

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:313

ANSWERED ON:17.08.2004

DISBURSEMENT OF MONEY TO VICTIMS OF BHOPAL GAS TRAGEDY

Meghwal Shri Kailash;Rao Shri Kavuru Samba Siva

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

- (a) whether the Supreme Court has announced compensation to Bhopal Gas victims after a gap of 20 years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for delay;
- (c) the number of victims likely to be benefited therefrom;
- (d) the criteria fixed for disbursement of money by the Government;
- (e) the amount of compensation paid to each beneficiary;
- (f) whether any request/demand has been received from various quarters for enhancement of compensation amount.;
- (g) if so, the details thereof; and
- (h) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS & MINISTR OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a) to (h): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (h) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 313 TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.08.2004.

(a) & (b) :In its judgment dated 14th/15th February,1989, the Supreme Court directed the Union Carbide to deposit US \$ 470 millions as a settlement of all past, present and future claims. As a result of Supreme Court Order, Union Carbide Company deposited US\$470 million (420 million in US dollar and approximately Rs.69 crore in Indian rupees) in March 1989. The process of giving compensation started in 1992. 10,29,515 cases were registered for compensation . All the cases have since been settled. Compensation has been awarded in 5,72,173 cases by the Welfare Commissioner who is a sitting judge of the Madhya Pradesh High Court. An amount of Rs.1536.27 crores has been disbursed as compensation till 31.7.2004. After deciding all the cases, except appeals and revision petitions, some amount remained unutilized. For this amount, the Supreme Court now, in its judgment dated 19.7.2004, has directed the Welfare Commissioner to disburse the unspent amount to the persons whose claims have been settled, on pro-rata basis having due regard to the number of claims settled, unsettled and pending.

(c) to (h): Government had been receiving representations for enhancement of compensation amount and payment of interest on the compensation amount from various quarters. According to information received from the office of the Welfare Commissioner, 5,72,173 victims, as on 31.7.2004 will be benefited by the Supreme Court judgment dated 19.7.2004. The criterion for disbursement of money will be decided by the Welfare Commissioner in accordance with the directions of the Supreme Court dated 19.7.2004.