

[Translation]

Bhopal Gas Victims

*287. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have not yet restarted providing relief to the gas victims of Bhopal;

(b) whether the gas victims have not yet received any relief from the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that relief is provided to all the gas-victims at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV) : (a) to (d). The provision of relief to the victims of the Bhopal gas tragedy has not been discontinued and as such, the question of re-starting does not arise. Interim relief @ Rs.200/- per month in the 36 severely affected wards of Bhopal is being disbursed. Further, in compliance with the orders dated 3.10.1991 of the Supreme Court of India, claims for compensation for death and injury cases are also being settled and an amount of about Rs. 500 crores has been awarded upto March 31, 1995. 43 Courts are functioning to settle the claims and efforts are being made to set up another 13 courts to speed up the settlement of claims.

[English]

Kashmir Issue

*288. DR. R. MALLU :

DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan raised the Kashmir issue at the recent meeting of the UN Commission on Human Rights;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the counter measures taken and achievements made by Indian delegation in this regard;

(c) whether the Government are making any diplomatic initiatives with other countries in regard to such futile attempts of Pakistan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA) : (a) and (b). Pakistan raised the Kashmir issue in the recently concluded 51st session of UNCHR under several agenda items. However, the Indian delegation effectively rebutted Pakistani allegations and placed facts in correct

perspective before the member-States of the UN Commission on Human Rights. Effective lobbying by Indian Government ensured that Pakistan could not muster support for tabling a resolution against India.

(c) and (d). Government have kept member-States of the UN apprised of the true situation including Pakistan's involvement in sponsoring terrorism across the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir. Government have also kept the international community informed of our willingness to discuss all differences bilaterally with Pakistan under the Simla Agreement.

National Highways

*289. SHRI PREM CHAND RAM :

SHRI BHUBANESWAR PRASAD MEHTA :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the names and details of the new National Highways on which construction work was started during last one year, State-wise;

(b) the land acquired for construction of new National Highways during the Eighth Plan period; and

(c) the estimated cost incurred on land acquisition and developmental works carried on National Highways so far under the Eighth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b). Only one new National Highway (No.18) from Chittoor to Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh, has been declared during the VIII Five Year Plan so far. Five improvement works costing Rs. 132.74 lakh, which did not involve land acquisition, have been sanctioned on this National Highway during 1994-95.

(c) The Year-wise allocation of funds on development of National Highways including land acquisition during the 8th Plan period so far is as under :

S.No.	Year	Allocation of funds for development of National Highways (Rs. in Crores)
1.	1992-93	437.87
2.	1993-94	535.91
3.	1994-95	677.30

Sail Shares to Employees

*290. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN : Will the Minister of STEEL be please to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to offer the shares of SAIL to its employees;