

4 killed in gas leak at pharma plant

Agencies

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Four people choked to death after they inhaled toxic gas in a pharmaceutical plant in the district on Tuesday evening, police said. At least 11 other people were affected.

The State government today announced an aid of Rs 3 lakh each for the kin of the four workers killed at the Sequent Scientific Ltd's plant in Tarapur MIDC at Boisar.

"The government has decided to give Rs 3 lakh each as aid to their families," the State Labour Minister, Mr Hasan Mushrif, told PTI.

He said that apart from the four deaths, 11 persons fell sick due to the leakage of hydrogen sulphide at the plant.

The operations at the plant had been stopped, Mr Mushrif said, adding that an inquiry had been initiated and report would come within a week.

Thane district police have booked the chief manager, production manager and plant supervisor of the company for culpable homicide not amounting to murder and negligence.

The deceased workers were identified as Naresh Varma, Dinesh Singh, Shivkant Tiwari and Prajapati.

"According to preliminary investigations, a pipe burst caused leakage of hydrogen sulphide gas in the plant premises," the Boisar police station in charge U.D. Sonawane told IANS.

Two of the affected workers remain critical, Mr Sonawane said.

Boisar is about 100 km north of Mumbai in the industrial belt of Thane district.

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