

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2774

ANSWERED ON:17.08.2004

LEAKAGE OF GAS FROM OSWAL CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZER FACTORY

Panda Shri Brahmananda

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

- (a) whether the Union Government is aware of the leakage of hazardous Ammonia Gas several times from Oswal Chemical and Fertilizer Factory at Paradeep, Orissa;
- (b) whether any enquiry has been conducted to probe the repeated incidents;
- (c) if so, the finding thereof;
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure safety measures for the workers as well as for the nearby inhabitants; and
- (e) the details of casualties and compensation paid to each of them during the last five years, year-wise?

Answer

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

(a) : Yes Sir.

(b) to (e) : Following reports of leakage of ammonia from Oswal Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd. (OCFL)'s plant at Paradeep in Orissa, a joint inspection by the Central Pollution Control Board and the Ministry of Environment and Forests had found the plants not complying with the prescribed norms. As a preventive step to ensure safety, directions were issued to OCFL by the Central Government in July 2000 and also the Orissa State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) in May 2001 to take adequate measures to control and mitigate pollution. The Orissa SPCB subsequently issued closure directions to the unit for non-compliance and its operations were closed down in February 2003. After adoption of adequate pollution control measures, the plants of OCFL, Paradeep were restarted on March 17, 2004 and during the trial runs up to March 31, 2004, their performance was found satisfactory by the Orissa SPCB. No compensation has been paid by the Central Government in connection with the above.