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Media alert from the Media Scanning & Verification Cell, IDSP-NCDC.

Alert ID	Publication Date	Reporting Date	Place Name	News Source/Publication Language
5627	14.11.2019	14.11.2019	Balasure Odisha	The Indian Express English Newspaper 14 <sup>th</sup> November, 2019/Page No. 10
<b>Title:</b>	<b>100 taken ill after gas leak at prawn processing unit in district Balasure, Odisha</b>			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to DSU-Balasure, SSU-Odisha			

Nearly 100 workers, most of them women, fell sick in a case of suspected gas leak at a prawn processing unit in Odisha's Balasure district on Wednesday night.

Doctors said the situation is under control and many of the affected people are being discharged after first-aid, PTI reported.

Odisha's coastline is dotted with many units that culture shrimp for domestic and international markets. The state exports prawn worth approximately Rs 2,000 crore annually.

The accident is reported to have occurred in Panapana village of Balasure's Bahanga tehsil. The affected workers were taken to Khantapada community health centre (CHC).

Visuals emerging from the spot showed dozens of women being carried out of buses and into the CHC. Many women were unconscious and shivering as they were laid on the floor.

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**Disclaimer:- This is a media alert subject to verification.**

**Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), National Centre for Disease Control,  
Ministry Of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India**

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Fifty patients were later shifted to the district headquarters hospital, PTI reported, quoting a Balasore police officer.

Initial reports by local news channels said the CHC had only one doctor and a nurse, before the district administration rushed a team of doctors for additional support. Some nursing students were also allowed to join the teams treating the affected workers, according to information.

"We hear that the gas leaked is ammonia," a district administration official said. But one of the first women to revive said the gas in question was a chlorine compound. "My eyes and throat started burning. I was sneezing violently and rushed outside," she said.

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