

**BRIEF RECORD OF THE 13<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE CENTRAL CRISIS GROUP HELD  
ON 12<sup>th</sup> JULY 2011, NEW DELHI**

The 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Central Crisis Group (CCG) was held on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2011 in Room No.403, Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi. The meeting was held under chairmanship of Dr.T.Chatterjee, Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests. The list of participants is Annexed.

2. The Chairman welcomed the members and the participants and noted the last meeting of the CCG was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 2010 to review the chlorine gas leak at Haji Bunder, Mumbai Port Trust. The Chairman highlighted the need to inventorize the hazardous material/waste lying at the ports. He expressed the need for having a dedicated institution to undertake the task of inventorization of hazardous materials lying at the ports and suggested to utilize the expertise of Disaster Management Institute (DMI), Bhopal, Environment Protection, Training and Research Institute (EPTRI), Hyderabad for developing the inventory of hazardous materials lying in the Ports. It was decided that M/o. Environment and Forests will explore the possibility of utilizing the expertise of Disaster Management Institute (DMI), Bhopal for developing the inventory of hazardous materials lying in the Ports in consultation with Ministry of Shipping. The Chairman suggested that the operators of Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facilities (TSDFs) can be asked to contact the port authorities for the safe disposal of hazardous materials lying at all the ports.

3. The Chairman appreciated the suggestion made by MoEF in 12<sup>th</sup> CCG meeting for imposing a refundable levy/fee on importers of hazardous material which can be forfeited if the importer fails to take the material within the stipulated time-frame and the levy/fee can then be used for its safe transportation/final disposal of the hazardous waste material. It was suggested that MoEF will send a communication to Secretary (Revenue) to explore the possibility of imposing a refundable levy/fee on importers of hazardous material, in case the hazardous materials are not being collected by the importers, the fee would be utilized for safe disposal of the hazardous materials.

4. Shri Srinivasa Naik, Director, M/o.Shipping informed that the following actions have been taken by the M/o. Shipping on the recommendations of the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CCG:

- The International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) code is being followed for classification of hazardous goods.
- There are two categories under which such material falls -unclaimed/uncleared cargo and confiscated cargo. Most of the hazardous material presently lying at the ports fall in the first category of unclaimed/uncleared cargo.
- Ministry of Shipping is compiling the information on the hazardous materials lying at the ports and would take another 8-10 days for completion after which the information will be shared with MoEF.

- Directions have been given to all major ports for developing a fast track mechanism for effective coordination between the Customs, PESO, Port Trust Authorities and the SPCBs for safe disposal of hazardous materials. Response has been received only from Kandla Port.
- NDMA has constituted a Working Group to prepare the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for handling, storage and disposal of hazardous goods in the ports. A preliminary meeting of the Working Group was held. The necessary data has been collected from ports, the WG will undertake a site visit after which the SOP preparation will be initiated.

5. The Chairman said that TSDFs are the most suitable scientifically designed facilities for disposal of such material from the ports and suggested to have a joint meeting of the TSDF operators with M/o.Shipping, Port Authorities, DGFASLI and concerned State Pollution Control Boards for exploring the feasibility of disposal of hazardous materials. DMI could be invited to participate in the meeting.

6. The representatives of Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh informed that there is a severe staff crunch and the labor departments are working on the 50% of the sanctioned strength resulting in a skewed ratio of one officer for every 1000 factories. Additionally, they are not provided with mobile phones or vehicles which are essential for not only visiting the factories but also during emergency response. The Chairman observed that the situation is same across the country however, more focus should be directed towards states such as Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, etc. where technical expertise is not readily available. The Director, MoEF informed that NDMA as a follow up of the meeting of the Group of Ministers on Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster, is developing a proposal to strengthen the offices of the Chief Inspector of Factories/ Directorate of Industrial Safety & Health and will submit to GoM for consideration.

7. The representative of Directorate General of Shipping gave a presentation on the Oil Spill occurred at Mumbai Harbor due to collision, between two merchant vessels, MSC Chitra and MV Khalijia III. The presentation highlighted the following:

- Lack of professional competence – primary cause
- Inadequacy of navigational aids in the approach channel
- Unhealthy commercial stress on existing pilot – shortage of pilots in JNPT
- Lack of single authority having decision making power during such incidents
- Ineffective vessel traffic service (VTS) in Mumbai Port due to inadequacy of trained manpower
- Inadequacy of emergency preparedness

8. Shri A.K.Singh Rathore, District Magistrate, Hardoi, Uttar Pradesh informed that the phosgene gas leak occurred on 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> January 2011 at Amit Hetrochem Labs (India) Ltd. The Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system was not working at the time and the plant was being run manually. The chilled brine pump was not functioning, Due to the exothermic reaction, the phosgene gas could not be

absorbed in the column and resulted in gas leak. The District Authorities have established a safe shut-down procedure for the plant to prevent recurrence to such incidents.

9. Dr. S. Raghavan of NIOH, Ahmedabad informed availability of good safety system to prevent phosgene leak to atmosphere and mentioned that same can be replicated at other units across the country. The Chairman suggested to involve NIOH in the monitoring activities related to phosgene gas.

10. Shri S P Kulkarni, Dy. Director of Industrial Safety & Health, Maharashtra presented the accident occurred at the Lube Blending plant of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. located in Taloja, Raigad District. The electrical short circuit was observed to be the root cause for this accident. There were no fatalities or injuries in the accident.

11. Shri Babu Rao, Joint Director of Factories, Tamil Nadu gave a brief presentation of the mechanism available in his state for dealing with chemical accidents. He informed that Tamil Nadu has 115 MAH units located in 24 districts. The off-site emergency plans are available only for 4 districts. He informed that 23 District Crisis Groups and 7 Local Crisis Groups have been constituted in addition to the State Crisis Group.

12. Shri. G Balakishore, Director of Factories and Boilers, Andhra Pradesh made a presentation of the mechanism available in his state for dealing with chemical accidents. There are 43,038 registered factories in the state includes 156MAH units and 485 although not MAH units but are handling hazardous substances. The State Crisis Group has been constituted, 21 districts have MAH units, 19 District Crisis Groups and 18 Local Crisis Groups have been constituted. Of the 156 MAH units, 149 have prepared and submitted the on-site emergency plans and 132 have conducted mock-drills. Mock drill for the Off-site Emergency plans have been recently conducted in 2 districts and off-site plans are available for 9 districts in the state. Industrial Emergency Response Centers (IERCs) are functional at Vishakhapatnam, Hyderabad, Kakinada, Vijayawada and Kurnool.

13. After detailed discussions, following decisions were taken:-

- Explore the possibility of utilizing the expertise of Disaster Management Institute (DMI), Bhopal for developing the inventory of hazardous materials lying in the Ports in consultation with Ministry of Shipping.  
(Ministry of Environment and Forests)
- The Ministry of Shipping to take follow up with the ports for developing a fast track mechanism for effective coordination between the Customs, PESO, Port Trust Authorities and the SPCBs for safe disposal of hazardous materials.  
(Ministry of Shipping)
- Send a communication to Secretary (Revenue) to explore the possibility of imposing a refundable levy/fee on importers of hazardous materials. The fee

would be utilized for safe disposal of the hazardous materials, in case hazardous materials are not being collected by the importers.

(Ministry of Environment and Forests)

- The Ministry of Shipping will provide data pertaining to the hazardous materials lying at all ports across the Country to MoEF.

(Ministry of Shipping)

- The Ministry of Shipping to convene a joint meeting with the TSDF operators, Port Authorities, DGFASLI and concerned State Pollution Control Boards for exploring the feasibility of disposal of hazardous materials lying at the ports.

(Ministry of Shipping)

- The NDMA representative to be invited for the Central Crisis Group meetings.

(Ministry of Environment and Forests)

14. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

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**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

1. Dr. T. Chatterjee, Secretary, M/o Environment and Forests
2. Smt. Mira Mehrishi, Additional Secretary, M/o Environment and Forests
3. Captain Deepak Kapoor, Deputy Director General - Technical, D.G. Shipping, Jaraz Bhawan, Mumbai.
4. Shri Om Prakash, Fire Advisor, M/o Home Affairs.
5. Shri O.P.Sharma, Deputy, Advisor, Udyog Bhawan, Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals, M/o Chemicals and Fertilizers
6. Dr.Chhanda Chowdhury, Director, M/o Environment and Forests
7. Shri Srinivas Naik, Director, M/o Shipping
8. Shri Manoj Pant, Director, M/o Health & Family Welfare
9. Dr. S. Gangopadhya, Director, Central Road Research Institute, New Delhi.
10. Shri Sita Ram Meena, Labour Commissioner, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
11. Shri A.K. Singh Rathore, District Magistrate, Hardoi, Uttar Pradesh
12. Shri M.T. Shahu, Dy. Chief Controller of Explosives, Nagpur,
13. Shri M.R. Rajput, Director, Regional Labour Institute, M/o. Labour and Employment
14. Shri S.S. Bose, Sr. Dev. Officer. Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, M/o Commerce and Industry
15. Dr. Arti Bhatt, Scientist-E, Centre for Fire Explosive & Environment Safety, Delhi
16. Shri D.M. Verma, Under Secretary, Department of Fertilizers, M/o Chemicals and Fertilizers
17. Shri N.K Verma, Dy GM (TS), IFFCO Ltd. New Delhi.
18. Shri Balakrishnan, Director, Department of Telecommunication
19. Shri Paritosh Kumar, Senior Environmental Engineer, Central Pollution Control Board.
20. Dr. A. Arunachalam, Principal Scientist, ICAR, New Delhi.
21. Dr. S. Raghavan, Scientist-B, Air pollution Division, National Institute of Occupational Health, Ahmedabad.
22. Shri G.Bala Kishore, Directorate of Factories, Andhra Pradesh
23. Shri A.K. Dongare, Joint Director, Directorate of Industrial Safety & Health, Maharashtra.
24. S.P. Kulkarni, Deputy Director, Directorate of Industrial Safety & Health, Maharashtra.
25. Shri C. Gnana Sekara Babu Rao, Joint Chief Inspector of Factories, Tamil Nadu
26. Dr. Y.B. Sontakke, Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai.
27. Shri G.D. Pandey, Asst. Director & Factories, Uttar Pradesh
28. Shri Anurag Sumtan, Dy. Director Office , Noida, Uttar Pradesh
29. Shri Rakesh Kohli, Vice President – Corporate Affairs, Reliance Industries Limited, New Delhi
30. Shri S.K.Hazra, Indian Chemical Manufacturers Association, Kolkatta
31. Shri Sundar Ramanathan, Dy.Director M/o Environment and Forests

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