



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

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AMIT KUMAR
PRESIDENT-CWC
9868282105

No. ASTO/CWC/HSE/2018-20

5th September 2019

To,
Chairman and Managing Director
ONGC,
5th Floor, Deendayal Urja Bhawan
New Delhi - 110070

Sub: Fatal Accident at Uran Plant and issues related to HSE

Sir,

On 3rd September 2019 at around 0715 hours we got the news of a massive fire incident at our Uran Plant. The fire could be brought under complete control by 1000 hours. In this fire incident one of our colleague Shri C N Rao General Manager (Production), RPS helped avert a major disaster but ended up with paying his life. Along with him three CISF personnel, Shri E Nayaka, Shri S P Kushwaha and Shri M K Paswan also laid their life in this tragic incident. All of them took the risk of their life to save the lives of others and the plant.

All the employees salute the supreme sacrifice of our colleague and CISF personnel. Late Sh. C N Rao was highly competent and dedicated officer who always led from the front. His loss is an irreparable loss not only to his family but to ONGC also. No amount of physical solace to the families can fill the permanent void created due to this tragic incident.

Sir, ONGC shall be getting the incident thoroughly investigated as it is a cause of concern that a large amount of gas could get accumulated in the operational area. There could be other contributing factors to this incident which need to be analyzed.

Such incidents are occurring on frequent intervals across work centers in the recent past;

1. January 13, 2018 – Accident of SA 365 N3 Helicopter VT-PWA, operated by M/s Pawan Hans on way to Mumbai High where we lost 5 ONGC officers and 2 Pawan Hans pilots.

We are given to understand that the final investigation report on this accident has been submitted by Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau.

2. March 13, 2019 – Fire incident at Workover Rig Aakash-IV deployed on well site of Ahmedabad Asset in which six contract workers also succumbed to their burn injuries.
3. September 3, 2019 – Fire Incident at Uran plant resulting in fatalities of one ONGC officer and three CISF personnel.

In between there have been incidents which have single fatalities.



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CENTRAL WORKING COMMITTEE

Sir, since the start of this ASTO's tenure on 22nd June 2018, HSE is one area we have been continuously giving inputs and also voicing the concern of all Ongcians through our resolutions. Through our newsletters we have been continuously sensitizing all our employees and requesting them to strictly adhere to SOPs, ensure adherence to safe operations and bring out unsafe conditions at our workplace for necessary corrective actions:

1. June 26, 2018 - CEC Resolution on according top priority to HSE Issues related to Chopper, working and living conditions at Offshore/onshore operational areas and PPE vide our letter dated 26th June 2018.
2. July 3, 2018 – Held a meeting with Key Executives at Western Offshore, Mumbai specifically for Air Logistics safety and night landing facility.
3. July 26, 2018 - We again requested management for discussion on CEC resolutions and HSE issues.
4. September 19, 2018 – In light of the accident at Drilling Rig in Assam, ASTO issued Newsletter-2 for ensuring safety in operations and bring out unsafe conditions in operations for immediate rectification.
5. December 26, 2018 – ASTO submitted its report on HSE along with recommendations to enhance safety in our operations.
6. January 4, 2019 – Letter on inferior quality safety shoes which had led to incidents in offshore.
7. February 5, 2019 – 1st Bilateral Meeting – raised the issues related to HSE, requested a joint working group to prepare way forward on ASTO's HSE report.
8. February 14, 2019 – ASTO issued an Appeal to all colleagues – Strive to Ensure Safe Operations.
9. May 3, 2019 – Letter forwarding resolution of 2nd CEC meeting on HSE issues, again requesting for a discussion on HSE report of ASTO to finalize actionable points to enhance safety in our operations.
10. May 6, 2019 – Issued an appeal vide Newsletter-7 for ensuring safety in operations and bring out unsafe conditions in operations for immediate rectification.
11. May 28, 2019 – Letter requesting for meeting to prepare way forward on suggestions given by ASTO.



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12. July 15, 2019 – ASTO made a presentation on its HSE report to Director (Expl), Director (On), Director (Finance) and Director (HR).

Despite all the efforts, there has not been any movement on HSE issues raised by us. In fact during this period there has been no response from management and our efforts seems to have remained only one way communication. This only leads us to believe that our reports and suggestions are either not implementable or not worth discussion. However, we would like to bring out one of the recommendation which, if had been acted upon, may be this incident could have been avoided i.e. recommendation no. 3.4 on page 7 of ASTO's HSE report.

We would be failing in our duty if we do not share the overall mood of our officers working in field. Sir, the overall mood is one of despondency and demoralization due to regularly occurring accidents. There seems to be disconnect and fear in the mind of employees due to these accidents which may have a cobra effect on our productivity. It seems that employees are not in sync with policies that are being implemented.

Sir, we therefore again request you to advice all concerned to take necessary action to avoid recurrence of such incidents where cost of systemic lapses are paid by our most invaluable asset i.e. human life. We are looking forward to some visible positive changes under your dynamic leadership.

With warm regards

(Amit Kumar)
President CWC

Copy to:

1. Dir(Fin)/Dir(Off)/Dir(On)/Dir(HR)/Dir(T&FS)/Dir(Expl)
2. GGM-Chief ER, Delhi
3. All ASTO Units