

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4240

ANSWERED ON:06.09.2012

BETTER HEALTH CARE FACILITIES FOR THE BHOPAL GAS LEAK VICTIMS

Das Gupta Shri Gurudas

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court has ordered to provide better health care facilities for the Bhopal gas leak victims on a petition filed by the Bhopal Gas Peedith Manila Udyog Sanghthan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, and the measures being taken by the Union Government to implement the said order?

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) Yes, Sir

(b) (i) The directions contained in the Supreme Court's order dated 9.8.2012 with regard to providing better health care facilities include the following:-

The Supreme Court while transferring the Writ Petition to Madhya Pradesh High Court for better and effective control, has directed the State Government of Madhya Pradesh to provide adequate office space and infrastructure for Monitoring Committee and Advisory Committee. While denying the Empowered Monitoring Committee the penal jurisdiction, the Committee is ordered to have jurisdiction over Bhopal Memorial Hospital and Research Centre (BMHRC) and other Government Hospitals. Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and National Institute for Research in Environmental Health (NIREH) have been ordered to carry out research work with exactitude and expeditiousness. Monitoring Committee is directed to operationalize medical surveillance and ensure provision of health booklets and smart cards with computerization of medical information. All concerned have been directed to take action for filling up the large number of vacancies of doctors and other supporting staff in all the hospitals including BMHRC. BMHRC may be considered for providing autonomy. BMHT(Bhopal Memorial Hospital Trust) has been ordered to be dissolved and the corpus ordered to be transferred to Government of India. Common referral system has been ordered to be put in place by the State Government of Madhya Pradesh and Monitoring Committee. The Monitoring Committee is directed to issue a standardized protocol for treating each category of ailment, with the aid of Advisory Committee, NIREH and specialized doctors of BMHRC.

(ii) The measures for providing better health care facilities already initiated and being taken by Government of India in compliance of the Supreme Court Order are

The ICMR has already established a permanent institute at Bhopal in October,2010 namely, NIREH under directions of the Union Cabinet, for undertaking research on and for people affected by exposure to MIC and health effects due to pollution of soil and water on account of debris left by Bhopal Gas Tragedy. The existing staff of Centre for Rehabilitation Studies (CRS), Bhopal under Government of Madhya Pradesh has been taken over by ICMR and merged with NIREH. Pending setting up of full fledged NIREH, interim clinical facilities have been set up and started by ICMR in May,2012 at Kamla Nehru Hospital, Bhopal. 41 new equipments have been purchased and six consultants appointed to carry out research on Gas victims. ICMR has taken over BMHRC as 33rd permanent institute of ICMR with effect from 29th January,2012 as per the decision of the Government. The employees of BMHRC have been sanctioned 6th Pay Commission pay scales. Action for filling up the post of Director, BMHRC, 23 medical faculty posts and 32 Senior Resident posts at BMHRC has been started. Action for purchase of 13 replacement equipments and 08 new equipments costing approximately ? 7 crores has also been started.