

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:112

ANSWERED ON:22.11.2012

POISONOUS WATER SURROUNDING UNION CARBIDE FACTORY

Scindia Smt. Yashodhara Raje

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

(a) whether the water in the surrounding areas of the Union Carbide factory in Bhopal is still poisonous and harmful; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Union 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) & (b) :National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Nagpur in its report in June,2010 had mentioned that monitoring of groundwater from the borewells dug by National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) within UCIL premises and the existing wells around UCIL premises indicated that groundwater in general was not contaminated due to seepage of contaminants from the UCIL dumps. However, isolated contamination in terms of pesticides and/or dichlorobenzene was observed in 5 wells in the immediate vicinity of UCIL premises. An Oversight Committee constituted by the Government of India in July, 2010 under the Chairmanship of MOS(IC), Environment & Forests and Co-chairmanship of Minister, Bhopal Gas Tragedy Relief and Rehabilitation Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh,for providing oversight & support to the remediation actions, in its meeting on 24th March,2011 had decided that Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) would undertake the task of revalidation of data on ground water contamination levels as brought out by NEERI through independent measurements by engaging internationally accredited laboratories. CPCB has commissioned a study through Indian Institute of Toxicology Research (IITR), Lucknow for the said purpose. IITR has analysed 27 samples of the ground water. The analysis report indicates that the levels of Chlorides and Nitrates in groundwater exceeded the values mentioned in the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)- IS 10500: 2004 guidelines for drinking water in 4 and 15 samples, respectively. The levels of Nickel, a heavy metal, though exceeded the BIS guidelines (0.02 mg/l) in 12 out of 27 samples analysed but are well below the World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines (0.07 mg/l) for drinking water. The levels of Lead and Cadmium, other heavy metals, exceeded the BIS guidelines in 4 and 1 sample, respectively. Levels of the organic toxicants in all samples have been found to be below the BIS guidelines.