

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2321
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2002
BHOPAL GAS TRAGEDY
AJAY CHAKRABORTY;PRABODH PANDA

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Bhopal Gas Peedit Mahila UdyogSangathan have demanded a white paper on criminal proceedings against Union Carbide and also the immediate distribution of a compensation Rs.1500 crore which is still with the Center and the State Government without being distributed;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the Government's reaction thereto;
- (c) whether the victims of Bhopal Gas tragedy are still awaiting justice;
- (d) whether it is a fact that a criminal case was filed by CBI 15 years ago against the former Chairman of Union Carbide the main accused in the case in the Bhopal District Court;
- (e) if so, whether the case is long pending in the court; and
- (f) if so, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a)& (b): Government have seen a press report about a White Paper on the issue of criminal proceedings against Union Carbide and related matters.

(c): Government is aware of the issues and is committed to provide all possible help to Bhopal Gas victims. It has created an office of the Welfare Commissioner under the Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster (Processing of Claims) Act, 1985 to adjudicate and disburse compensation to Bhopal Gas victims. In all, 10,29,431 cases were filed by the claimants, out of which 10,29,265 cases have been disposed of by the end of 31st October 2002. An amount of Rs.1521.56 crore has been disbursed as compensation.

(d) to (f): CBI had filed a criminal case in the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bhopal against Mr. Warren Anderson, former Chairman, Union Carbide Corporation and others in 1984. Since Mr. Anderson did not appear in the court, his case was separated from other accused. A non-bailable warrant was issued and an extradition proceeding has been started against him. A revised request, in conformity with the requirements of the Extradition Treaty with USA is in the final stages of preparation.