

Studies on Long-Term Environmental Effects of Toxic Gas From Union Carbide Plant at Bhopal

489. DR. B.L. SHAILESH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any scientific studies are being carried out on the long-term environmental effects of the toxic gas that leaked from the Union Carbide Plant at Bhopal sometime back ;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof ; and

(c) the precautionary measures suggested to the various States having such hazardous industries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R.K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A Scientific Commission has been set up for making studies on the effects of Bhopal Gas Leakage on Life Systems. The work of the Commission is continuing.

(c) An Inter-Ministerial Group was appointed by the Government to study safety in chemical and petrochemical industries. The report of the Expert Group has been circulated to all the State Governments and the concerned Ministries/Departments of Central Government for taking follow-up action.

Study on Effectiveness of Consumer Protection Act

490. DR. B.L. SHAILESH : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether in the context of the present day market conditions with the soaring prices and deterioration of quality of the goods, any expert study has been made of the effectiveness of the recently passed consumer protection laws ; and

(b) if so, its outcome and the remedial measures suggested and taken to prevent the various loopholes and protect the interest of consumers from exploitation by giving more teeth to this legislation ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI

H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) and (b). The Consumer Protection Act, 1986 has come into force with effect from 1-7-1987. Under the Act, redressal machinery is required to be set up at the national, State and district levels. The Central Government and the State Governments are taking action to make this redressal machinery functional soon. Effectiveness of the Act in controlling the prices and in improving the quality of goods will be known after the redressal machinery and other institutions envisaged in the Act have functioned for sometime.

Import by Punjab Agro Industries

491. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4498 on 25 August, 1987 regarding export of items by Punjab Agro Industries and state :

(a) whether any final decision has been taken on the proposal of Punjab Agro Industries ;

(b) if so, what are the items of export and value envisaged in the proposal ; and

(c) what are the items of import and their value ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Renovation and Modernisation of Talcher Thermal Power Plant in Orissa

492. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to renovate and modernise Talcher Thermal Power Plant in Orissa ;

(b) if so, the progress so far made in this regard ;

(c) whether there will be any increase in the power production after renovation ; if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) the amount required for the purpose ?