

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3161
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2002
BHOPAL GAS TRAGEDY
SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE

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

- (a) whether the Dow-Chemical (Dow) had taken over the Union Carbide factory with all its assets, has refused to take responsibility and own liabilities for the tragedy that killed more people than those killed in September 11, 2001 attacks in New York and Washington, and crippled thousands who are still dying of after effects of the poisonous gas;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Carbide had also poisoned and polluted the environment and the vast areas of land including ground water under the plant and around it;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether any steps have been taken to bring the culprits to book and to secure justice to the victims, including due compensation for the loss of life and damages to health and environment; and
- (f) if so, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA)

(a)&(b): Union Carbide Corporation(UCC) was held liable for the tragedy in Bhopal. The final settlement was arrived in the Supreme Court and as a consequence UCC paid \$470 million as compensation for the victims of the tragedy in full settlement of all civil claims, rights and liabilities related to and arising out of Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster. In addition, on the directions of the Supreme Court, UCC have also financed a hospital for the gas victims in Bhopal.

(c)& (d): Studies conducted by some of the NGOs show contamination of land and ground water with toxic wastes within and around UCC factory premises.

(e)& (f): Government is aware of the problems of Bhopal gas victims and is committed to provide all possible help to them. 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. CBI has filed a criminal case in the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bhopal against Union Carbide Corporation and others. 89 prosecution witnesses have been examined, so far. According to information received from CBI, a revised request for extradition of Mr. Warren Anderson is under final stages of preparation. For the medical, social, economic and environmental rehabilitation of Bhopal Gas victims, the Central Government had approved a five year Action Plan with an outlay of Rs.258 crore. This outlay was to be shared between the Government of India and the State Government of Madhya Pradesh in the ratio of 75:25. The Central Government has already released its entire share of Rs.193.50 crore. The State Government is implementing the Action plan.