

[Shri Harish Rawat]

ment, whose number is very small, should also be provided at least the same amount so that they are able to make both ends meet.

[English]

- (vi) Need to strictly enforce the safety regulations in the industrial units located in and around Baroda and also improve safety conditions in these units to avert Bhopal type mishap.

SHRI RANJIT SINGH GAEKWAD (Baroda) : There are large scale chemical based public undertakings under central and State sectors near Baroda, viz : Gujarat Refinery, IPCL, Gujarat State Fertiliser Co., Heavy Water Plant, Gujarat Alkalies & Chemicals Ltd. A number of medium and small scale chemical units are also located in the Nandesari Industrial Complex near Baroda.

These are hazardous industrial units. Gases of some of these units are ten times more deadly than the Bhopal Gas of Union Carbide.

In the context of recent gas leakage from Shriram Fertilisers and fire mishap of Siddhartha Continental in Delhi, enforcement of safety measures assume great significance to avert Bhopal type tragedy. In the event of Siddhartha Continental like mishap, casualties of this kind take place due mostly to ignorance of the precautionary measures required to be taken. Improvement in safety conditions and constant monitoring of environment, industries physical structure, warning systems within and around the industrial units play an important part in minimising losses of lives and damage to property.

Information plays a vital role in all phases of disaster management and the application of a well designed information system not only helps in minimising losses but also improves the effectiveness of the disaster management. There should be greater awareness of such a system.

Through this notice, I would like to

draw the attention of the Minister concerned about the need to enforce safety regulations strictly in the industrial units located in and around Baroda and also improve safety conditions in these units in order to avert Bhopal type mishap in Baroda.

[Translation]

- (vii) Need to take urgent steps to clear the freedom fighters' pension cases.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SHRI (Begusarai) : Madam Chairman, on August 15, 1972 the then Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi had announced a scheme of pension for the freedom fighters who had fought and made sacrifices in the freedom struggle. At that time 4 lakh 24 thousand people had applied for this pension and about one lakh and 32 thousand freedom fighters were given pension.

For the last 3 or 4 years about 93 thousand cases recommended by the State Governments are pending with the Government of India. Out of these, more than 24 thousand cases pertain only to Bihar. During 1985, the former Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Shrimati Ramdulari Sihna had publically announced that these cases would be disposed of within a period of three months. From time to time the Home Ministers have assured in and outside Parliament that the pending cases of the freedom fighters will be disposed of very quickly but though a period of more than one year has lapsed yet no progress has been made.

The officials in Lok Nayak Bhavan force the freedom fighters to make rounds and harass them. The State Government too have failed to decide honourably the pending applications of several freedom fighters. All told, the freedom fighters are being harassed everywhere. It is being commonly rumoured that by greasing the palms, freedom fighters' pension cases can be expedited. I want to draw the attention of the Government towards this serious problem.