

How Many Deaths Will It Take...

A Preliminary Report on Unchahar Tragedy



Delhi Solidarity Group
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Introduction

Unchahar is a small town and Nagar Panchayat in Raebareli, Uttar Pradesh. This town is in the fertile Awadh region. The Ganga flows 10 km southwest of the town. It is located on the Lucknow Allahabad Highway, 115 km from Lucknow and 85 km from Allahabad. The place is well connected by rail and road to the nearby cities of Kanpur, Lucknow, and Allahabad. The Unchahar railway station is on the Allahabad-Raebareli broad gauge section of Northern Railway. The nearest airport is at Lucknow. Unchahar is also a constituency of Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly.



As per the 2011 census, the total population of Unchahar is 11,033, 5,602 of which are male, and 5,431 female. The literacy rate at Unchahar is 70%, more than the State's 67%. Unchahar has 55.04% of its population practising Islam, and 44.5% Hinduism, out of which 4.5%, about 491, belongs to scheduled caste. Out of the total population, 3,026 people are recoded as engaged in various work - professions agriculture, small industries etc.¹

| Population | Persons | Males | Females |
|-----------------------|---------|-------|---------|
| Total | 11,033 | 5,602 | 5,431 |
| Scheduled Castes (SC) | 491 | 259 | 232 |
| Scheduled Tribes (ST) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Literates | 7,765 | 4,225 | 3,540 |
| Total Illiterate | 3,268 | 1,377 | 1,891 |
| Total Workers | 3,026 | 2,595 | 431 |

Source: Census data, 2011

As observed during the visit, Unchahar has predominantly agricultural fields where mostly rice, wheat, and cotton are cultivated. A large population is dependent upon the agriculture.

Unchahar is also known for its 1,500 MW Feroze Gandhi Unchahar Thermal Power Station (FGUTPS), also known as Unchahar Thermal Power station. It is located 38 km away from Rae Bareli and surrounded by Bikai, Pipraha, Khanpur, Faridpur, and Khaliqpur Khurd villages. Bikai is inhabited by migrant labourers, who work at the station.

About the Power Plant

Unchahar Thermal Power Station is a coal-based power plant established in 1988. Earlier owned by the Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board (UPSEB), it was sold, in 1992, to the NTPC Limited against payment overdue. Then, it was renamed as Feroze Gandhi Unchahar Thermal Power Plant (FGUTPS). Its total installed capacity is 1,550 MW, including the under-construction sixth unit, which recently had an explosion killing and injuring many.

The unit one to five consists of the capacity of 210 MW each and the sixth unit has the power generation capacity of 500 MW. While the construction of stage one (2x210 MW) was done by

¹ <http://www.censusindia.gov.in/pca/SearchDetails.aspx?Id=167528>

UPSEB, that of stage two (2x210 MW) and three (1x210 MW) started after NTPC took over.² The construction of the sixth unit, which was announced by the UPA government in August 2013, began in December 2014. NTPC was constructing this unit in collaboration with the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) through NTPC-BHEL Power Projects Private Limited (NBPPL), a joint venture company of NTPC and BHEL. The sixth unit (stage-IV) was proposed to be built during the 64th Meeting of the Expert Appraisal Committee on the Environmental Impact Assessment of Thermal Power and Coal Mine Projects held in January 2013. It was proposed that the sixth unit would be an extension by adding 500 MW (stage-IV), hence making the ultimate capacity of the Plant to 1,550 MW. The project was to provide electricity to the key northern states of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Delhi through the Northern power grid.

Investments

In September 1988, the Asian Development Bank approved a loan of USD 160 million with Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Upbhokta Parishad (UPRVUP) to fund the second stage of the Unchahar Thermal Power Plant, which consisted two units of 210 MW. In the same year, after approving



Workers at Unchahar NTPC

Photo Credits: Mr. Madhav, reporter Patrika, Rae Bareilly.

² https://www.bhelnem.com/Tenders_Rev/Tenders/CHAIN%20PULLEY%20BLOCKS-UNCHAHAR/Technical%20Specification%20PE-TS-401-563-A001.pdf

the loan, UPRVUP had serious issues in finance and management. Consequently, the construction of the plant was not moving. Due to the payment overdue by the Uttar Pradesh Government, NTPC purchased the two units from UPRVUP and proposed to construct the second stage of the project. While the approved loan amount was USD 160 million, later the loan amount was revised to USD 126 million.³

Land

As per the BHEL tender report of 2015, for the implementation of stage one, two and three, 2,203 acres of land was acquired. Since the plant already had extra land, the plant facilities, ash disposal, and township for the expansion of stage four (unit VI of 1x500 MW) were accommodated in the available land through the demolition and relocation of some buildings.⁴ Thus, there was no need to acquire additional land for expansion.

Water

As per the agreement between NTPC & UP Irrigation department, 105 Cusecs of water is supplied every day to NTPC-Unchahar through Sharda Sahayak (S.S) canal, one of the biggest and oldest canal system of Uttar Pradesh. The canal was constructed between 1924 and 1928. Initially, the system was envisaged for providing protective irrigation to an area of 2.55 million hectares in Ganga-Ghaghra Doab, which is spread over the central and eastern districts of UP. Sharda Sahayak Pariyaojana, one of the sub-canals of Sharda main canal, was developed in 1975 to augment the canal supplies in the lower reaches.⁵

When water supply for Sharda Sahayak canal is disrupted, the plant draws water from the Dalmau Pump canal. The 500 MW stage four's consumptive water requirement is accommodated within the existing commitment of water (105 cusecs) to FGUTPP.

Coal

The coal requirement of the plant is about 2.7 million tons per year. Ministry of coal has provided a Long-Term Coal Linkage for stage four (1x500 MW) from North Karanpura mines of Central Coalfield Limited.. Coal requirement for FGUTPP, stage one, two, and three is also being met from North Karanpura mines. The transportation of coal from the mines to the power plant is done through Indian Railway's rakes, which are unloaded at the track hopper.

³ <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/project-document/70990/20027-ind-pcr.pdf>

⁴ https://www.bhelpem.com/Tenders_Rev/Tenders/CHAIN%20PULLEY%20BLOCKS-UNCHAHAAR/Technical%20Specification%20PE-TS-401-563-A001.pdf

⁵ http://www.india-wris.nrsc.gov.in/wrpinfo/index.php?title=Sarda_Canal_Major_Irrigation_Project_Uttar_Pradesh_JI01966

Impacts

A research on the environmental standards in the NTPC Unchahar done by the Centre for Institute of Mining and Fuel Research, Dhanbad, highlighted the poor quality of environmental standards followed — mainly in the disposal and management of fly ash — in the plant.⁶ The



Unchahar NTPC Project

Photo Credit: Rajesh Kumar, Delhi Solidarity Group

coal has a high molecular weight of Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs), which makes the soil, water, air and crop toxic, thus violating various environmental laws of the country.

In spite of all the planning and work in progress, the plant has violated various environmental standards and safety protocols. Due to the carelessness of the NTPC officials, a massive explosion took place on November 1, 2017, at the boiler of unit VI killing at least 46 people, including NTPC officials, and injuring more than 100 people, some of them in critical condition.⁷

⁶ Verma S.K, Ram L, Maiti, S.K (2014) Heavy Metals and PAHs Characteristics Of The Ashes From Unchahar Thermal Power Plant, Research Gate, 1-61.

⁷ <http://www.tehelka.com/2017/11/46-dead100-injured-who-is-responsible/>

About Boiler Accident

On November 1, 2017, an accident occurred in the boiler of a newly built 500 MW Unit VI, which was commissioned on March 31, 2017. In an official statement, the NTPC said, “At around 1530 hours at unit number six of Unchahar plant, there was a sudden abnormal sound at 20 meters elevation. There was an opening in Corner Two from which hot flue gases and steam escaped affecting the people working around the area.”⁸

The local media and national media have reported that there was a blast in the boiler. But, if the boiler had blasted, the entire plant would have destroyed, and the fire would have engulfed the nearby villages.

The explosion took place as the 60% of the boiler was filled with the residues from the combustion of coal, thus choking the coal supply. Eyewitnesses say that the boiler gave a vibration sound, after which the flue gases and steam leaked. Within a minute of the leakage of gases and steam, high-temperature ash spread into the entire unit that burned and killed many on the spot.

A senior executive of NTPC told Hindustan Times on November 2, 2017, that when the coal burns, it gets deposited and needs to be cleared. People who died in the accident were involved in the cleaning.

Objectives of the visit

The objective of this visit was to ascertain preliminary facts about the accident as the media reports about the cause of the explosion, the number of deaths and injured was inconsistent from the reports from the ground.

A team of three people consisting Awadhesh Kumar of Srijan Lokhit Samiti, Rajesh Kumar and Monalisa Barman from the Delhi Support Group visited the Unchahar NTPC site on November 6, 2017. The team interacted with contractual workers of NTPC, people residing near the plant, small shopkeepers, and local media reporters. The team also visited the family of the deceased and injured. Due to the high CISF security, the team could not visit the NTPC campus hospital or meet NTPC officials.

⁸ <http://www.ntpc.co.in/en/media/press-releases/details/ntpc-accident-ntpc-unchahar>

This are the findings from team's visit and interaction with different people mentioned above. Additionally, this report also looks into various news reports published in national and local media and tries to put the facts together to bring the full known magnitude of the accident.

Findings of the team

1. Deaths and Missing Labourers in the Accident

During interactions with the local media reporters and the contractual labourers, it emerged that many people are missing from the list of deceased and injured. They told this team that many families have been coming from different states after they could not find the names of their son or relatives on the register or data entry, even though they were working at NTPC,



The Boiler Explosion

Photo Credits: Mr. Madhav, reporter Patrika, Rae Bareili.

Unchahar. They alleged that the NTPC is hiding the actual number of casualties by manipulating the documents related to the contractual workers working there.

During the discussion with this team, many informal labours mentioned that the number of deaths is much higher than what is mentioned by the authorities. They said that many people just perished in the high-temperature steam and high pressure, which came out of the boiler.

According to Lalmani Verma, an engineer posted at NTPC Unchahar, at the time of the explosion, the temperature of the steam was 140 degree, and pressure in the boiler was 765 kg per Mm Square. “The heat is enough to melt a person. Around 40 labourers working very close to the boiler bore the brunt of the blast,” he said.⁹

Many labourers also said that a number of people are still buried under the ash.

According to a report published in the *Firstpost* on November 4, 2017, Leelavati Saroj, 25, the three-month pregnant wife of Deshraj Saroj, has been camping at a Lucknow hospital for the last two days. She firmly believes her husband, employed with NTPC's Unchahar plant, is receiving treatment at the burn unit. Neither has she seen him nor does the hospital records have his name.¹⁰

Due to the explosion, many labourers are still missing. Many workers who died or got injured were the only breadwinners of their families. This incident has brought them on the streets. Those who could identify the body of their relatives will get some compensation but what about the families, which are still searching the bodies? The most disheartening fact is that the names of many missing workers are not on the official list. Many survivors allege that the NTPC Unchahar management removed these names from the company's records to lower the company's liability.

The *Navsatta* on November 5, 2017, reported, “a JCB contractor whose JCB was operational inside the NTPC plant mentioned that the number of deaths and injuries were under-reported by the authority.” This not only exposes the seriousness of NTPC's response to the tragedy but also indicates towards their routine practices. In this tragedy, the contractors who had supplied labourers from different states to work at this plant are missing from the public discourse. Neither media nor the authorities are talking about them.

Another woman named Sharda Devi (19), whose brother got injured in the explosion, told *India Samvad* on November 4, 2017, that seven people from her village were working at the plant's unit six and sustained injuries. She added that out of seven, two died, and three are still missing.¹¹

⁹ <http://www.jagran.com/uttar-pradesh/raebareli-forty-scorches-in-flames-ntpc-unchahar-16952684.html>

¹⁰ <http://www.firstpost.com/india/ntpc-boiler-blast-workers-families-say-some-of-their-loved-ones-are-missing-ntpc-insists-theyre-not-4192463.html>

¹¹ <http://www.firstpost.com/india/ntpc-boiler-blast-workers-families-say-some-of-their-loved-ones-are-missing-ntpc-insists-theyre-not-4192463.html>

On November 5, 2017, *Hindustan Samvad* reported that Satish, a resident of Rohatas, Bihar, who was working at the Unchahar plant since last two years, is also missing. After hearing about the accident in Unchahar NTPC, his father, Hiralal, rushed there and searched for his son. It is important to note that neither Satish's name appears on the list of the deceased or injured, nor his mobile is reachable after the accident.¹²

Mantu Barua, 40, one of the survivors of the explosion, said that he saw many labourers getting burnt alive. Barua, who hails from Odisha, has packed his bags to leave for good.

"Babuji, wahaan aag ka baarish hua tha. Hamara kai saathi toh jinda jal gaya aur ham log kuch nahi kar paaye. Yahaan ka saheb log aur thekedaar sab jhooth bolte hai kyunki unit me kam se



Family members of the missing labourers.

Photo Credits: Mr. Madhav, reporter Patrika, Rae Bareilly.

kam do guna aadmi the. Hamko apna jaan jyada pyari hai. Ham apne ghar ja rahe hai biwi-bachchon ke paas (It rained fire there. Many of my friends got burnt alive, and I could do

¹² *Hindustan Samvad* dated November 5, 2017

nothing. The officers here and the contractors are lying as this unit had at least twice as many people. My life is precious to me. I am going back to my family)," he told *Firstpost*.¹³

However, the NTPC has refuted that any of the workers are missing. Ruchi Ratna, NTPC's Public Relations Officer, as reported by the *Firstpost*, claimed that not a single person is missing and that even the deceased have been identified.

In addition, "the PRO also denied that 100 workers were present in the unit at the time of the accident." She said that only 87 workers were there on the site when the explosion took place and clarified that out of them, 32 succumbed to injuries while 48 are undergoing treatment at different hospitals. She added that the remaining seven have been discharged.¹⁴

If we have to believe what the officials are saying then where are the workers the families are searching for?

During the discussion, the local media persons said that most of the labourers had suffered the burns of 50%-70%, and the doctors told them that even if they recover from injury, they would not be able to do anything — worst in most cases, they might not live more than three to four months. *The Print* reported, "A boiler in a unit needs less than half-a-dozen workers to operate it. However, there were 311 workers in the sixth unit at the time of the explosion on November 1. Labour contractors in Unchahar told that most of them were deployed by contractors for civil works such as painting, isolation of boilers, and other construction work."¹⁵

An officer, who was present at the plant when the mishap occurred, requesting anonymity, recounted to the *Firstpost* at the NTPC North zone office in Lucknow, "I know more than 70 people have been killed in this tragedy. I was one of the persons to visit the unit with the NDRF team and know that many labourers were reduced to ashes in this accident."¹⁶

Due to the collapse of the boiler, the burning coal spread on the unit and fell upon the people working around, even upon those who were wearing the helmet and gloves, and turned them to ash. Nobody could understand what had just happened. Looking at the bodies hanging on the pipes shocked everyone. While taking down the bodies from the pipes, the bodies were breaking into pieces.¹⁷

¹³ <http://www.firstpost.com/india/ntpc-boiler-blast-workers-families-say-some-of-their-loved-ones-are-missing-ntpc-insists-theyre-not-4192463.html>

¹⁴ <http://www.indiasamvad.co.in/top-stories/are-someworkers-missing-families-say-yes-ntpc-denies-25860>

¹⁵ <https://theprint.in/2017/11/10/rush-commission-project-likely-culprit-ntpc-unchahar-tragedy/>

¹⁶ <http://www.firstpost.com/india/ntpc-boiler-blast-workers-families-say-some-of-their-loved-ones-are-missing-ntpc-insists-theyre-not-4192463.html>

¹⁷ 'Kitni lashe jal gayi hongi yeh he bada sawal' *Dainik Jagran* dated Nov 2, 2017.

After the explosion, there are number of labourers who are missing and their families are in search of them. Many people who died were the only breadwinners of their families. Those who could identify the body of their relatives will get some compensation but what about the ones who are still searching the bodies?

The accident and authorities' response to it only highlights the value of life and safety of informal workers. This accident has brought up the brutal truths about how human life does not matter, even to the big public sector institutions like NTPC.

2. Hurry in Commissioning the Unit

This tragedy begs to ask questions on the conduct of Ministry of Power, Central Electricity Authority (CEA), and NTPC's management for commissioning this unit in a hurry. In its press release on April 1, 2017, NTPC emphatically declared that NTPC, the largest power utility of India, joined the top league of electricity generators globally by crossing 50 GW capacity mark. It further mentioned that another milestone towards 24X7 power for all was achieved by commissioning a 500 MW unit at Unchahar in Uttar Pradesh, which has increased NTPC's total installed capacity to 50498 MW.¹⁸

Every new thermal power unit has to get the certificate for commercial operation. For this, every part of the unit is inspected and proposed for the declaration of commercial operation (COD) of the unit and send it to the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), which synchronises the unit before approving for the starting of the plant. If there are issues in commercial operation, the COD is rejected.

Many NTPC insiders and power experts are asking questions on the commissioning process of this unit. *The Print* on November 10 quoted Mr V K Singh, a coal handling plant manager at NTPC's Kanti Thermal Power Station, Bihar, and President of the Association of Power Executives (APEX), Kanti, who questioned the commissioning. "The ash handling system and the dry ash evacuation system were not complete, and it must be investigated how the COD was given for an incomplete plant," Singh demanded.¹⁹

The unit six at Unchahar was supposed to be commissioned in four years, but it was commissioned two years before its schedule. Undergoing construction while generating power led to this horrific incident, which also raises questions on the role of the Union and State

¹⁸ <http://www.ntpc.co.in/en/media/press-releases/details/ntpc-now-50498-mw-company>

¹⁹ <https://theprint.in/2017/11/10/rush-commission-project-likely-culprit-ntpc-unchahar-tragedy/>

governments, and the NTPC senior management, which pressurised the Unchahar Power Station management to commission this unit before the scheduled time to achieve the target.

During the discussion on November 6, 2017, with Mr Ramesh Shukla, a reporter of *Dainik Jagran* at Unchahar, and Mr Madhav, a reporter of *Patrika* at Rae Bareili, both reporters said that this newly built unit was on trial run generating 200 MW between April to September 2017.



A family member holding missing person's identity card.
Photo Credits: Mr. Madhav, reporter Patrika, Rae Bareili

Mr Shailendra Dubey, Chairman, All India Power Engineers Federation (AIPEF), spoke to the *National Herald* on November 31, 2017. "The admission that around 150-200 people were working in the boiler section at the time of the accident is a clear indication that work in the plant was incomplete. In a running plant, only 5-6 people work at a time. Why were so many people working there?" he asked.²⁰

Similarly, the reporter from *Dainik Jagran* also mentioned that the construction work was on in the unit. Therefore, at time of the blast, around 311 contractual workers along with a few

²⁰ <https://www.nationalheraldindia.com/national/ntpc-blast-due-to-pressure-to-start-unit-ahead-of-schedule>

permanent workers, were engaged in and around the boiler.²¹ Since the units are more advanced nowadays, it does not require more than 6-7 people to operate. "There were nearly 300 workers in the boilers' vicinity which is quite unusual for regular operations. Workers in large numbers were there as the work was on to create the boiler safety systems," a senior engineer told the *India Today* on the condition of anonymity.²²

A group of contractual workers also mentioned that this particular unit had also tripped many times earlier. Not only this, even on the fateful day, the unit tripped and was restarted by the NTPC.

During the discussion with the local media reporters, the team was told that NTPC officers were aware of the accumulation of ash in the dry ash system. Not only this, even a few hours before the blast in the boiler, the unit operator was informed about it. Inside the boiler, the accumulation of clinker, the stony residue from burnt coal, was 20 feet high, which covered almost 60% of the boiler.

It is against the standard operating procedures to clean the boiler in running mode. However, NTPC duty officers ignored it and started to remove the clinker without switching off the boiler. While breaking the clinker, the coal supply got disrupted leading to the formation of high pressure in the boiler, which made it vibrate. Within few minutes the boiler exploded thus spreading the burning coal and ash in the entire unit killing and injuring many.²³

A reporter from Dainik Jagran also mentioned that new unit should be stopped after running for 1,000 hours to take stock of the maintenance of the entire unit. However, this rule was not followed, and this unit continued to run at full 500 MW.

It is noteworthy that NTPC's formation day was on November 7. Was there any pressure from the plant management to run this plant at full capacity ignoring safety measures, despite many shortcomings, because of the foundation day?

²¹ *Dainik Jagran* dated Nov 4, 2017

²² <http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/watch-inferno-raging-at-ntpc-raebareli-plantmoments-after-boiler-blast/1/1081501.html>

²³ <http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/watch-inferno-raging-at-ntpc-raebareli-plant-moments-after-boiler-blast/1/1081501.html>

3. Violations of Labour Laws

During a discussion with a group of contractual workers of NTPC Unchahar on November 6, 2017, they said that the unskilled and informal workers have to perform the duties of a skilled and permanent worker. Additionally, the contractual workers blamed, “before bringing us to NTPC, the contractor had agreed to pay us Rs 365 per day. However, in reality, after getting the salary transferred to our account, we are forced to give half of the salary to the contractor. This leaves us with very little money to survive for the entire month.” They further told that those raising this issue are not allowed to work the next day. The workers alleged that even NTPC authorities are involved and that they can’t complain them about this. They lamented that the

UP govt relaxed inspection norms

In order to attract industries in the state, the recently elected BJP government granted several relaxations in its New Industrial Policy. In the Policy, the industries were freed from inspections, who were responsible for enforcing legal provisions to ensure secure service conditions, welfare measures, safety of the plant and machinery and occupational safety. Legislations are in place for providing frequent inspections for enforcement of various labour laws.

However, the state government orders issued by Principal Secretary, Labour, R.K. Tiwari on July 28, 2017, enforced a new system under which industries have been exempted from statutory inspections for five years if they opt for the self-certification scheme. Under the scheme, industries have to give assurance that they have implemented all the labour laws and no labour authority will go for inspection in their establishments except once in five years. Random selection for checks can only be to the extent of 20%. Prior information of an inspection has to be given at least three days in advance and it would be a group inspection. No inspection shall be carried out in those registered industries who do not opt for the self-certification scheme without prior permission of Labour Commissioner or Regional Commissioner or District Magistrate and it shall not be more than once in a year. Labour authorities shall not even carry out surprise inspection on unregistered industries under Factories Act, 1948, and Shop and Commercial Act, 1962, without prior permission of Labour Commissioner or Regional Commissioner or District Magistrate. Under the policy, startup projects opting for self-certification scheme shall be exempted from inspection for three years.

This stands in contrast with the technical provisions of the Indian Boiler Regulations Act, 1950, under which it is incumbent upon the owner to carry out third party inspection of the boiler and the organisation every year by an agency authorised by the Central Boiler Board of Government of India.

Source: <http://www.tehelka.com/2017/11/46-dead100-injured-who-is-responsible/>

permanent workers enjoy all the facilities given by the NTPC, even though they engage in similar work in the same unit.

When the team approached contractual labourers working at the plant, they were afraid and unwilling to talk to us. However, later, while visiting Bikai village at one of the deceased's house, the team again approached a few labours who were also scared initially but later on

opened up. It emerged during the interaction that most of the labourers are migrants from Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh and that contractors hired them.

Further, they mentioned that contract workers who are not given any expert training, are made to do every work.. They also do not get any safety kit to work on the units. They told the team that the contract workers, who were on duty at the unit six on the fateful day were neither wearing any safety gears nor had any protective equipment which the NTPC is supposed to provide for cleaning boiler. The workers further told us that after this incident the management is forcing them to wear shoes and helmet, which are given by the contractor, who in turn will deduct the costs from the salaries of the workers. The workers lamented, “things came out in public domain this time as this was the biggest incident. Otherwise, if only 3-4 contractual employees die, the authorities just bury the bodies somewhere in the ash, remove the data from the register and destroy the passes.”



Identity card of a worker

Photo Credits: Mr. Madhav, reporter Patrika, Rae Bareilly

Similarly, according to a *News18* report, “Another major issue is poor literacy and training levels of the contract labourers. In most cases, they possess inadequate knowledge of modern power plants, which involves multiple levels of protection interlocks. The Standard Operational Procedure (SOP) is rarely followed. When they needed it most, the fire hydrant line and the detection system failed to respond. Also, on several occasions, these SOPs are not updated when the process or the plant goes through minor modifications.”²⁴

A recent editorial in *EPW* also bemoans on the callous disregard for worker safety of the contract labourers. The editorial said, “We must also note that the majority of the workers affected were migrant contract workers, brought to the unit by contractors, to whom jobs had been

subcontracted. This is a ploy used by many large industrial units. It helps employers in minimising their liabilities to a smaller number of permanent workers, who are covered under labour laws, while much of the work — often the more hazardous tasks — are farmed out to contractors who employ casual workers, often on daily wages. These workers have no health

²⁴ <http://www.news18.com/news/india/analysis-unchahar-tragedy-shows-safety-comes-last-in-indias-industrial-units-1565069.html>

insurance to cover accidents or exposure to hazards. This murky underbelly of the formal sector in India stands exposed when such accidents take place.”²⁵

Relenting to the pressures from many quarters, there are consistent efforts by the government to dilute the labour laws. “There are proposals to dilute laws governing contract labour that will facilitate the use of casual labour for the more hazardous jobs, as in Unchahar project. Under the existing laws, the NTPC can be held liable for all workers — permanent and contract — following the landmark *Asiad case*, *Peoples Union for Democratic Rights vs Union of India and Others*, 1982, in which the Supreme Court held that the government is responsible for contract workers as the principal employer. We must also emphasise that government’s largesse in the form of compensation to injured workers, or to the families of the deceased, cannot replace the responsibility of the NTPC to all the workers.”²⁶

Though workers unions protested against the Unachahar accident, it did not get covered in the media prominently. According to a report in *Dainik Jagran* on November 5, 2017, Thermal Power House Construction Workers Sangh, INTUC, and CITU came together and demanded judicial inquiry of the accident, Rs 50 lakh and job for the family member of the deceased, Rs 20 lakh each and a permanent job at the NTPC as compensation for the injured.

Testimonials By The Families Of The Deceased

The team also visited the families of two deceased workers in nearby villages. Each of the family had lost their sons in the explosion. These visits were the most challenging part as the families were in a state of mourning. But the families were co-operative, as they want justice.

PLACE: Pipraha, Unachahar (Raebareli District)

Deceased: Ajeet Yadav (20 years)

Father’s name: Lal Bahadur Yadav

Mother’s name: Kalavati Yadav

Siblings: Two (One younger sister and brother)

Background of the deceased: The eldest son and the only working member of the family.

Hometown is at a distance of half an hour from the plant.

²⁵ <http://www.epw.in/journal/2017/45/editorials/when-workers-die.html>

²⁶ *ibid*

Testimony given by Kalavati Yadav: My son, Ajeet, was of 20 years old. From the last one and half years, he had been working at the plant. We got a call at one of our neighbour's phone on the afternoon of November 1 asking us to reach the plant as something went wrong there. By the time we reached there, our son was already taken to the Raebareli district hospital, and from there, he was referred to Lucknow due to his bad condition. I was not allowed to see my son in the hospital due to his critical condition. I saw my son once they brought his body back home. Though the Chief Minister gave us a cheque of Rs two lakh, it will not bring my son back. NTPC officials have not contacted us yet. The unit where my son was working was supposed to be completed in four years, but they started it before the scheduled time. I do not know why. They took away my son.

Ajeet's father and uncle also go in free time to work at the NTPC garden, but that day, both were at home and working at our farm. We were preparing for his marriage. He was the only person in the family with fixed earnings. His father did not get everyday jobs in the NTPC.

PLACE: Bikai, Unachahar (Raebareli District)

Deceased: Awadhesh Jaiswal (27 years)

Mother's name: Rampyari Jaiswal

Wife: Married on 8th Feb 2017

Siblings: 2 brothers and 3 sisters

Background of the deceased: The youngest son and only working person who was taking care of the widow mother, wife, and the kids of the elder brother.

Testimony as given by one of the sisters: My brother was the youngest among all of us. He took care of the entire family. He got married nine months back.

He has been working at NTPC as a worker for two years and was drawing six thousand rupees per month as salary. When my cousin called me and informed about an explosion in the unit, I requested her to find out what has happened as she stays near the plant. My cousin informed us that she had to fight with the officials and guards to get inside the station to see my brother, as they were not allowing anyone inside. My brother had died at the NTPC plant. My cousin got the body home. NTPC has not got in touch with us since the accident. There are more deaths than they claimed. Almost 150 people must have died inside. Over three hundred workers were working in that plant at the time of the accident.

I want the government to help us by providing a job for his wife and some financial help to our mother. The CM has sent a cheque of Rs 2 lakh. Our family is devastated as it is a big family. My

brother used to take care of the kids of my elder brother too as he is not well. I do not know how our family will survive now.

Government Responses to the Tragedy

Immediate compensation announced:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced Rs 2 lakh to the next of kin of the dead and Rs 50,000 to the injured.²⁷

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced Rs 2 lakh as compensation for the immediate family of the dead and Rs 50,000 for the grievously injured and Rs 25,000 for the persons who suffered minor injuries.

NTPC announced a compensation of Rs 20 lakh for the immediate family of the deceased, and Rs 10 lakh to the grievously injured, 2 lakh each to minorly injured.

Committees set up to investigate the causes of the collapse of the boiler:

1. The Union Power Ministry announced a high-level committee to investigate the blast. The committee under the chairmanship of P.D Siwal, Member (Thermal) at the Central Electricity Authority (CEA). The other members of the committee are Subir Chakraborty, Director (Projects) at Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd; Dhawal Prakash Antapurkar, Director of Steam Boilers, Maharashtra; and L.D. Papney, Chief Engineer, Thermal Engineering and Technology Development Division at CEA. The Committee would investigate the causes of the accident and fix responsibility, if any, and would suggest remedial measures to avoid the recurrence of such incidents in the future. The committee is expected to submit its report to the Ministry of Power on December 6, 2017.²⁸
2. Immediately after the accident, NTPC had set up a three-member committee headed by the Executive Director (Operations) SK Roy, with General Manager AK Sanaiyar, and General Manager (Engineering) Udyan Kumar as members. Initial investigations by NTPC and UP labour department pointed out that the blast occurred because of the deposition of a large amount of bottom ash in the ash evacuation system and formation of clinkers in the boiler. NTPC also suspected the malfunctioning of fans installed to maintain the suitable pressure

²⁷ <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/pm-narendra-modi-approves-rs-2-lak-for-the-families-of-those-killed-in-ntpc-boiler-blast-1770425>

²⁸ <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173276>

inside the 60 feet high boiler. The UP labour department, which conducted a separate inquiry, had blamed NTPC management for its negligence by cleaning up accumulated ash in the boiler even as the unit kept functioning. The department was expected to submit its findings end of November.

3. After NTPC and Ministry of Power, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry also constituted a committee to probe Unchahar plant boiler blast. The four-member committee headed by TSD Narayanan, Technical Advisor, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, also includes NS Mandal, Director, Central Electricity Authority; JI Patel, Director (Boiler) from Gujarat unit of department of industries; and RK Purve, director (boiler), labour department, UP government, as members. This team is likely to probe the cause of enormous pressure increase, which led to boiler blast that let out extremely hot flue gases and ash that killed and injured many.²⁹

National Human Right Commission

Taking a *suo moto* notice on the reports by the media on the blast, NHRC has sought a report from the State Chief Secretary within six weeks. NHRC observed that a high-level probe into the matter is immediately required to ascertain the negligence and errors, if any, behind the incident, which involves the right to life. The Commission directed the State government to ensure that the best treatment is provided to the injured persons and steps are taken for their rehabilitation.³⁰

Although various announcements were made from the Centre, State and NTPC, it was shocking to discover during our field visit that only the State government has given compensation and that the Centre and NTPC have not even contacted the victims.

Apart from investigations by Government, it is imperative that a judicial enquiry is done to ascertain the facts and fix responsibility.

Conclusion

This incident reminds us of countless factory tragedies that have been reported and went unreported in the past. The Bhopal Gas tragedy which occurred on December 3, 1984, in which

²⁹ <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/lucknow/commerce-ministry-sets-up-panel-to-probe-unchahar-boiler-blast/articleshow/61650735.cms>

³⁰ http://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/ntpc-blast-nhrc-issues-notice-to-up-govt-seeks-report-in-six-weeks-117110201454_1.html

40 metric tonnes of methyl isocyanide gas was leaked from a pesticide plant owned by a US multinational Union Carbide. Even after 33 years of the gas tragedy, neither the victims are adequately compensated, nor the corporation is held accountable.

There are several other unfortunate incidents like Bombay docks explosion in 1944 in which death toll was 800; Chasnala mining disaster, 1975, with a death toll of 372; Korba Chimney Collapse, 2009, with a death toll of 45; and Moser Baer plant disaster, 2016 where 25 people were injured, and 3 people died. As mentioned earlier in this report, only the major accidents get reported while many small ones go unreported and uninvestigated.

The shocking thing is that neither lessons were learnt from these incidents, nor exemplary actions were taken against the authorities responsible for the lapses. Instead of securing the rights of the workers by strengthening the laws, what we witness is a concerted effort to dilute the laws, thus making the workers vulnerable to all forms of exploitation.

This accident exposed the workers' safety and violation of labour laws in the India's largest Public Sector Maharatna Company, which is owned by the central government and contributes to 24% of the country's total power generation.

Industries are becoming a graveyard for labours, particularly for the contractual labours. Within the labour community, contractual labours are the most vulnerable and marginalised. Neither they get minimum wage nor do the industries follow enough safety measure.

Historically, in many industrial disasters like Unchahar, despite losing the most, the rights of contractual labours were violated, and they were not compensated adequately. Often for their families, 'official' recognition of the death and fair compensated for their kin is another struggle.

Recommendations

To the State Government

1. A judicial inquiry should be set up to investigate the factors that led to this drastic incident, fix responsibility of the authorities, and take exemplary actions against them.
2. FIRs should be filed against Unchahar NTPC officials for negligence in operating this unit that led to the disaster.

3. The government should immediately constitute a task force to ascertain the whereabouts of the missing persons. It must also provide adequate compensation to the families, in case they are found to be the victims of this tragic accident.

To NTPC

4. Immediately provide the announced compensation to the family members of the deceased and injured.
5. Irrespective of the nature of employment — contractual or permanent — NTPC should bear the costs of all the medical expenditures and rehabilitation costs of the injured.
6. Ensure that all safety gears are provided to the workers.

To Central Government

7. The Ministry of Power should carry out an audit of all coal plants to ascertain the state of workers, adherence to safety measures, and preparedness for emergencies.

Annexures (selected reports of local media)

हिंदुस्तान
24/11/18

एनटीपीसी हादसा: जांच के लिए पहुंची टीम

रायबरेली | हिन्दुस्तान टीम

फालोअप

केंद्रीय उर्जा राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार) के निर्देश पर गठित टीम ने जांच शुरू कर दी है। अधिशासी निदेशक प्रचालन सेवानुएस्के राय के नेतृत्व में पहुंची टीम ने रविवार को घटनास्थल का निरीक्षण किया। टीम ने घटना के दिन चल रही यूनिटों का ऑनलाइन डिटेल भी लिया। उधर बिहार से एक पिता अपने बेटे को खोजते हुए ऊंचाहार पहुंचा। इसके अलावा घटना में घायल मरीजों में से चार को बेहतर इलाज के लिए एनटीपीसी ने लखनऊ भेज दिया है।

केंद्रीय उर्जा मंत्री के निर्देश पर गठित टीम ने रविवार से जांच शुरू कर दी है। एनटीपीसी की सभी यूनिट ऑनलाइन

- घटना वाले दिन का पूरा रिकार्ड कब्जे में लिया, घटनास्थल की भी जांच
- लापता बेटे को खोजते पहुंचा पिता, चार घायलों को लखनऊ किया शिफ्ट

हैं। एक ही जगह पर सभी यूनिटों में क्या हो रहा है, उसे देखा जा सकता है। जांच टीम ने उस दिन का पूरा डेटा एकत्रित किया है। इसके साथ ही टीम ने यूनिट नंबर छह के घटनास्थल का भी निरीक्षण किया। जांच टीम में अधिशासी निदेशक परिचालन श्री राय के साथ ही भेल के महाप्रबंधक के. सोमैया व एनटीईसीएल



बिहार से एनटीपीसी ऊंचाहार अपने बेटे की खोजबीन करने आए हीरालाल सदस्य उदय कुमार भी रहे। हालांकि जांच में क्या मिला, इसके बारे में किसी ने भी कुछ भी बोलने से इंकार दिया।

इस बाबत जीएम एनटीपीसी राजीव कुमार सिंहा ने बताया कि जांच टीम जांच कर रही है। उन्होंने बताया बिहार से आए

व्यक्ति का बेटा यहां काम नहीं कर रहा था। उसे किसी ने गलत सूचना दे दी थी।

बिहार से बेटे को खोजते हुए पहुंचा पिता: बिहार प्रांत के रोहतास निवासी हीरालाल अपने पुत्र सरिश कुमार उर्फ मंदू को खोजते हुए ऊंचाहार पहुंचे। हालांकि वहां उन्हें निराशा ही हाथ लगी। एनटीपीसी ने इस नाम का कर्मचारी न होने की बात कहकर पूरे मामले में अपना पल्ला झाड़ लिया है।

चार घायलों को भेजा गया लखनऊ: एनटीपीसी हादसे में घायल हुए चार लोग प्रकाश पुत्र हरदयाल, राजेश पुत्र राम गोविंद, अरविंद कुमार पुत्र देवी लाल, रूप चौहान पुत्र रामफेर को सिमरौस अस्पताल से लखनऊ भेजा गया है। एनटीपीसी ने उन्हें सिरिस् में भर्ती कराया है।

एनटीपीसी हादसे से आठ राज्यों में बिजली प्रभावित

राज्य मुख्यालय | प्रमुख संवाददाता

यूपी में अधिक असर

एनटीपीसी ऊंचाहार की 500 मेगावाट यूनिट में हादसे से यूपी समेत आठ राज्यों में बिजली संकट से निपटने की कवायद धीमी हो गई। इस वर्ष दिसम्बर से इन राज्यों को बिजली आपूर्ति मिलनी शुरू होने वाली थी। ऊंचाहार की यूनिट-6 को मरम्मत कर दोबारा चालू करने में एक वर्ष से अधिक समय लगने की संभावना है।

केन्द्र के ऊर्जा मंत्रालय ने ऊंचाहार पॉवर प्लांट से उत्पादित होने वाली बिजली का शेयर आठ राज्यों को आवंटित है। यूनिट यूपी में है इसलिए सबसे अधिक लगभग 40 फीसदी तक शेयर प्रदेश के पास है। इसमें दिल्ली और चंडीगढ़ के अलावा जम्मू-कश्मीर को भी बिजली दी जानी थी। इन राज्यों में बिजली की मांग बहुत अधिक है। हादसे के बाद इन राज्यों का संकट एक वर्ष तक अभी बना रहेगा।

एनटीपीसी ने इस मामले में केंद्रीय ऊर्जा मंत्रालय को पत्र भेजकर स्थिति साफ कर दी है। क्षेत्रीय कार्यकारी निदेशक आरएस राठी ने हादसे के तुरंत यह कहा था कि हादसे से

यूपी को इस पॉवर प्लांट से 173.14 मेगावाट बिजली मिलनी थी। ग्रामीण विद्युतिकरण में तेजी और गांव-तहसीलों को अधिक बिजली सप्लाई के चलते यूपी को अधिक बिजली खरीदनी पड़ रही थी। पॉवर कारपोरेशन के अफसरों को उम्मीद थी कि इस प्लांट से बिजली आपूर्ति होने के बाद संकट बहुत हद तक कम हो जाएगी। प्रदेश के ऊर्जा विभाग की कई योजनाएं इस हादसे से प्रभावित हो जाएंगी और इनमें देरी होगी।

सौभाग्य योजना पर भी असर

यूपी समेत पूरे देश में सभी को बिजली पहुंचाने के लिए शुरू हुई प्रधानमंत्री सौभाग्य योजना पर भी इस हादसे का असर पड़ेगा। ऊंचाहार से बिजली आपूर्ति लेने वाले आठ राज्यों में करीब द्वाइ करोड़ से अधिक परिवारों को सौभाग्य योजना से जोड़ना है। घटना के बाद योजना में देरी हो सकती है।

उत्पादन प्रभावित होगा। इस यूनिट को छह से आठ महीनों में दोबारा चलने लायक बनाया जाएगा।

HT

भयावह मंजर देख कांप उठी रूह

धमाके के साथ सिर पर बरसने लगी मौत, शोर, चीख और दर्द से सिहरा एनटीपीसी



ऊंचाहा र स्थित एनटीपीसी के प्लांट में विस्फोट के बाद बाहर लगी भीड़ • जागरण

जागरण संबाददाता, रायबरेली : नई नवेली 500 मेगावाट की छठी यूनिट किस तरह आग और शोलों से घिरकर मौत का मंजर दिखा देगी यह शायद ही किसी ने सोचा होगा। हर दिन की तरह पूरा स्टाफ आने वाले भयावह पल से अंजान काम में जुटा था। बस एक कालचक्र ऐसा था जिससे सब कुछ मालूम था। अचानक तेज धमाका हुआ और फिर ब्यायलर के पाइप ने अंगारे उगल दिए। हर तरफ भागो-भागो का शोर शुरू हो गया। बरसते हुए अंगारों की चपेट में कई लोग तो चीख भी नहीं पाए। कुछ तड़प कर वहीं ढेर हो गए।

एनटीपीसी में जब छठी यूनिट की सुरक्षात हुई थी तो जहन मनाया गया था। उम्मीदें थी कि अब उत्पादन को और चार चांद लगेंगे, लेकिन बुधवार की शाम चार बजे के करीब इन सारे सपनों पर तबाही का कब्जा हो गया। 90 फिट ऊंचे ब्यायलर से जब कोयले की राख लावा सरोखी गिरी तो उसने पूरे एनटीपीसी को हिलाकर रख दिया। ब्यायलर के नीचे काम करने वाले श्रमिक तो समझ ही नहीं पाए कि उनके सिर पर मौत इस तरह नाच उठीगी। देखते ही

यह कैसे हो गया

हादसे की खबर जैसे ही एनटीपीसी के बाहर निकली तो लोगों का हुजूम यूनिट के बाहर एकत्र हो गया। चीत्कार सुनकर गांव वालों के मुंह से केवल एक शब्द निकल रहा था कि यह क्या हो गया। अरे इस तरह का मंजर कभी नहीं देखा। सभी के जुबान पर एक ही सबाल था कि यह सब हो कैसे गया।

जो बच गए वह रो पड़े

जो श्रमिक, कर्मचारी व अधिकारी बायलर से निकली मौत के दंगल से बच गए, वह रो पड़े। समझ में नहीं आया कि आखिर यह कैसे हो गया। एनटीपीसी यूनिट एक ही पल में आग का गोला बन गई। जो राख की चपेट में आया वह बच नहीं सका। जो बच गए वह साधियों के हाल को देखकर चुकते रहे।

राजधानी के अस्पताल भी अलर्ट

जागरण संबाददाता, लखनऊ : ऊंचाहा र एनटीपीसी घटना को लेकर राजधानी के अस्पताल अलर्ट कर दिए गए। टॉमा सेंटर से लेकर हर जिला अस्पताल में बेड आरक्षित कर दिए गए। टॉमा सेंटर में डिजاستर वाई खोल दिया गया। वहीं 30 बेड को आरक्षित कर दिया गया। कुलपति ने रात में टॉमा सेंटर का निरीक्षण कर इमरजेंसी मेडिसिन व क्रिटिकल केयर यूनिट को अलर्ट कर दिया। इसके अलावा प्लास्टिक सर्जन, आर्थो, ऑर्थो व जनरल सर्जन को

तैनाती कर दी। वहीं बलरामपुर अस्पताल में 23 बेड आरक्षित कर प्लास्टिक सर्जन व जनरल सर्जन, फिजीशियन की इचूटी लगा दी गई। ऐसे ही सिविल अस्पताल में इमरजेंसी व बर्न यूनिट में बेड आरक्षित किए गए। वहीं लोहिया अस्पताल में भी टॉमा वाई के छह बेड रिजर्व कर डीक्टरी को अलर्ट मोड रहने को कहा गया है।

14 एंबुलेंस से मरीज भेजे गए

सेवा प्रदाता एंबुलेंस एजेंसी के सलाहाकार आनंद कुमार ने बताया कि घटना स्थल पर रेस्क्यू में करीब 50 एंबुलेंस लगाई गई। इसमें 14 एंबुलेंस 18 मरीजों को लेकर लखनऊ रेशर हुई। 10 एंबुलेंस एएलएस हैं, जिसमें वैटीलेटर की सुविधा है।

रात में जुटाई दवाएं

टॉमा सेंटर व बलरामपुर अस्पताल समेत सभी में मरीजों के आने की सूचना पर

दैनिक जागरण [2 Nov '17]

चार और घायलों की मौत, 41 भर्ती

जास, लखनऊ: एनटीपीसी हादसे के डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी (सिविल) अस्पताल में भर्ती चार और घायलों की गुरुवार को मौत हो गई। इनके नाम बिहार निवासी चंदन, राम रतन सिंह, अरविंद और छोटे लाल हैं। इनकी मौत सुबह पांच बजे से लेकर नौ बजे के बीच हुई है।

सिविल अस्पताल से 48 वर्षीय अजय कुमार मेहता और 25 वर्षीय राम सिंह को हालत गंभीर होने पर वेंटीलेटर के लिए डॉ. राम मनोहर लोहिया अस्पताल भेज दिया गया। वहीं सिप्स हॉस्पिटल में भर्ती एनटीपीसी के जीएम व कर्मी मिश्री लाल, प्रभात श्रीवास्तव, साहू सुखदेव और घानू भुइया को एयर एंबुलेंस से दिल्ली भेजा गया है। वहीं एक मरीज संजीव मिश्रा का इलाज आइसीयू में चल रहा है। सिविल में 22 मरीज, लोहिया में दो व एसजीपीजीआई में पांच मिलाकर कुल 41 मरीजों का इलाज राजधानी में चल रहा है।

संजीदा मंत्री खामोश अफसर और मौन राहुल

जामरुण संवाददाता, रायबरेली : ऊंचाहार का एनटीपीसी प्लांट गुरुवार को विभिन्न तरह के राजनीतिक तापमानों का भी केंद्र बिंदु बना। सुबह 9.30 बजे से ही प्रशासनिक अमला घटनास्थल के पास जमा हो गया था क्योंकि उसे पता था कि केंद्र से लेकर प्रदेश सरकार के विभागीय मंत्री बिजली घर आएंगे। साथ ही कांग्रेस के राष्ट्रीय उपाध्यक्ष राहुल गांधी के आने की भी पूर्व सूचना थी। एक के बाद एक राजनेता मोर्के पर आते और जाते रहे।

बुधवार को एनटीपीसी में हुए धमाके की गूंज दिल्ली तक पहुंची। शायद यही कारण था कि केंद्र सरकार ने बिना समय गंवाए ऊर्जा राज्य मंत्री को घटनास्थल पर हालात देखने भेज दिया। गुरुवार को

राजनीतिक

एनटीपीसी, ऊंचाहार हादसे के मृतकों की सूची

1-सीताराम पुत्र अज्ञात निवासी अज्ञात, 2-फैज उल्ला खान पुत्र गुलाम मुस्तफा निवासी अज्ञात, 3-संजय पुत्र अज्ञात निवासी अज्ञात, 4-जगलाल पुत्र शिव राम निवासी गौसपुर, 5-अवधेश जयसवाल पुत्र अज्ञात निवासी बिकई थाना ऊंचाहार, 6-संजय पटेल पुत्र अज्ञात निवासी लखनऊ, 7-गाफर

सिंह पुत्र अज्ञात निवासी सोनभद्र, 8-रूप चंद पुत्र अज्ञात निवासी सोनभद्र, 9-मानचंद्र पुत्र अज्ञात निवासी सोनभद्र, 10-जगतलाल पुत्र शिव राम निवासी उमरन थाना सलोन, 11-रामरतन पुत्र अज्ञात निवासी मध्य प्रदेश, 12-जैफ उल्ला खान पुत्र अज्ञात निवासी इटौरा बुजुर्ग थाना ऊंचाहार,

13-ओमप्रकाश पुत्र अज्ञात निवासी छत्तीसगढ़, 14-अरविंद पुत्र लालजी निवासी अज्ञात, 15-अजीत कुमार पुत्र अज्ञात निवासी पिपरहा थाना ऊंचाहार, 16-रवींद्र पुत्र अज्ञात निवासी सोनभद्र, 17-हबीब उल्ला खान पुत्र अज्ञात छत्तीसगढ़, 18-बालकृष्ण पुत्र बट्टी प्रसाद निवासी डिबिया थाना ऊंचाहार,

19-कमलेश प्रसाद पुत्र अज्ञात निवासी अज्ञात, 20-वीरेंद्र पुत्र शंभू निवासी अज्ञात, 21-चन्दन पुत्र जसराम निवासी अज्ञात, 22-छोटे लाल पुत्र लाल बाबू निवासी अज्ञात, 23-राम प्रसाद पुत्र दीनानाथ निवासी अज्ञात (नोट : अन्य सात मृतकों क शिनाख्त नहीं हो सकी है)

दैनिक जामरुण

[3 Nov 17]

हादसे के वक्त छठी यूनिट में मौजूद थे 311 श्रमिक

प्रशासन के पास 79 की सूची, शेष की नहीं मिल रही जानकारी

रविक द्विवेदी • रायबरेली

एनटीपीसी की यूनिट नंबर छह में हादसे के वक्त 311 मजदूर काम कर रहे थे। साथ ही लगभग दो दर्जन अधिकारी व कर्मचारी भी मौजूद थे। शुक्रवार देर शाम तक दो और श्रमिकों की मौत हो गई और मरने वालों की संख्या बढ़कर 35 पहुंच गई। मृतकों में एनटीपीसी के एक एजीएम और घायलों में दो एजीएम शामिल हैं। बाकी के एनटीपीसी कर्मियों के सुरक्षित होने का दावा किया जा रहा है। वहीं, बचे श्रमिक कहाँ और कैसे हैं, इसका ब्योरा अभी तक नहीं मिला है।

मैर प्रांत के लोग खासतौर पर अपनी की तलाश में रायबरेली व अन्य जगहों पर भटक रहे हैं। यूनिट में जिस वक्त हादसा हुआ, तब वहां पावर मेक कंपनी के कंट्रैक्ट बेस पर रखे गए कुल 53 और इंडियल कंपनी के 192 मजदूर थे। इसके अलावा स्थानीय ठेकेदार अभयराज, बबन सिंह और विजय कुमार के 13-13 और संगमलाल के 27 मजदूर काम कर रहे थे। बिजली उत्पादन संयंत्रों की निगरानी के लिए लगभग दो दर्जन एनटीपीसी अधिकारी व कर्मचारी भी वहां मौजूद थे। इनमें से अब तक कुल 35 लोगों की मौत होने की पुष्टि हुई है। एनटीपीसी ने तीनों एजीएम के अतिरिक्त किसी और के हताहत न होने की पुष्टि की है। इनमें एजीएम संजीव कुमार शर्मा की मौत हो चुकी है। घायल एजीएम मिश्रीराम और प्रभात श्रीवास्तव को इलाज के लिए लखनऊ से दिल्ली रेफर कर दिया गया है। प्रशासन ने 49 घायलों की सूची उपलब्ध करा दी है। इनमें इन दो एजीएम को छोड़कर शेष श्रमिक हैं। यानी 47 श्रमिकों में से दो की और जान जा चुकी है। 47 श्रमिक चिह्नित हुए हैं तो यूनिट में



ऊंचाहार स्थित एनटीपीसी की यूनिट छह के गेट पर शुक्रवार को पसरा सननाटा। इसी यूनिट में बुधवार दोपहर बाद हुआ था विस्फोट

• जागरण

यूनिट में 30 सितंबर से शुरू हुआ था उत्पादन

500 मेगावाट क्षमता की ये यूनिट इसी साल 31 मार्च को बनकर तैयार हुई थी। यहां व्यावसायिक उत्पादन 30 सितंबर को शुरू हुआ था। इस यूनिट को एनटीपीसी और बीएचईएल की संयुक्त कंपनी एनबीपीपीएल, एनटीपीसी, बीएचईएल प्रोजेक्ट ग्रुप लिमिटेड ने बनाया था। यूनिट का काम पावर मेक और इंडियल कंपनी कर रही है।

एएसपी ने मांगी सूची

फिर सवाल ये उठता है कि 311 में से सिर्फ 81 श्रमिक ही गर्म राख की जड़ में आये या आग उगली मौत में कई श्रमिक पूरी तरह खाक भी हुए हैं। लापता लोगों की हो रही खोजबीन भी इस आशंका की पुष्टि करती दिख रही है। एएसपी शशिरेखर ने इस आशंका का पताक्षेप करने के लिए यूनिट छह में श्रमिक मुहैया कराने वाली कंपनियों से

दो बेटों को खोकर बढहवास हुआ हीरा

संवादसूत्र, ऊंचाहार : अपनों को खोने के गम में जुबा खामोश हो चुकी है। आँखों से छलकता दर्द पूरी कहानी बयां कर रहा है।

सोनभद्र जनपद के किरबिल गांव निवासी हीरा सिंह ने अपने दोनों जवान बेटों रूप चंद्र और मान चंद्र को इस हादसे में खो दिया है। मुफलिसी का जीवन जी रहे पिता ने अपने बेटों को रोजी के जुगाड़ में ऊंचाहार भेजा था लेकिन काल ने रहम नहीं खाया। इस बूढ़े गरीब बाप को ऐसी सजा दे दी है कि जिसे सहन कर पाना उसके लिए मुश्किल है। खामोश जुबां लिए बूढ़ी आंखें अपने लाडले बेटों के शवों को तलाश करते हुए शुक्रवार को ऊंचाहार पहुंचा। इस बूढ़े पिता ने बताया कि दोनों बेटे दीपावली में घर आए थे। कहा था कि ऊंचाहार का काम खत्म होने वाला है। जल्दी ही दोनों वापस घर आ जाएंगे। बेटों का



मृतक रूपचंद्र व मानचंद्र के गमगीन बेटे पिता हीरा सिंह • जागरण

इंतजार अब कभी खत्म नहीं होगा। ऊंचाहार के गांव पिपराहा निवासी लाल बहादुर ने अपने जवान बेटे अजित कुमार क शायी का सपना संजोया था। बेटे के लिए बहू लाने की तैयारी थी लेकिन विधाता ने ऐसा खेल खेला की उनकी आस ही टूट गई।

Duke 46 October 2017
[दुर्भाग्य जाग्रत]

19 मृतकों के लिए गए डीएनए सैंपल

एनटीपीसी हादसे में मारे कामगारों में से 19 का रायबरेली में पोस्टमार्टम, आपत्तियों को लेकर किए मुकम्मल इंतजाम

जागरण संवाददाता, रायबरेली : एनटीपीसी में हुए हादसे में मारे गए कामगारों का शुकवार को भी पोस्टमार्टम जारी रहा। अब तक 19 मृतकों का पोस्टमार्टम हो चुका है। वहीं, सबकी शिनाख्त करके परिजनों को शव सौंप भी दिए गए। झुलसने के कारण शवों की स्थिति काफी खराब हो चुकी थी। ऐसे में पहचान में कहीं कोई सवाल न खड़ा हो, इसके लिए इन सभी 19 मृतकों के डीएनए भी सुरक्षित रखने के लिए लखनऊ भेज दिए गए हैं।

बुधवार रात से ही पोस्टमार्टम हाउस में चिकित्सीय टीम का जमावड़ा लग गया था। इस दौरान स्वास्थ्य विभाग की ओर से चिकित्सकों की टीमें गठित कर दी गईं। गुरुवार को सुबह से ही पोस्टमार्टम का सिलसिला शुरू हो गया। देर शाम तक 15 शवों का पोस्टमार्टम कर दिया गया। वहीं, चार मृतकों की शिनाख्त नहीं हो सकी। इसके चलते उनके शवों को सुरक्षित रखवा दिया गया है। शुकवार को परिजनों ने शवों की शिनाख्त लवकेश, कृष्ण मुरारी यादव, रवींद्र सिंह और हीरा सिंह के रूप में की। सभी का पोस्टमार्टम कर परिजनों को शव सौंप दिए गए। पोस्टमार्टम कर रहे डॉ. विशाल गौतम और डॉ. आदित्य पांडेय ने बताया कि सभी मृतकों का शिनाख्त हो चुका है। इसके बावजूद कहीं पर कोई दुविधा न हो और किसी तरह की आपत्ति करने पर जांच के लिए उनके डीएनए को सुरक्षित रखवाने के लिए लैब भेज दिया गया है।

रायबरेली पोस्टमार्टम हाउस में लाए गए मृतकों की सूची

- संजय पटेल पुत्र मंगरू पटेल, निवासी ब्रुंवावन कॉलोनी लखनऊ
- फैजउल्ला खां पुत्र गुलाम मुस्तफा निवासी चुमरा रामानुजगंज बलरामपुर छत्तीसगढ़
- संजय पुत्र सुखलाल निवासी बवचौर तमतूहीर, कुशीनगर
- नरेश चौधरी पुत्र मिठाईलाल निवासी भदौरा बडवारा कटनी मध्य प्रदेश
- अवधेश जायसवाल पुत्र श्यामलाल जायसवाल निवासी बिकई ऊंचाहार, रायबरेली
- हबीबउल्ला खां पुत्र गुलाम मुस्तफा निवासी चुमरा रामानुजगंज बलरामपुर छत्तीसगढ़
- रूपचंद्र पुत्र हीरा सिंह निवासी गिरविल म्योरपुर सोनभद्र
- मानचंद्र पुत्र हीरा सिंह गिरविल म्योरपुर सोनभद्र
- जैकूरुल्ला खां पुत्र मुख्तार निवासी परतापुर, गढ़वा, झारखंड
- ओमप्रकाश पुत्र रतीराम निवासी सियावन, महोबा
- बालकृष्ण शुक्ला पुत्र बट्टी शुक्ला निवासी छिविया ऊंचाहार, रायबरेली
- पंचम महतो पुत्र अर्जुन महतो निवासी अजनिया माली, औरंगाबाद, बिहार

● कंचन कुमार पुत्र लाखन साव निवासी न्योरा, चैनपुर, पलामू झारखंड

● रामरतन पुत्र कमलेश निवासी भदौरा, कटनी, मध्य प्रदेश

● हीरा सिंह पुत्र रामजीत निवासी चागा, आरंगपानी, म्योरपुर, सोनभद्र

● कृष्ण मुरारी यादव उर्फ सीताराम पुत्र स्व. झूरी निवासी मोखरा ऊंचाहार, रायबरेली

● गाफर सिंह उर्फ महवर पुत्र राम औतार गौड़ निवासी किरविल म्योरपुर सोनभद्र

● रवींद्र सिंह पुत्र राम विचार निवासी किरविल म्योरपुर सोनभद्र

● लवकेश पुत्र तुलसीराम निवासी कुर्मिन का पुरवा, पुरवारा, ऊंचाहार, रायबरेली। कुछ का पोस्टमार्टम लखनऊ भी किया गया है।

दूसरे दिन भी पुलिस-प्रशासन मुस्तैद पोस्टमार्टम हाउस में दूसरे दिन भी पुलिस और प्रशासन मुस्तैद रहे। सदर एसडीएम के अलावा सीओ, दारोगा, नायब तहसीलदार, लेखपाल और पुलिस कर्मियों की ड्यूटी लगाई गई थी। मृतकों के शव सौंपने से पहले बाकायदे परिजनों के मोबाइल नंबर तक दर्ज किए गए। इस दौरान प्रशासन की ओर से वाहन भी मुहैया कराया गया।

दैनिक जागरण
[4 Nov 17]



ऊंचाहार स्थित एनटीपीसी प्लांट में हुए हादसे में मारे गए कामगारों के शवों के पोस्टमार्टम के लिए पोस्टमार्टम हाउस में कागजी कार्यवाही पूरी करते कर्मचारी और परिजन

मजदूर संगठनों ने की हादसे की निष्पक्ष जांच की मांग

जागरण संवाददाता, रायबरेली : संयोजकत्व में सराय सहजन में विभिन्न एनटीपीसी हादसे के बाद शनिवार को श्रमिक संगठनों की बैठक हुई। बैठक में एचएमएस (थर्मल पावर हाउस कंस्ट्रक्शन कर्मचारी संघ) के प्रांतीय नेता अविनाश पांडेय इंटरक के प्रांतीय नेता डीएस मिश्रा, एचएमएस के जनपदीय नेता अरविंद सिंह रातौर एवं सीटू के जिलाध्यक्ष खुशीराम चौधरी, थर्मल पावर हाउस कंस्ट्रक्शन कर्मचारी संघ के अध्यक्ष इन्द्रसेन सिंह के

राम अनुज तिवारी, मो. वारिस, अवधेश कुमार सिंह सहित भारी संख्या में मजदूर नेता एवं श्रमिकों ने भाग लिया। घटना के लिए सर्वसम्मति से एनटीपीसी प्रबंधन को जिम्मेदार ठहराते हुए मजदूर नेताओं ने कहा कि श्रमियों के जानने के बाद भी छठी यूनिट के ब्याथलर को चलावाकर इतनी बड़ी दर्दनाक घटना करवा दिया। सवाल किया गया कि हादसा स्थल पर

लाइट क्यों बंद की गयी यह प्रबंधन के इरादों पर प्रश्नचिन्ह है। सर्वसम्मति से सभी मजदूर नेताओं ने पूरे प्रकरण की न्यायिक जांच उच्च न्यायालय की सेवानिवृत्त न्यायमूर्ति की समिति गठित कर जांच कराए जाने की मांग की। साथ ही इतनी वीभत्स घटना के बाद प्रधानमंत्री व मुख्यमंत्री के न आने पर असंतोष व्यक्त किया गया है। मजदूर

नेताओं ने मृतक श्रमिकों के परिवारों को 50-50 लाख रुपया की धनराशि भी दिये जाने की मांग की है। साथ ही गंभीर रूप से घायलों को 20-20 लाख रुपया तथा अन्य घायलों को 5-5 लाख रुपये दिये जाने की मांग के साथ प्रत्येक परिवार के आश्रितों के एक सदस्य को स्थाई सेवा में भी लिए जाने की मांग की है। (संबंधित खबरें पेज-4 और 7 पर भी)

एनटीपीसी में झुलसे एक और श्रमिक की मौत

दिल्ली के सफदरगंज अस्पताल में चल रहा था संतोष का इलाज

एनटीपीसी की ऊंचाहार यूनिट में बाथलर फटने से झुलसे संतोष (30) नामक युवक की दिल्ली के सफदरगंज अस्पताल में इलाज के दौरान मौत हो गई। उन्हें शुक्रवार को ही एयर एंबुलेंस से दिल्ली के सफदरगंज अस्पताल में भर्ती कराया गया था। शनिवार सुबह करीब 7:30 बजे डॉक्टरों ने उन्हें मृत घोषित कर दिया। सफदरगंज अस्पताल के बर्न वार्ड में 11 व एमएस ट्रॉमा सेंटर में छह पीडित भर्ती हैं। इनमें से पांच मरीजों की हालत गंभीर बनी हुई है।

उपमुख्यमंत्री केशव प्रसाद मौर्य ने दोनों अस्पतालों में पहुंचकर मरीजों का हाल जाना। अस्पताल के चिकित्सा अधीक्षक राजेंद्र शर्मा ने बताया कि पीड़ितों को बेहतर चिकित्सा सुविधा उपलब्ध कराई जा रही है और विशेषज्ञ डॉक्टर देखभाल कर रहे हैं।

सीएम बोले-बेहतर इलाज करें : मुख्यमंत्री योगी आदित्यनाथ करीब एक बजे डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी (सिविल) अस्पताल पहुंचे। यहां बर्न वार्ड व न्यू



ऊंचाहार स्थित एनटीपीसी की छठ नंबर यूनिट, जिसमें हुआ था हादसा • जागरण

बिल्डिंग के प्रथम तल पर भर्ती मरीजों को देखा। साथ ही चिकित्सा अधीक्षक डॉ. आशुतोष देवे से घायलों की स्थिति व इलाज के बारे में पूछा। इसके बाद सीएम ने परकारों से कहा कि घटना की जांच चल रही है। केंद्रीय ऊर्जा मंत्री ने खुद एनटीपीसी का भ्रमण किया है। उनकी स्पोर्ट का इंतजार किया जा रहा है। वहीं मरीजों को बेहतर इलाज उपलब्ध कराया जा रहा है। अति गंभीर मरीजों को दिल्ली इलाज के लिए भेजा जा रहा है।

चार मरीज दिल्ली गए, 13 भर्ती : अस्पतालों में भर्ती 50 फीसद से अधिक बर्न मरीजों को दिल्ली भेज दिया गया है। इसमें सिविल अस्पताल के मेहताव आलम व रामदेव को एयर एंबुलेंस से इलाज के लिए भेजा गया, जबकि ट्रॉमा सेंटर से शिवशंकर व रामबाबू को दिल्ली भेजा गया है। वर्तमान में पीजीआई में पांच, ट्रॉमा सेंटर में एक व सिविल में सात घायल भर्ती हैं।

एक डिस्चार्ज, वाहन से घर भेजा : ट्रॉमा सेंटर में भर्ती रमेश मेहता की हालत स्थिर थी। डॉक्टरों ने उन्हें डिस्चार्ज कर दिया। झारखंड निवासी रमेश को एनटीपीसी के अधिकारियों ने वाहन से घर भेज दिया है।

रायबरेली के डीएम ने दिए 40 लाख रुपये : घायलों के इलाज के लिए रायबरेली के डीएम ने पीजीआई को 40 लाख रुपये दिए हैं। वहीं पीजीआई प्रशासन ने घायलों के इलाज में आर्थिक मदद के लिए सरकार को पत्र भेजा है। (इनपुट : राज ब्यूरो, नई दिल्ली)

5th नवम्बर 2017
[दिनांक प्रमाण]

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