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**12.04 hrs**

Title: Report of High-Level Committee that enquired into the accident at the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) construction site on 12.7.09

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): Madam, as I have already apprised the House on 13th July, 2009, a launching girder along with a portion of Metro viaduct collapsed at Zamrudpur near East of Kailash in South Delhi at about 5.00 A.M. on 12th July 2009. A high level four member Inquiry Committee was constituted by the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) to investigate the incident. Subsequently, the Chief Engineer (Design) of DMRC was withdrawn from the Committee on 21st July 2009 and the remaining Experts have now submitted the Report.

The main findings of the Committee regarding the causes of the accident are:-

- (i) Serious deficiency in the design of the cantilever arm; and
- (ii) The concrete not having adequate strength probably due to lack of adequate curing of the concrete.

The DMRC has decided to take the following action:-

1. The Design Consultants, M/s Arch Consultancy Services to be blacklisted for five years. The structural consultant M/s Tondon consultants, who did not give the correct advice to DMRC, is being debarred for two years.
2. Shri V.P. Srivastava and Shri Mukesh Thakur, the two Deputy Chief Engineers directly responsible for the designs and site supervision, have been placed under suspension.
3. Shri Rajan Kataria, the Chief Engineer (Design), DMRC, to be issued with a major penalty charge sheet.
4. Shri C. Mallonga, the expatriate Consultant of General Consultants, who had direct responsibility for ensuring quality of works, to be immediately de-mobilised and replaced.
5. The Contractor M/s Gammon India to be issued a show-cause notice for blacklisting for two years.
6. Shri Vijay Anand, the Director of DMRC in whose jurisdiction this accident took place as well the previous accident involving a launching girder collapse, has been repatriated to the Railways.
7. The DMRC has started a special drive to check all the cantilever piers so far constructed and their designs are now being rechecked by M/s Shirish Patel and Associates, a well known Design Consultant. Based on their advice, necessary action will be taken to ensure that all the cantilever piers are safe.
8. The DMRC has also decided to get all the designs checked in future by the General Consultants or by an outside Consultancy. The Design Wing of DMRC is also being substantially strengthened.
9. The General Consultants are also being strengthened to ensure safety and quality of construction.
10. The DMRC has also initiated steps to revitalize the Tool Box Safety Drill to all the workers before commencement of the shift. DMRC has also started a crash course for three days in safety rules and regulations for every worker involved at the construction site. The entire work force will be covered within a period of 15 days.

(Placed in Library, see No. LT 552/15/09)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA(GHATAL): Madam Speaker, please give me one minute.

MADAM SPEAKER: Yes.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Madam, this matter was raised by me. I have scrupulously listened to the statement of the hon. Minister. There have been many more incidents after this incident. Even today there is news that in a number of pillars cracks have appeared. There have been accidents leading to death after this incident. It is a continuous process going on. Therefore, I suggest

that there be a discussion on this statement at an appropriate date fixed by you, because it involves human lives in thousands and lakhs.

MADAM SPEAKER: The hon. Member may give a notice.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: I have no difficulty in answering brief queries right now or at a later date, but I request my good friend, Shri Gurudas Dasgupta not to succumb to the temptation of sensationalizing everything.