GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3216
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2002
BHOPAL GAS TRAGEDY
PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI

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

(a) whether the Government have any record of socio-economic condition of the persons widowed, orphaned or permanentaly disabled due to leakage of lethal gases from the U.C.C.`s plant in Bhopal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have paid any attention towards the urgent need of life long pension to widows, orphans, chronically ill or disabled persons;

(d) if so, the action taken in the matter so far; and

(e) the estimated population in need of alternate jobs and the number of them provided employment under the Government`s programme for economic rehabilitation so far?

Answer

MINISTER OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA)

(a)&(b): According to the information received from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh, 1077 widows and three orphans are presently availing benefit of State Government Rehabilitation Programmes.

(c)&(d): According to the information received from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh, it is providing medical, economic, social and environmental rehabilitation and relief to the gas victims since 1984. The widows of gas victims are also beneficiaries. Gas victims are also being suitably compensated by the office of the Welfare Commissioner as per merit of each individual case including widows. Till the disposal of their compensation claims, widows were provided a one time ex-gratia payment of Rs.10, 000/- as well as monthly pension by the State Government. The State Government has also provided free flats to such widows.

(e): Under the economic rehabilitation programme of the State Government, an industrial Training Institute has been established to train Gas victims for self employment. About 8000 trainees have been trained so far. 27 NGO`s engaged in training of Gas victims have been provided work sheds free of costs.