GOVERNMENT OF INDIA CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1272 ANSWERED ON:26.11.2002 BHOPAL GAS TRAGEDY PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that CBI moved the application in the CJM Court irBhopal to dilute the charges against Mr. Warren M. Anderson, former Chairman of Union Carbide Corporation from Culpable Homicide to rash and negligence;
- (b) if so, under whose orders such an application of dilution of charges was moved particularly when he had not approached any Indian Court for such dilution of charges;
- (c) the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government propose to take action against the persons responsible for this;
- (e) whether it is also a fact that C.J.M. Court in Bhopal has rejected the CBI's application seeking dilution of charges and has directed the CBI to expedite the extradition of Mr. Anderson from U.S. to India;
- (f) whether proceeding have now been undertaken for the extradition of Mr. Anderson; and
- (g) if not, the reasons for the delay and the time by which the proceedings for extradition is likely to be launched?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

- (a)(b)(c) & (e): Based on the legal opinion on the merit of the case, CBImoved the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bhopal to issue a non-bailable warrant under section 304-A IPC against Mr. Warren M. Anderson to proceedfurther in the matter of extradition. The court, however, dismissed the application.
- (d): The submission of the application in question was a bona-fide act based on legal opinion. There is no case for taking action against any person.
- (f) & (g): According to information received from CBI, a revised request, inconformity with the requirements of the Extradition Treaty with USA, in operation since September 1999, is in the final stages of preparation.