

133 *Statement Re : Tragic Loss of Human and Animal life at Bhopal as a Result of leakage of Paisonous Gas* PAUSA 28, 1906 (SAKA) *Statement re. payment of D.A. to Central Employees and Dearness Relief to pensioners* 134

considering various options available for obtaining adequate compensation for the victims of the gas tragedy and recovery of expenses incurred by Government. For this purpose, a legal cell has been established in the Ministry of Law. A final decision in this regard is expected to be taken after the return of the Attorney General who has gone to USA to consult American lawyers.

12. The Ministry of Labour have advised all State administrations to undertake a thorough review of the existing rules and regulations under the Factories Act and its implementation, particularly with reference to industries using hazardous operations and processes including highly toxic substances.

13. Government have already decided to set up a special cell to make a detailed study of the practices in vogue in developed countries for dealing with hazardous substances and the institutional controls in force, to ensure safety for man and environment. Based on these studies, it will be possible to make a detailed review of the existing systems and practices to identify gaps in the prevailing legislative and institutional arrangements in our country and take suitable steps for streamlining or strengthening such arrangements.

14. Government is also considering the setting up of a National Scientific and Medical Committee for a coordinated study on the effects of toxic gas leakage on live systems and to give authoritative opinion about appropriate steps that need to be taken on the medical and scientific level.

15. I am sure all the members will join me in expressing sympathy of this House to those who have suffered from this tragedy. Immediately on assuming charge as Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers, I visited Bhopal and had detailed discussions with the State Government officials. I would like to assure the House that Government is firmly resolved to take such steps as may

be necessary to avoid the recurrence of such accidents, and to ensure fair compensation for those who have been affected by the tragedy. In this immense task, I am sure that effective participation by the Members of this House, will be readily forthcoming.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : This is a tongue-in-the-cheek statement. That is why we had tabled an Adjournment Motion. I had been to Bhopal only day before yesterday and I saw what had happened. What he has said in the statement is wide of the mark..... (Interruption).

MR. CHAIRMAN : You cannot put any question after the statement. I am not going to allow any question now.

12.22 hrs.

STATEMENT *re* : PAYMENT OF INSTALMENT OF DEARNESS ALLOWANCE TO CENTRAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AND DEARNESS RELIEF TO PENSIONERS INCLUDING FAMILY PENSIONERS

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : According to the existing scheme payment of an instalment of Dearness Allowance to Central Government employees is taken up for consideration after every eight point increase in the 12-monthly average of the All India Average Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (base 1960-100). The last instalment of Dearness Allowance was sanctioned on 15.9.1984 with effect from 1.6.1984 with reference to the average index of 552 points. Since then, payment of two more instalments of Dearness Allowance with effect from 1.8.1984 and 1.11.1984 respectively have become due for consideration.

[Shri Janardhan Poojari]

2. Government have now decided to pay these two instalments of Dearness Allowance to the Central Government employees in cash along with the salary of January, 1985. Orders in this behalf will be issued by the Ministry of Finance soon.

3. Along with the payment of Dearness Allowance to the serving Central Government employees, Dearness Relief to pensioners including family pensioners is also sanctioned. Government have also decided to sanction two instalments of Dearness Relief to the pensioners with effect from 1.8.1984 and 1.11.1984. Orders in this regard will also be issued by the Ministry of Finance soon.

4. The financial burden on the Exchequer during the current year as a result of payment of two instalments of Dearness Allowance would approximately be Rs. 64.17 crores and on account of Dearness Relief to the pensioners would approximately be Rs. 7.33 crores.

12.23 hrs.

#### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-  
TARY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.K.L. BHA-  
GAT): With your permission, Sir, I  
rise to announce that Government Busi-  
ness in this House during the week com-  
mencing 21st January, 1985, will consist  
of :

1. Discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.
2. Consideration and passing of :
  - (a) The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 1985.

(b) The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 1985.

(c) The Calcutta Metro Railway (Operation and Maintenance) Temporary Provisions Bill, 1985.

3. Discussion and voting on :

(a) Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 1984-85.

(b) Demands for Excess Grants (General) for 1982-83.

(c) Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 1984-85.

(d) Demands for Excess Grants (Railways) for 1982-83.

(e) Supplementary Demands for Grants for the State of Punjab for 1984-85.

4. Consideration and passing of the following Bills, as passed by Rajya Sabha :

(a) The General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 1985.

(b) The National Capital Region Planning Board Bill, 1985.

(c) The Sugar Undertakings (Taking Over of Management) Amendment Bill, 1985.

(d) The Gangtok Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 1985.

5. Consideration and passing of the Administrative Tribunal Bill, 1985.