

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3548
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2011
REMOVAL OF TOXIC WASTES
Kumar Shri P.

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

- (a) whether the Government has planned to spend Rs.30 crore for removing 346 metric tonnes of toxic wastes from Bhopal gas tragedy site;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons for not removing those toxic wastes even after 25 years of the industrial disaster; and
- (d) the follow up action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS.(SHRI SRIKANT KUMAR JENA)

(a) to (d): There is approximately 350 MT of toxic waste kept safely in a secured go-down within the Union Carbide India Limited premises, Bhopal. Earlier attempt for its incineration at Ankleshwar, Gujarat was successfully contested by the Government of Gujarat in the Supreme Court. Subsequently, the Government of India set up an Oversight Committee in the Ministry of Environment and Forests, on 15th July, 2010 under the chairmanship of Minister of State(IC) for Environment and Forests to provide oversight and support to the Government of Madhya Pradesh for taking necessary remedial action. The Government of India based on the recommendations of the Group of Ministers on Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster has also decided to bear the cost of remediation, in the first instance, estimated at ` 310 crore approximately, pending claiming restitution from the persons/companies found liable for the environmental damage on the principle of 'polluter pays'.

The issue of disposal of 350 MT of toxic waste was considered by the Oversight Committee in its meetings held on 24th March, 2011 and 25th May, 2011 in view of Government of Madhya Pradesh expressing their inability to incinerate the said waste at the facility of Pithampur. On the request of Ministry of Environment and Forests, the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) has agreed to undertake the safe disposal of the toxic wastes in its incineration facility located at Borkhedi near Nagpur. DRDO has estimated the cost of incineration of the said toxic waste to be ` 30 crore excluding the cost of its transportation from Bhopal to Nagpur. Further action in the matter is dependent upon the grant of authorization to the DRDO incinerator facility and for inter state transportation, No Objection Certificate to the Bhopal Gas Tragedy Relief and Rehabilitation Department by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board as required under the Hazardous Waste (Management, Handling and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2008. This matter is also sub judice in the High Court of Jabalpur at Madhya Pradesh.