

(a) whether it is a fact that there was leakage of ammonia gas in the atmosphere continuously from 4th March, 1985 in the city of Bombay from the Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited at Chembur;

(b) if so, the percentage of ammonia in the atmosphere during the period;

(c) whether the Fertilizer Corporation of India Plant at Chembur was shut down for sometime to avoid leakage; and

(d) the cause of ammonia leakage and the measures Government have taken to prevent the same?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) Complaints of ammonia smell were made by citizens in various parts of Bombay city on March 3, 5, 10, 12 and were highlighted by the press. The officials of Bombay Municipal Corporation (BMC) and Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) tried to locate the source of the ammonia smell in the atmosphere on the various days. However, it was found difficult to pin-point the exact source. The ammonia smell on 12th March, 1985 near Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers (RCF) in Chembur has been attributed to emissions from RCF. This was due to inadequate neutralisation of the effluents of the new urea plant for a short period.

(b) In the air sample collected by BMC at 11 pm on 12.3.85, the Chembur air was found to have 20 micrograms ammonia per cubic metre i. e. 0.026 PPM-which is quite low.

(c) The Maharashtra Pollution Control Board felt that some holes in the vent stack of the old urea plant could be a source of ammonia emission and, therefore, advised RCF on 14th March, 1985 to shut down its old urea plant and repair the vent stack. As advised, RCF shut down this plant on the 14th March, repaired the vent stack and restarted the plant on 16th March with the permission of MPCB.

(d) RCF has stepped up arrangement for monitoring ammonia concentration in the effluents from the various plants, and to neutralise them at source (plant) itself if the

concentration is high. Round the clock surveillance by pollution control engineers has been organised. Action has been initiated to set up "environmental circles" in all the plants to create awareness and consciousness among workers and officers for more effective control of ammonia in effluents and emissions. On the advice of MPCB, RCF has taken additional measures which include monitoring of ambient air quality at 4 locations outside the plant, keeping record of the neutralisations of effluents, etc. On the advice of the Control Board for the Prevention and Control of Water Pollution, RCF has also agreed to establish three static ambient monitoring stations near the RCF boundaries with automatic alarm system.

Cases pending for Sanctioning of Telephone Exchanges by P.T.C.C. in Himachal Pradesh

1764. **PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR :** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any cases for clearance by Power and Telecommunication Co-ordination Committee in respect of sanction of Telephone Exchanges are pending and have not been cleared so far during 1984-85;

(b) if so, the details of all such cases, circle-wise and the date w.e.f. which each one of them is pending with the committee;

(c) the steps taken by the committee for early clearance of such cases; and

(d) the data by which all such cases including the one for SAX at Namhol in Bilaspur District of Himachal Pradesh would be cleared and the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No, Sir,

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) On date there is no case pending clearance including the one for an SAX at Namhol in Bilaspur District of Himachal Pradesh.