

Regarding need for comprehensive safety measures to control industrial accidents in Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) plants in the country-Laid

SHRI KIRTI AZAD (BARDHAMAN-DURGAPUR): I wish to draw the attention of the Government to rising industrial accidents and safety lapses in Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) plants, especially the recent accident at the Durgapur Steel Plant. Officials have highlighted a growing number of such accidents in organised steel units of SAIL, with 131 fatalities occurring across SAIL plants over the last ten years. Many of these could have been prevented with adequate safety arrangements and vigilance, indicating repeated violations of labour laws and the Factories Act, 1948. In other plants, such as Bokaro Steel Plant, similar mishaps involving hot metal spills and equipment failures have exposed serious lapses in risk assessment, standard operating procedures and protection for workers, especially contractual staff. I urge the Union Government and the SAIL management to immediately order independent safety audits of all plants, enforce strict compliance with safety norms, provide mandatory protective gear and training to all workers, fix accountability at the level of plant and corporate management, and submit a detailed report to Parliament on action taken in all major accidents and fatalities in the last decade, so that workers are not forced to risk their lives merely to earn their livelihood in our public sector units.