

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6403  
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2010  
ENVIRONMENT RELIEF FUND  
Thomas Shri P. T.

**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has constituted an environment relief fund;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the purpose of the fund and the manner in which it is likely to be utilized?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a)to(c) The Government of India has enacted the Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 (amended in1992). The Act provides for immediate relief to persons affected by accidents occurring while handling the notified hazardous substances. Relief is provided in the event of death or injury to persons or damage to private property. For this purpose, the owner of the industrial unit handling such hazardous substances is required to obtain one or more insurance policies. The Act also provides for establishing the Environment Relief Fund (ERF). In case the amount of relief awarded by the Collector exceeds the amount payable under the insurance policy purchased by the owner or exceeds the liability of the insurance company, ERF is to be utilized for paying claims.