

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5983

ANSWERED ON:03.05.2013

ABNORMAL LUNG FUNCTIONS AMONG BHOPAL GAS VICTIMS

Ponnam Shri Prabhakar

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Bhopal gas leak victims are suffering from abnormal lung functions and other diseases as per the survey conducted by the researchers in Bhopal Memorial Hospital and Research Centre;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the corrective steps being taken in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ABU HASEM KHAN CHOUDHURY)

(a) & (b) Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has informed that hospital based study conducted at Bhopal Memorial Hospital and Research Centre in Methyl Isocyanate (MIC) exposed individuals attending Bhopal Memorial Hospital and Research Centre (BMHRC) had indicated that pulmonary function abnormalities mainly obstructive airway disease were observed in 49.8% of exposed individuals compared to 43% of abnormalities seen in non-gas exposed individuals.

(c) ICMR has developed guidelines for the management COPD among the gas victims and these guidelines are disseminated to BMHRC, National Institute for Research and Environmental Health (NIREH) and Gas Rahat Hospital medical officers for compliance for the benefit of the victims. BMHRC proactively sends ambulances to the severely affected areas to bring the patients identified by the Medical Officers and Research Assistants of NIREH in the field to BMHRC for expert opinion, investigations and management. Those requiring admission in the hospital are admitted to BMHRC and others are dropped back by the ambulance with proper advice regarding the management. They are also subsequently brought to BMHRC for follow up.