

CHAPTER-7

SAFETY MEASURES

7.1 With the continuous increase in the use of machinery, the arrangements for ensuring safety in factories have assumed immense significance. The Factories Act, 1948 has provided for several measures to ensure safety of the workers. Some of these are: (i) Fencing of machines of all sorts is compulsory, (ii) No person is to be employed in any factory to lift, carry or move any load so heavy as to be likely to cause him injury, (iii) If it appears to the Inspector that any building or part of a building or any part of the ways, machinery or plant in a factory is in a condition that it is dangerous to human life or safety, he may serve on the Manager of the factory an order in writing specifying the measure which in his opinion should be adopted and requiring them to be carried out before a stipulated date.

The important measures taken by different Factory Inspectorates in this direction in the year 2004 are summarised below: -

ANDHRA PRADESH

7.2 Technical guidance was given by the Inspectorate to the factory managements for ensuring safe and healthy working conditions and for providing adequate welfare amenities to the workers.

ASSAM

7.3 The Inspectorate of Factories has taken special care for implementation of the safety provisions of the Factories Act, 1948 and rules framed then under during the year. “ National Safety Day ” and safety seminars were organized in factories. Safety training was imparted to workers and management which resulted in sharp decrease in number of industrial accidents. Necessary guidance and advice was given by the Inspectorate on adoption of safety precautions such as guarding of machinery, safe working method, careful handling of materials, use of personal protective devices etc. Major accident prone factories of Assam were asked to formulate their safety policies for submission to Chief Inspector of Factories During the year 2004, 13 safety policies were received and accepted. Most of the factories particularly the hazardous factories have constituted safety committee in the factory. Mock drills at periodical intervals were also carried out in the major accident hazard factories.

GOA

7.4 The safety Training Centre with safety training facilities and library was well utilized for practical demonstrations of safety precautions to benefit the trainees. The Inspectorate also carried out the safety promotional activities, which included the training course on Industrial Safety and First Aid for different factory workers and I.T.I. students. During the year 2004, 86 such training programmes were conducted thereby training 2298 persons.

HARYANA

7.5 The Inspectorate staff ensures the implementation of the safety measures. Violation of Safety measures in respect of fencing of machinery (Section-21) was found generally in units which were equipped with old machines. Sometimes workers did work without safety gadgets as a result of this; accidents of serious nature have taken place. The State Industrial Safety Directorate is also conducting various training programmes for the supervisors to educate, advise and train them for maintaining safety system at work place. The certifying Surgeon of the department continued to visit units regularly to medically examine the workers employed in dangerous operations as per schedule laid down in rule 102 of the Punjab Factories Act, 1952. In some units which were involved in operations such as emission of dangerous fumes and dust etc., only exhaust fans were provided while in other units other protective equipments were also provided to the workers for full protection. It was generally found that the workers did not wear protective equipment and goggles. The Inspectorate staff continued to take persuasive and legal steps for enforcing the use of desired equipments. Prosecutions for violations of the safety measures laid down in Section 22, 24 to 26, 28 to 35 and 38 which were launched in 667 cases. No violation was detected regarding employment of young persons on dangerous machines section 23 and 27.

ORISSA

7.6 The State Safety cell of the Directorate have taken promotional activities to inculcate safe habits and to arouse consciousness amongst workers, supervisor and Managers of factories in order to improve work safety and work environment. The State Safety Cell supplements the enforcement machinery in this regard. 26 Safety Training programmes were conducted in different areas of the State where 1056 workers and shop floor level supervisors were benefited from the programmes. Apart from these, Safety posters for display in Factories and Safety pamphlets & safety hand books for of workers and managers wage distributed in different factories of the state. The State safety cell in association with the State government sponsored Multi Disciplinary Centre on Safety, Health and Environment and National Safety Council (Orissa chapter) actively promoted Safety and health consciousness programmes amongst industrial workers of the State. The State Safety Cell in collaboration with Multi Disciplinary Centre has conducted 5 Basic First-Aid Training Programmes in different industries during 2004 in which 212 industrial workers were benefited.

TRIPURA

7.7 The compliance regarding safety measures pertaining to work on or near machinery (section 22), employment of young persons on dangerous machines (section 23) carriage of excess weight (section 34) , protection of eyes (section 35) , protection in case of fire (section-38), and safety measures laid-down under section 25, 16, 17, 29, 30 was found to be satisfactory with no serious violation. In case of striking gear and device for cutting power (Section 24), arrangements were found to be satisfactory except for new factories for which instructions were given for remedial measures. Fencing of machinery (section 21) was not satisfactory in all factories. Prosecutions were launched against violation and were convicted with fine.

Management boilers were put in use in many factories for supply of steam above normal atmospheric pressure. Safety valve tests were carried out to ensure safety in operation. The compliance under hazardous processes (section 41-A to 41-H) in respect of factories belonging to over number was not satisfactory while for Private Sector and Government under taking it was more or less satisfactory.

CHANDIGARH

7.8 The factories, equipped with power-aided machines, Generally violated the provisions relating to Safety measures (section-21). Sometimes even workers did not take proper care in replacing the guard on the machine after work, and sometimes this negligence resulted into accidents of various nature. However, the managements have been cautioned to take suitable measures to avoid industrial accidents. The safety measures regarding protection from dangerous fumes and dust (section 35 and 36) are stipulated under the Factories Act, 1948. In cases, where units which were involved in operation such as emission of dangerous fume and dust etc., exhaust fans were provided while in other units precautions were taken to remove dust and fumes. Workers were issued safety goggles and other protection equipments. No violation was detected regarding employment of young persons on dangerous machines (section -23).

MAHARASHTRA

With the efforts made by Directorate of Industrial Safety and Health various safety measures got complied with. Emergency stair cases and electrical flame proof equipment were provided in 59 and 58 factories respectively. Safety officers were appointed in 24 factories. Committees were constituted in 51 factories. In all 73 safety seminars were organised in which 1392 participants and 4249 workers participated. Safety training programmes were organised in 90 factories benefiting 2329 workers. Safety day and safety week celebrations were organised by the factories which benefited 65776 workers. The total member of Major Accident Hazard (MAH) factories identified in the State of Maharashtra is 342 for which on site disaster control plans have been prepared and periodical mock-drills for any emergencies are conducted regularly. Number of inspections and visits to MAH factories during the year 2004 was 506. The crisis groups for chemical accidents have been constituted as state, district and local levels and regular meetings of these groups were conducted. Off-site emergency plans for the district and local level have also been prepared and mock-drills were conducted regularly.

TAMIL NADU

State safety awards are presented to managements every year based on their performance in reducing accidents in their factories. Every year 90 managements are given first prize Gold shields worth Rs. 2500 and equal number are given second prize (silver shields) worth Rs. 1500. Similarly, to encourage workers to actively participate in accident prevention awards are presented to the workman every year for the improvement of Safety standards, working environment and increase in productivity. The Inspectorate conducted 289 safety courses benefiting 8976 workers during the year 2004. Besides, 20 Safety Surveys were also conducted during the year in factories reporting large number of accidents. The Inspectorate has tested 76232 vessels of pressure plant during the year, 2004 and certified their fitness for safe working.