

CHAPTER-VII

SAFETY

STEEL AUTHORITY OF INDIA LIMITED

There was overall improvement in the safety performance of the company during the year. The declining trend of all categories of accidents was maintained. Adequate emphasis was laid upon safety of human resources and assets of the Company along with production and productivity. Systematic approach to safety management was adopted through close monitoring of adherence to safety norms and procedures.

RASHTRIYA ISPAT NIGAM LIMITED

Visakhapatnam Steel Plant is the first integrated Steel plant, which has implemented “Occupational health & safety management system” as per British Standards Institute specification and received OHSAS:18001 certificate from M/s BVQI in the presence of Minister of Industries, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh and Principal Secretary to Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Labour, employment, training and factories Deptt.

Continuous efforts of all departments resulted in improvement of safety consciousness of employees. Refresher safety training is given to the regular employees. The contractor employees training was enriched by giving job specific and site specific safety training at site by the zonal safety officer and engineer-in-charge before starting of the job in addition to normal training.

Status of safety activities are reviewed by top management on weekly as well as monthly basis. As a pro-active approach, special safety inspections were carried out in all major departments for identifying non-conformances (unsafe-acts/unsafe-conditions) and the same were rectified. All accidents and incidents

were investigated and remedial measures were implemented. Round the clock monitoring was done by safety personnel during capital repairs of Sinter Plant, Blast Furnace, Steel Melting Shop, Light & Medium Merchant Mill, Wire Rod Mill & Medium & Merchant Structural Mill. Fire fighting facilities were inspected regularly and deficiencies were rectified. The central safety committee and 25 departmental safety committees discussed various safety issues and recommendations of their committees were implemented.

High quality personal protective equipment, life safety shoes, helmets, FR coats, ear muffs, ear plugs, heat resistant face shields, water gel blankets, welders aprons, eye protective equipment, hand gloves of different varieties, skin paste, eye wash showers etc. were provided to employees.

Internal safety audits were conducted. External safety audit for the year 2001 was conducted by M/s P J Encon Services and recommendations of the reports were implemented. External safety audit for the year 2002 is being conducted by M/s See-Tech Solutions, Nagpur.

Onsite emergency plan was implemented. For testing the preparedness of departments/plant, to fight against the emergencies, 12 departmental level fire mock drills were conducted every month and other mock drills were also conducted for meeting emergencies like gas leakage, electric shock, rescue etc. Two plant level mock drills were conducted during the year.

Road safety measures were implemented strictly. Special concrete road was laid in the heavy vehicle movement route. Printing and issue of bulletins, posters, safety hoarding, safety painting and safety messages, films in cable TV etc were taken up for safety promotion.

In connection with national safety day celebrations, many safety competitions like debate, essay, poster, slogan, songs/poem, quiz etc. were

conducted for employees and school children. Inter departmental safety and housekeeping competitions were also conducted.

Appreciating the receipt of OHSAS 18001 certificate, National safety council, Andhra Pradesh chapter and Government of Andhra Pradesh have awarded a trophy to RINL.

NATIONAL MINERAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED

In NMDC Vocational Training Centres are provided in each Project for imparting initial/ basic training for the new entrants. Every year 1/5th of the persons will be given refresher training. Apart from this special training and development training is being given to the required persons. First aid and fire fighting training is being conducted regularly at the Projects. The other safety measures :-

- In each mining project of NMDC, sufficient number of Workmen Inspectors were nominated / appointed for mining, mechanical and electrical installations as per statutory requirements.
- Safety Committees are formed in all the projects.
- Regular Safety Committee meetings are conducted once in a month. In the meetings Accident Analysis is being discussed and remedial measures are being implemented.
- Occupational Health Centres have been provided in all the Projects.
- Specialized training was given to Doctors in Occupational Health Safety Centres.
- All the periodical medical examination and other additional tests required under the statute are carried out in time schedule programme covering all the new recruits, old employees on roll also one year before superannuation of the employee.

The number of fatal accidents during the year 2001-02 was two (2) in NMDC Mines. The number of serious injuries in all the mines of the Corporation was ten (10) during 02-03 (upto Dec.02).

KUDREMUKH IRON ORE COMPANY LIMITED

A Safety Department is functioning effectively. The Company gives utmost importance to occupational safety and health of the persons working in the Company. Workers' participation in Safety Management System is one of the important criteria adopted by the Company. Areawise Safety Committees are formed. Workers' participation in these Safety Committees is ensured. Safety inspections are carried out regularly by the Safety Officer alongwith the Safety Committee Members and the safety points are discussed in the Safety Meetings held every month.

In order to inculcate safety consciousness and to develop the human resources, various training programmes such as refresher training, training on first aid, training on positive work culture, awareness programmes on environment, quality and safety management system are conducted. Further, to increase the awareness of safety among the mining communities, safety campaign/propaganda is done by observing Mines Safety Week Celebrations every year under the guidance of Mines Safety Association, Karnataka. During the Mines Safety Week celebrations, various competitions are held at both Zonal Level and the State Level for the workers of different mines covered under Mines Safety Association, Karnataka. The Company has won several prizes both at Zonal and State level competitions.

MANGANESE ORE (INDIA) LTD.

With the continuous depletion of near surface ore deposits, mining is progressively being extended to deeper horizons and extraction is increasingly done through deep under-ground working. This requires extra attention to be paid to various aspects viz. support system, ventilation and efficient filling of the voids arising out of extraction of ore. Continuous emphasis is laid on training of

employees. Mine working is regularly inspected by members of Pit Committees, Workman Inspectors, Safety Officers and General Manager (Safety).

Safety Weeks are observed and exhibitions are held to inculcate safety habits to ensure safe working. Safety Committee meetings are regularly held during which any unsafe act committed/observed by any mine worker is discussed to avoid recurrence. The Company pays special attention to ensure safety of the mines and workforce employed therein. The company has participated in Regional Safety Competition and has won 47 prizes. The company has received National Safety Award for the year 2000 for the “Lowest Injury Frequency Rate” for its Gumgaon Mine.

FERRO SCRAP NIGAM LIMITED

In order to create safety awareness among the employees, various training programmes are organised on safety through National Safety Council as well as other institutions. Apart from this, the Safety Day celebrations comprising of debate on safety are also held in all the units and corporate office, wherein the employees take part with full enthusiasm and the winners are given suitable prizes. There has not been any fatal accident during the year, and the frequency rate of accidents is only 0.56.

MECON LIMITED

MECON has design and consultancy offices and does not have any industrial unit. However, at project sites, all necessary safety related precautions are being taken and as a result, no accident has been reported during the year.

HINDUSTAN STEEL CONSTRUCTION LIMITED (HSCL)

HSCL has formulated safety code and adequate steps have been taken for its implementation.