

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 324**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.02.2011

**DEATHS OF SCIENTISTS IN BARC**

324. SHRI INDER SINGH NAMDHARI:  
SHRI ANTO ANTONY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any information regarding the number of the unnatural deaths of the scientists in the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) and Kaiga Atomic Power Station (KAPS);
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has distributed compensation to the relatives of the deceased scientists in BARC and KAPS;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (e) whether the Government has conducted any inquiry into these unnatural deaths and other casualties in the nuclear installations in the country;
- (f) if so, the findings of the said study; and
- (g) the steps taken by the Government to prevent casualties and ensure safety in nuclear installations in the country?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES &  
PENSIONS AND PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY)

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- (a) Yes, sir.
- (b) During the last three years number of unnatural deaths of scientists in BARC is as under:
  - 1) 2008 - 1 case of accident
  - 2) 2009 - 2 Research Fellows in a fire accident
  - 3) 2010 - 2 case of suicide and 1 is under Police investigation

There were four instances of unnatural deaths of scientists at Kaiga  
Generating Station (KGS) during last five years is as under:

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- 1) 2005 – 1 case of Industrial accident at the site.
- 2) 2008 – 1 case of Road accident outside the site boundary
- 3) 2009 – 2 cases - dead bodies of the employees were found in the township and in the Kali river. The state Police are investigating these two cases.

None of these unnatural deaths is connected to radiation exposure.

- (c) Yes, sir.
- (d) The terminal benefits admissible to the family members of the above BARC officials have been distributed as per the status given in the annexure. The Kaiga Generating Station has paid the compensation under Workmen's Compensation Act to the next of kin of the employee who died in the industrial accident at the site, in addition to settlement of final dues. In respect of the other two cases, ex-gratia / final dues have been paid to next of kin. The payment of ex-gratia and final dues is awaiting final orders of the court identifying the legal heir in the remaining one case.
- (e) Yes, sir.
- (f) In BARC, Police have registered criminal cases and conducted investigation into the cases of road accident and suicides. It has not been reported that the suicides are in any way attributable to the working conditions or connected with their official activities. An industrial accident enquiry by the industrial safety organization has been concluded at Kaiga Generating Station. The other three cases where FIRs were lodged, enquiry by Police is in progress. Further, the final report of the Police investigation findings has not been received in respect of the two cases where dead bodies were discovered in Kali river and in the township.
- (g) BARC has taken concrete steps in enhancing fire and road safety. Recommendation of AERB on strengthening industrial safety in KGS have been implemented.

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**Annexure****The terminal benefits paid to the family members of the deceased scientists**

Sl.No.	Name of the deceased scientists	Amount Paid to relatives	
1	A.G. Poddar, SO/C, WMD, BARC on 27.3.2008 – Road Accident	Final settlement of dues - ₹1,81,575/- Group Insurance - ₹1,57,764/- Death Gratuity - ₹5,86,210/- Family Pension paid to his wife. - as per rules.	
2	i) Uman Sing, Sr. Research Fellow, BARC, Trombay - In 2009 Fire Accident.	One time compensation - to the parents.	₹10,00,000/-
	ii) Partha Pratim Bag, Jr. Research Fellow, BARC, Trombay - In 2009 Fire Accident	One time compensation - to the parents.	₹10,00,000/-
3	M.P. Iyer, SO/F, RRDPD on 23.2.2010 – under Police investigation.	Death Gratuity - ₹9,20,000/- Family Pension to his mother - as per rules.	
4	Titas Pal, SO/C, RCD, BARC - on 3.03.2010 - Suicide	Settlement of dues is pending as the nominees have not submitted the claim forms, in spite of reminders.	-
5	Soumik Chowdhury, SO/C, Computer Division, BARC – 1.11.2010 - Suicide	Settlement of dues is pending as the nominee has not submitted the claim forms, in spite of reminders.	-