

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2088

ANSWERED ON:14.12.2004

BHOPAL GAS TRAGEDY

Das Gupta Shri Gurudas;Gadakh Shri Tukaram Gangadhar;Meghwal Shri Kailash;Narhire Smt. Kalpana Ramesh;Paraste Shri Dalpat Singh;Reddy Shri Suravaram Sudhakar

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

e:

(a) whether thousand tonnes of toxic waste is still lying near Bhopal Gas tragedy site;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in clearing the same;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be cleared;

(d) whether the Government is aware that water contamination is still high at and near gas tragedy site as reported in the Hindustan Times dated November 15, 2004;

(e) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(f) whether samples of drinking water has been tested;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the steps taken by the Government to remedy the situation ?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) It is difficult to quantify the toxic waste near the tragedy site as the full extent of the problem can be known only when the abandoned plant is dismantled. At present the State Government of M P is the owner and possessor of the factory land and premises. Under the existing environmental laws remediation of Plant site is the responsibility of the State Government being possessor of the site. However, under the principle of polluter pays the parent company can be asked to pay for the expenditure. On this issue there is a litigation going on in the District Court of Southern District of New York, USA. The Central Government in consultation with the State Government has given its `No Objection Certificate` for environmental remediation of the Plant Premises in Bhopal. Moreover, the drawings and designs of the plant and machinery are not available with the State Government to prepare detailed estimates. Hence it is not possible to lay any specific time limit for clearing the site.

(d) Yes, Sir

(e) to (g) The State Government has got drinking water samples tested and found that some of the tube wells and hand pumps of some of the localities contain pesticides.

(h) The Government of Madhya Pradesh is providing safe drinking water through the tankers. However, efforts are underway to supply the drinking water to the residents through the pipeline.