

No let-up in Baghjan inferno



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There is no let up in the inferno at gas well in Baghjan which caught fire on Tuesday after ten days of blow out.

Around 1600 families in 1.5 km radius have been camping at safe distance and most of them alleged to have lost their houses in the inferno.

Local residents have further alleged lost of paddy fields which won't be cultivable for the next many years.

State industry minister Chandra Mohan Patowary drew flake as he was allegedly trying to downplay the incident during his to a relief camps.

Absence petroleum minister and chief minister has further fuelled anger of the people.

"Nobody knows when the inferno would end. By then we would have to lose everything," said Pokhila Orang whose house was reduced to ashes in full view of her.

"The OIL authorities have paid Rs 30,000 each to the affected families as immediate relief. But they should not wash their hands off. We need full compensation and exemplary punishment of those responsible for the incident" said Lakhinath Borah, an affected individual.

Notably, OIL engaged John Energy (P) Ltd to drill oil and gas and the operation was not following the laid down safety norms. After the incident many officials of the Gujarat based company fled allowing OIL to bear the brunt.

In yet another development, State Congress on Thursday called governor Jagdish Mukhi and demanded his intervention for an on the spot enquiry into the incident that killed two fire fighters.

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