



CENTRAL WORKING COMMITTEE

ASTO CWC NEWSLETTER-14

4th July 2022

Arise Awake Stop Not Till the Goal Is Achieved

Dear Friends,

On 28th June 2022 at around 1156 hrs we got the news of a helicopter operated by Pawan Hans (VT-PWI), for ONGC, made an emergency landing on water around 1 NM from Drilling Rig Sagar Kiran. This fateful chopper was on regular crew change sortie and was carrying six Ongcians, one catering staff and two Pilots. This is another tragic incident of chopper crash in ONGC's history which resulted in our colleagues Late Mukesh Kumar Patel, CPF No. 80715, EE (Elect), Age-55 years, Late Vijay Mandloi CPF No. 125310, EE(Mech), Age-32 years, Late Satyambad Patra CPF No. 137285, Geologist, Age-27 years and Late Sanju Francis Support Staff working with M/s Saraf, Age - 38 years laying down their lives in line of duty for ONGC in particular and country in general. By the grace of God five passengers were safe and were rescued in a well-managed and in time activated SAR operations jointly by ONGC, Navy and ICG.

In this hour of crisis let us all get together and pray for peace to these noble souls and for their families to overcome this irreparable loss. We shall all have to together support the families of our martyred colleagues as we have been doing from time to time. We are confident that all of you shall ensure the support to their families.

On the spontaneous call of offshore going employees, ASTO Mumbai and Unions took a strong stand on 29th June 2022 resulting in a meeting with CMD, Director (T&FS), Director (Onshore) and Director (Offshore), where such frequent occurrences of chopper incidents were discussed for further necessary action. In addition to compensation etc. it was agreed that Pawan Hans choppers shall not operate till they are audited by DGCA and external air logistics auditing agencies in addition to various other aspects related to working in field operations and the extreme hazards faced in these operations.

However, the moot point remains, whether we give Top Most Priority to SAFETY or not. The past says we do not despite various initiatives taken by ONGC. Therefore, it is imperative that we ensure that we all give SAFETY in our operations top most priority. ONGC shall be ensuring a mechanism to carry our Risk Assessment and Control as per the protocol. Further, keeping the above in view, ASTO suggests following actions that need to be taken by all employees to ensure their own safety:

1. Ensure that the detailed safety briefing is held before we board the chopper and the Life Saving Appliances (LSA) are checked, are available and functional as per the given guidelines. In case they are not kindly ask the concerned person to provide the same and ensure the same before boarding the choppers.
2. It is important that we all are provided the requisite trainings like HUET & SAS before we are deployed for offshore duty. Please ensure that we get proper physical HUET & SAS training before we are deployed for offshore duty. In case the same is not provided, kindly decline the duty till the same is provided. This is as per applicable Law(s) and Statute(s).



ASSOCIATION OF SCIENTIFIC & TECHNICAL OFFICERS

Registered with the Registrar of Societies Uttarakhand Govt., Registration No. 172 (1967-68)

OIL AND NATURAL GAS CORPORATION LTD.

Room No. 2016, 2nd Floor, Tower-A, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070

Telefax : 011-26129070 Email : amitkumar@ongc.co.in



CENTRAL WORKING COMMITTEE

3. It is important that we point out unsafe conditions and actions whenever we observe the same and bring it to the notice of the concerned In-charges for corrective action. Please resume operations only after the corrective actions are in place.
4. The following Regulation of Occupational & Safety Code 2020 as passed by Parliament empowers the employee as follows:

Quote

Reg 14. (1) Every employee in an establishment shall have the right to obtain from the employer information relating to employee's health and safety at work and represent to the employer directly or through a member of the Safety Committee as constituted under section 22, if constituted by the employer for such purpose, regarding inadequate provision for protection of his safety or health in connection with the work activity in the workplace, and if not satisfied, to the Inspector-cum-Facilitator.

Unquote

Friends, in last seven years the trend of accidents available on HSE app, seems to suggest that the trend of fatal accidents is not coming down and we need to ensure implementation of initiatives that have been launched. Unfortunately, our memory is very short and we quickly go back to our old ways thereby always being in reactive mode.

Therefore, it is time to take a strict stand, demand safety in our operations, strictly adhere to the SOPs and ensure that we move from a Reactive Safety Culture to Proactive Safety Culture.

Long Live ASTO Unity

Sanjay Varshney
General Secretary-CWC

Amit Kumar
President-CWC