

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:718
ANSWERED ON:09.07.2009
WELFARE OF BHOPAL GAS VICTIMS
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

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

- (a) the latest position of the on-going schemes relating to the welfare of Bhopal Gas Victims of 1984;
- (b) the number of persons who have received compensation from the Government so far;
- (c) the details of the victims of Bhopal Gas Tragedy who have not yet received the compensation and the Government help; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Government to safeguard their interests ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT KUMAR JENA).

(a) Under the ongoing schemes for the welfare of Bhopal Gas Victims 7 hospitals, 5 civil dispensaries and 2 poly clinics and 3 dispensaries each of the Homeopathy, Unani and Indian Medical System are engaged in the medical rehabilitation and care. In addition, 3 more hospitals consisting one each of Ayurveda, Homeopathy and Unani System of medicines are also functioning. Under the economic rehabilitation, training has been provided to the youth of gas affected wards, 42 work-sheds and 152 industrial sheds were constructed for providing employment opportunities in the Units set up in these sheds. Under the social rehabilitation plan 2468 houses have been constructed and allotted to the widows of the gas victims besides providing initial relief measures like pensions to about 1077 widows, distribution of milk to the lactating mothers and the children, etc. Under the environmental rehabilitation, construction of drains, plantation of trees and augmentation of safe drinking water supply has been taken up. In April,2006, Government of India had sanctioned money for a project under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) and the Government of Madhya Pradesh had sanctioned Rs. 14.18 crore the Bhopal Municipal Corporation (BMC) for providing safe drinking water through pipelines from the Kolar Reservoir to the 14 localities around the UCIL plant site. The Government of Madhya Pradesh has stated that an amount of Rs. 512.10 Crore has been spent on all these schemes, upto 31st March,2009.

(b)to(d): The compensation is being disbursed through the office of the Welfare Commissioner, Bhopal Gas Victims. The Welfare Commissioner's office has informed that as on 31.5.2009, out of 5,74,369 total awarded cases original compensation of Rs.1549.03 crore has been paid to 5,73,878 claimants. In addition Rs.1509.40 crore has been paid to 5,62,488 claimants as pro-rata compensation on the directions of the Supreme Court. 491 claimants have not yet settled their claim for original compensation and 11,881 claimants have not yet settled the pro-rata compensation. The work of payment of compensation is in progress. A list of absentee claimants was notified in newspapers for attending the Court to receive the compensation. Besides this a list was also provided to the NGOs as per directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The claims would be settled as and when the absentee claimants turn up.