

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4613
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2009
REMOVAL OF TOXIC WASTES
Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun

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

- (a) whether the twenty-seven members of the US Congress have recently appealed to Dow Chemicals to pay to clean up the site of the world's worst industrial disaster in Bhopal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to step up pressure on Dow Jones in this regard; and
- (d) the other steps being taken by the Government to provide relief to the affected families?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) This Department is not in possession of any such information. However, the Government of India has filed an affidavit in an ongoing Writ Petition in the High Court of Madhya Pradesh, requesting that the polluter be identified and liabilities for clean up be fixed from amongst the respondents, namely, Dow Chemicals, Union Carbide Corporation and Eveready Industries (India) Ltd. It was also requested that the respondents be asked to deposit a sum of Rs.100 crore as an advance towards remediation cost.

(d) An amount of Rs. 1549.06 crore has been disbursed as original compensation to 5,73,887 claimants of the Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster, and an amount of Rs.1509.66 crore has been disbursed as pro-rata compensation on 1:1 basis among 5,62,571 claimants till 31st October, 2009. Government of India had approved a 5 year Action Plan of the State Government of Madhya Pradesh in 1990 with a total outlay of Rs.258.00 crores for Medical, Economic, Social and Environmental rehabilitation of Bhopal Gas Victims. The Central Government released Rs.193.50 crore towards the said scheme. The various rehabilitation measures undertaken for Bhopal Gas Victims over the years include setting up of 6 Gas Relief Hospitals, construction of a Super Speciality Hospital by Bhopal Memorial Hospital Trust, construction of 2486 houses for family members of deceased gas victims, setting up of an Industrial Training Institute where 10513 gas affected children have been trained, construction of 152 industrial sheds and 42 worksheds for employment opportunities for gas victims, training and skill upgradation of gas victims in traditional crafts under a scheme with an outlay of Rs.4.00 crore and imparting vocational training to 600 gas victim women.