement in road/rail infrastructure and action taken thereon. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation that the Ministry should do comprehensive area survey of the North-Eastern Region and map all the oil and gas fields/installations /units etc. and also the nearest road/</p>	<p>projects, falling fully / partly in North Eastern States, covering a total length of 1909 km at a cost of Rs.81,941 crore have been undertaken and are at different stages of planning/approval/execution. Out of these, 482 km length has been commissioned and an expenditure of Rs.37,713 crore has been incurred upto March, 2023.</p> <p>A total of 261 road projects under different Schemes of M/o Road Transport and Highways with a total sanctioned cost of Rs.1,02,594 crore are under implementation through National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. (NHIDCL) and State Public Works Departments (PWDs) in the North Eastern States. Moreover, under North Eastern Council (NEC), 51 projects worth Rs.4345.16 crore under Schemes of NEC has been sanctioned in connection with improving rail, air and road connectivity in the North Eastern Region.</p> <p>In addition, the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, under the erstwhile North East Road Sector Development Scheme (NERSDS) and the present North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS) has sanctioned a total of 77 road projects amounting to Rs.3372.58 crore.”</p>
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<p>emergency. The Committee observe that during the blow out incident in 2020 in Baghjan, the snubbing units from Canada could not be landed at Guwahati Airport and had to be unloaded at Kolkata Airport which had the required infrastructure and then moved by road which caused avoidable delay. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should do comprehensive area survey of the North-Eastern Region and map all the oil and gas fields/installations /units etc. and also the nearest road/ rail/ airport infrastructure available for handling disaster</p>	<p>Code-C and D aircraft (A 320 and B737/757). The runway is capable of receiving Code E aircraft with prior intimation of 24 hours. The runway of Dibrugarh Airport has been extended by 461 m from 1829 m to 2290 m for A321 type of aircraft operations.</p> <p>Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas O.M. No. Expl-12023(11)/1/2021-EXPL-II-PNG, dated 03.07.2023</p>	<p>rail/ airport infrastructure available for handling disaster management equipment/machineries required in case of emergency and take coordinated action in association with the Ministries concerned to strengthen the aviation/rail and road infrastructure in the region.</p>	
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<p><u>Recommendation No. 13 Training for Local Communities</u> The Committee note that the local communities near to the oil and gas fields/units/installations play an important role in the safe and secure functioning of these installations. These are the people who are likely to be affected due to the unforeseen incident/accidents</p>	<p>As far as OIL is concerned, Safety awareness programs/campaigns are being conducted for local communities living in the vicinity of oil and gas installations and along the Right of Way (ROW) of pipeline through distribution of safety pamphlets, meetings and screening safety films etc.</p> <p>As part of Tier-III mock drills carried out with Mutual Aid Partners like District</p>	<p>The Committee in their original Report had recommended to equip local communities with basic facilities like fire fighters and fire tenders which can be useful for both the communities and nearby towns as well in meeting the emergency requirements of the organization. The Reply of the Ministry gives details about training programs and emergency drills conducted for local communities but is silent on the facilities made available to local communities.</p> <p>The Committee, therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation to equip</p>	<p>Firefighting in petroleum installation is specialized activity and performed by specially trained personnel considering the nature of product which is highly inflammable and the specialized equipment used for firefighting. Significant actions taken by Oil India Limited in this respect are listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire Stations and Satellite Fire Stations: OIL currently operates three dedicated fire stations, namely the Central Fire Station, Duliajan, Moran, and Kumchai, strategically located in field areas in Assam & Arunachal Pradesh. Moreover, OIL has established satellite fire stations (2Nos.) to reduce the response time to mitigate any fire emergency. These stations are not only oriented towards meeting company's requirements but, are also established to serve the local communities in & around of OIL's operational areas over and above the large size fire tenders, OIL has also some firefighting motor-bikes which can move up to the remote terrains to serve the local community. This enables OIL to promptly respond to any fire emergency and extend timely assistance to the local communities • Response during Local Fire Calls: OIL Fire Service is

<p>that may happen in these units. So it is very important that local communities and population are made aware of the possible safety related incidents and also the response required in those situations. The Committee also observe that the local communities also step in to help the organizations to respond to the situation and support the operations. In this regard, the Committee desire that a proper structured and formal training module particularly in fire-fighting as well as rescue, first-aid and other such basic safety requirements to the local population could</p>	<p>Administration, National Disaster Response Force, CISF, Neighboring industries etc., OIL sensitizes the local communities on action to be taken during disaster. Pamphlets on Do's & Don'ts during emergency drills in vernacular language is also distributed among the locals.</p> <p>OIL also maintains a well-equipped firefighting facility at Duliajan and Moran, which apart from its internal emergencies, also comes to the aid of nearby communities as part of its community assistance program. Moreover, basic fire-fighting training is imparted to local communities from time to time.</p> <p>ONGC keeps adequate firefighting infrastructure,</p>	<p>local communities with basic facilities like fire fighters, fire tenders etc. which could be useful in emergency situations and act as first line of defence and apprise them of contemplated action in this regard.</p>	<p>committed to attend & mitigate promptly all fire calls including fire calls from local communities. In the current fiscal year, FY 2023-24, OIL responded to 29 fire calls (till 21.08.2023) related to public fire incidents by extending facilities like fire tenders, skilled firefighters, and other resources to aid local communities in effectively controlling & managing these fire emergencies. During the last fiscal year, FY 2022-23, 68 fire calls from local communities were attended and mitigated by OIL Fire Service successfully.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration with State Fire Brigades: While State Fire Brigades also operate for local communities in & around of OIL's operational areas, we have fostered a strong collaborative relationship with the State Fire Brigades. OIL Fire Service & State Fire Brigades conduct joint operations to mitigate all public fire emergencies on regular basis to ensuring comprehensive and coordinated response to such critical situations. <p>Community Training & Awareness Initiatives: OIL Fire Service places significant emphasis on proactive fire safety measures within local communities. OIL organizes range of training, demonstrations & awareness programs in schools, colleges in and around OIL's operational areas. These programs are specifically designed to educate and empower residents with the knowledge & skills needed to handle any fire-related incidents effectively. These initiatives not only enhance community safety but also foster a culture of preparedness</p>
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<p>be of immense value and help whenever such emergencies arise. Therefore, the Committee recommend that the Ministry should persuade all the PSUs to educate and train the local communities in basic safety training requirements and also equip them with basic facilities like fire fighters and fire tenders which can be useful for both the communities and nearby towns as well in meeting the emergency requirements of the organization.</p>	<p>equipment and manpower in its operational areas. Assistance is provided to local administration, local population and other industries whenever required in control and mitigating of fire emergencies. Awareness and training programs are being conducted for local communities, schools and colleges. These programs include basic fire safety awareness, practical demonstration of firefighting equipment, first aid trainings, emergency drills, etc.</p> <p>Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas O.M. No. Expl-12023(11)/1/2021-EXPL-II-PNG dated 03.07.2023</p>		
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M/o Petroleum & Natural Gas

O.M. No. Expl-12023(11)/1/2021-EXPL-II-PNG

dated 01.12.2023

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH FINAL REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT ARE STILL AWAITED

Recommendation of the Committee (To be reproduced from original report i.e. 19 th report)	Reply of the Government (To be reproduced from Action Taken Report i.e. 22 nd report)	Final reply of the Government
<p><u>Recommendation No. 8</u></p> <p><u>Need for Single Safety Agency for Petroleum Sector</u></p> <p>The Committee note that the Oil and Gas sector is being regulated by many agencies like Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS), Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO), Oil Industry Safety Directorate (OISD), Petroleum & Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB), Directorate General of Shipping (DGS), Fire Departments and Lifts Departments from State Governments, etc., for different activities in the petroleum sector. One of the safety enforcement agencies in the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas is OISD, but it has no statutory powers as it is only a technical directorate, and all its officials are on deputation. Since many agencies are performing focused and limited role in enforcing the rules and regulations under the laws mandated to them, a holistic approach is missing for the sector. Many a time the gaps in legislation is also not noticed as many regulators are busy enforcing their mandate alone.</p>	<p>A working group has been constituted by Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, comprising of members drawn from the Oil and Gas Industry (Upstream, Midstream and Downstream), PNGRB, OISD, Academia, Shipping and Fire Services with the scope to review the whole gamut of safety system and suggest necessary changes for Petroleum Sector in India, identify gaps in extant laws and recommend way forward to establish single safety regulator for petroleum sector. The Working Group is expected to submit its report by August 2023.</p> <p>Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas O.M. No. Expl-12023(11)/1/2021-EXPL-II-PNG, dated 03.07.2023</p>	<p>The report submitted by the Working Group is under consideration. Comments have been invited from various stakeholders and the same is presently under examination. After the report is accepted, the same will be shared with the Committee.</p>

The Committee further note that they had vide their recommendation No. 3, in their Report No. 12 (15th Lok Sabha) and recommendation No. 10, in their Report No. 24 (16th Lok Sabha) and recommendation No. 5 in their Report No. 13 (17th Lok Sabha) recommended for formation of single agency to enforce safety related rules and regulations in the petroleum sector. The Committee also note that the High-Level Committee (HLC) constituted by the Government of India to enquire into the sequence of events leading to stranding of vessels and accident after the Cyclone Tauktae had also concluded that the Government consider setting up a single statutory regulator for exercising effective oversight on safety aspects of all onshore and offshore oil fields.

This Committee reiterate their earlier recommendation for a single safety agency for oil and gas sector and expect the Ministry to implement the same for ensuring the safety culture in Oil PSUs and regulating agencies. A weak safety framework is detrimental to not only general public but also to the oil companies. The accidents besides derailing their normal activities, lower confidence of the public and investors. Therefore, formation of a single regulatory authority for the oil and gas sector is a requirement of the time in the interest of the industry. Accordingly, this Committee

again recommend to the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas to undertake serious deliberations and take effective steps towards formation of single regulatory body for oil and gas industry.		
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M/o Petroleum & Natural Gas

O.M. No. EXPL-12031/1/2022-EXPL-II-PNG

dated 01.12.2023
