

12.28. hrs.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO
MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC
IMPORTANCE**

[*Translation*]

**Delay in rehabilitating and providing
adequate compensation to the victims
of gas tragedy in Bhopal**

SHRI K.N. PRADHAN (Bhopal) :
Mr. Speaker, Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Industry towards the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon :

“Delay in rehabilitating and providing adequate compensation to the victims of gas tragedy in Bhopal even after lapse of one year and the action taken by the Government to speed up the relief work.”

12.29. hrs

[*MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair*]

[*English*]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND
PETRO-CHEMICALS (SHRI R. K.
JAICHANDRA SINGH) :**

1. The Government of Madhya Pradesh took immediate steps following the gas leakage disaster to provide relief to the victims of the disaster. This included giving ex-gratia relief of Rs. 10,000 to the next of the kin of the dead persons and Rs. 1500 to the affected families having income of Rs. 500 or less. The ex-gratia amounts have already been disbursed in most of the cases. Ex-gratia financial assistance was also provided to live-stock owners, whose animals died in the tragedy. Free food-grains were distributed to the families with income of less than Rs. 1000 per month.

2. For providing special medical care to the victims, apart from augmenting the existing facilities, new medical facilities were created in the affected areas which was treated as a separate medical administrative unit. This included setting up of new 60 bedded ward in the Hamidia hospital, a new 30-bedded hospital in the affected area as well as several clinics and dispensaries in the affected areas. Daily approximately 3000 persons are visiting these hospitals.

3. Based on a socio-economic survey, the State Government has estimated that about 25,000 families require to be rehabilitated. The rehabilitation measures initiated so far include providing financial assistance for special training and employment programme for the urban poor for self-employment, construction of 50 workshops for providing training as well as employment in skills like, tailoring, embroidery bamboo and cane work.

4. Three integrated child programme schemes have been taken up and are being executed through 633 anganwadis. These cater to the health care, including immunization and providing of supplementary nutrition for pregnant and lactating mothers and children upto the age of 6 years.

5. Steps have also been initiated for improving the living conditions in the gas affected slum areas by providing civic amenities like, water supply, drainage, paying of stipends etc.

6. The Central Government has so far provided Rs. 20 crores as ways and means advance and Rs. 20 crores as medium term loan to the State Government for providing relief and rehabilitation. The Central Government is also making vigorous efforts in expediting the settlement of all the claims of the victims of the Bhopal gas disaster. It may be recalled that the Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster (Processing of Claims) Act, 1985, was enacted to confer certain powers on the Central Government to secure that claims arising out of or connected with the Bhopal gas leak disaster are dealt with speedily, effectively, equitably and to the best advantage of the claimants. A complaint has been filed in the United States Federal District Court, Southern District, New York against Union Carbide Corporation claiming, inter alia, compensatory and punitive damages. This case is being followed up vigorously.

7. It would, therefore, be evident that no effort is being spared for providing relief to the victims. The State Government has been requested to expedite completion of disbursement of all ex-gratia relief. Appropriate schemes for rehabilitation have also been taken up by the State Government, implementation of which is also being speeded up. Further, effective steps have

been taken to enable the victims to obtain compensation expeditiously.

[*Translation*]

SHRI K.N. PRADHAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the severity of the gas tragedy in Bhoal is known to everyone and it is also known how three to four lakh people ran for their lives in that terribly cold night. Subsequently, when 'Operation Faith' was launched, remaining gas in the factory was neutralised. Around 6 lakh people fled from Bhopal. I think it has no parallel in the history of the world.

In official records the officers may go on saying whatever they like but the fact is that even today 3 to 4 persons die every month after that tragedy, but these deaths are not included in their records. The Government officials had collected the figure of 1,754 in the very beginning. Many applications are pending and names of the people who died after December have not been included, but it is definite that more than 2,500 persons have died and more than 3,50,000 people have been affected. Even today there are more than 25,000 people who are seriously ill. In addition to this, there are 3,000 persons who became all right or in the beginning they felt that they had not been affected by the gas but they have fallen seriously sick now. Similarly, at least there are more than 5,000 people whose efficiency of work is gradually going down and they have become incapable of doing any work. Similarly, there are 5,000 persons whose resistance power of the body is gradually dwindling and they are heading towards a slow death. Similarly, at least 1,000 pregnant women have been affected, whereas our officers have stated shamelessly that the pregnant women have not been affected at all; many dead and deformed children have been born. Many women developed complications at later stages and they developed convulsions. Many women had to be operated upon and their uterus had to be removed. You are aware that the Union Carbide is to pay compensation, but its Chairman and lawyers are unabashedly making inhuman statements. They had already created a lobby in this country particularly in Madhya Pradesh and even today they have such a lobby, and their mercenaries are present in and out of the country.

Everybody knows it well that one factor to be counted in the matter of payment of compensation would be as to what extent the gas was poisonous. Everybody is also aware of the fact that they have raised a controversy in order to hush up this matter. Certain officers have issued instructions to all the hospitals not to administer Thiosulphate injections. In the report submitted to Government recently and in the statement made by Mr. Sathe in Rajya Sabha yesterday, it has been stated that cyanide has not been found as per the reports made available so far. You can see hundreds of post mortem reports made by Dr. Harish Chandra. There was cyanide in it. The gas was poisonous. All these things are being done simply for the reason that the Union Carbide may have to pay less compensation. I would like to draw your attention towards what I had stated in the meeting of the Gas Committee there. An ex-I.G. had been the incharge of the security arrangements of the Union Carbide. He is the Chairman of the Red Cross Society there of which the Governor of the State is perhaps the patron. He refused to attend the meeting because wrong things were taking place and the Red Cross Society was functioning in a wrong manner. The Governor did not attend the meeting. He refused to attend the meeting. That Red Cross Society, with the working and functioning of which the Head of the State is not satisfied, has been entrusted the job of running as many as 3 dispensaries. I do not intend to make any insinuation, but he has definite links with the Union Carbide as one of his brothers was Director, Medical Health. The doctors of women hospitals were given instructions not to note down the M.I.C. as cause of death at the time of operations to take out the dead children of pregnant women. I would like to say that old records pertaining to the last 3 years of that hospital may be inspected. If the number of such cases is found to be more than the previous years' number you should accept those to be the cases caused by ill effects of the gas and if the number is less, the matter ends there. Efforts were made to show the minimum number of such cases.

Similarly, the greatest factor, which would prove helpful in getting compensation, rather more compensation, is to identify the areas upto which gas had gone and left its impact.

Sir, in the first meeting, when Shri Arjun Singh was the Chief Minister, I had proved it with facts and figures that the gas had actually reached such and such place. Still it is a matter of great shame that the officers surveyed only eleven wards. The people, who had visited Bhopal, might be aware that there are a number of industries on the other side of Hamidia Road. They had stated that gas impact had been felt there and they went on working silently. We have not been informed as to how much area they have treated as affected area. When hue and cry was raised in each meeting during the last 8 months continuously, then they quietly decided that there are 30 wards. It was decided at our instance and even then they kept 30 wards as fully affected areas and remaining 6 wards at 50 per cent affected areas.

Sir, when the matter regarding setting up of the committee arose, they said 10 to 20 days in advance that a letter would be sent, but they did not send any letter about the number of wards which had been affected. Sir, they were told about it and this House can imagine as to how many wards might have been affected thereby. In one of the wards, the Chief Minister, Shri Arjun Singh has his residence and Shri Arjun Singh himself admitted that his eyes felt the impact of gas. There are *kachcha* huts in that ward also where poor people live. Gas had left more impact on them, but it is a different matter. Those officers did not include even that ward. Does it not prove that they are dishonest? They did not include the ward where Raj Bhavan is located and where Governor and his staff and other officers reside. The staff there say that the gas had affected their eyes. They also did not include the ward in which I live. My wife is ill even today. Sir, this is the situation in this respect.

So far as Government is concerned, it is true and people of Bhopal are aware of this fact that Shri Rajiv Gandhi was the first person in the country to reach there and they are grateful that first of all the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi consoled them. No leader of any other party reached there. The people of Bhopal arrived at the conclusion that they would definitely be able to face this calamity successfully. He showed

great sympathy and sanctioned a sum of Rs. 40 crores for the victims.

Our Chief Minister, Shri Vora is also taking keen interest in this matter. He realises the sufferings of the people wherever he goes. But I would like to submit that an inquiry should be made about officers' lobby. It has been said that arrangements for payment of compensation should be made as early as possible. I would like to tell you that this incident took place in December, but cases for compensation were initiated from 31st July only. At that time it was decided that all the forms should reach Delhi within a period of 4 months and work should be completed by 20th November. But after a period of 3½ months, i.e., upto 14-15th November, even an IAS officer of the office of the Claims Commissioner, appointed in this regard, was not able to make an assessment as to how many persons are required to do this job and how many persons have actually started working. They used to work from 8.00 a.m. to 12 O'Clock but no sanction was issued to make payment or incur expenditure. A total of 32,000 forms were filled up upto 14-15th November. When I told the Chief Minister that these officers will bring a bad name to our country in the entire world. What the world would say if only 40,000 forms would be sent there? The world would say that we had given the figures of affected people as 3.5 lakhs whereas the number of forms filled up for compensation is very less. At this he called the officers and gave instructions to them. After 15-16th November camps were set up in each ward and forms were got filled up hurriedly.

Sir, I would like to get certain things clarified by the hon. Minister, We want that the entire area affected by gas should be included. You should call for the proceedings of that meeting. A meeting took place in the month of November last. It was admitted in that meeting of the Committee that 36 wards were fully affected. They have given a report about 21 wards. This report is also wrong. Sir, the entire area should be surveyed. Similarly, in the form of distress relief an amount of Rs. 10,000 is being given to the dependents of those who had died and an amount of Rs. 1,500 is being given to those whose family's income is below

Rs. 500. I have told the officers and I would like to tell you also that there will not be more than 200-400 families in the whole of Bhopal City whose income is below Rs. 5,00. Out of 70,000 families 35,000 families had made false declarations. Even millionaires have made such false declarations and shown their income very less. Their income is much more, but they have been paid the compensation. There will be only 200-400 families out of them whose income will be less than Rs. 500. Rest are those whose income is more than Rs. 500 and they have been given an amount of Rs. 1,500 in the form of distress relief. But there are 20,000 or 25,000 honest persons belonging to Class III and Class IV category whose income is hardly Rs. 600-700. Why have they not been given this amount of Rs. 1500 in the form of distress relief? Therefore, I submit that in all honesty, a decision should be taken that all the affected persons should be paid the compensation.

Similarly, an enquiry should be made by appointing an officer to collect the information about the persons who had died after December. It should be stated as to whether they would be included into it or not. Whether the children, who have died, would be included or not. They should also be included into it.

Similarly, the employees—whether they are Central Government employees or State Government employees or other employees—are not yet in a position to resume duty and they have exhausted their leave. Is it not the moral duty of Government to sanction special leave to them, no matter whether they are the Central Government employees or bank employees or employees of Postal Department or Railway employees or employees of Life Insurance Corporation or employees of State Government?

Thirdly, there are some persons, who are still suffering and there are no arrangements for their treatment in Bhopal and they are required to be sent to Delhi or Bombay or some foreign country for treatment. Will Government decide to bear the expenditure to be incurred on their treatment abroad.

Similarly, do you propose to give pension to those persons, who have lost their working capability?

The licence and registration of an Environmental Institution of Union Carbide located at Shyamala Hills has expired in the month of March, but it is still functioning regularly there. Does Governmental intend to take action against it? What are the details of the scheme for environment improvement and public health? After getting treatment and being cured the people will revert back to the places full of dirt and filth and become ill again. The Government of Madhya Pradesh have formulated a scheme worth crores of rupees under which programmes like construction of drains, provision of electricity and water and raising the living standard of people have been included. But the Madhya Pradesh Government is not in a position to incur so much expenditure. Would the Central Government be kind enough to bear the entire expenditure of this scheme?

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL (Chandni Chowk): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as our hon. Minister has said in his statement that a sum of Rs. 10,000/- has been paid to the family of every deceased person. This amount of Rs. 10,000/- each has been paid to approximately 1,300 families, but out of them there are approximately 400 or 500 such families which have received this amount in the fake names. Also, about 40 per cent of affected families with an income of less than Rs. 500/- have received the amount of Rs. 1,500/- each. This number is not more than that. For receiving the payment of even this money, they had to run from pillar to post. Despite that there are still a number of families which have not yet received that payment. You can understand the difficulties of those people. How could a poor man, who does not have even food to eat, spend a full year knocking at the door of authorities to get a payment of Rs. 1,500/-. I would like to tell you that even a minor compensation or help which was to be given to them, has not reached them. On the other hand, we should have taken some major steps, so that people could have got employment, their children could have received proper treatment, they could have been provided nutritious food and clothes, but the result has been the reverse. If you ask for a report from that area even today, you would find that the small children have

[Shri Jai Praksh Agarwal]

lost their memory. They go to school, but they forget their lessons. They are not receiving even the treatment for the adverse effect which the gas has put over them. There are nearly ten thousand such families which have not been paid any compensation. Their sole earning members have died and they do not have any source of income to make both ends meet. It was said that they would be paid a loan of Rs. 12,000/-. You would be surprised to know that only 250 persons have received this loan. They have left pursuing the banks, because they did not receive any response from them. Old and expired medicines were given to them, which did not have any effect. For the treatment of the diseases caused by the gas, no proper medicines were given to them. Only antibiotics and pain-killers were given. Many such medicines were given which were manufactured two years back and their date of expiry had already passed. I would like to ask the hon. Minister the number of families which have been provided with permanent source of income or employment as also the steps taken in this regard.

SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA (Vidisha) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the reply of the hon. Minister to the Calling Attention Notice moved by us regarding Bhopal gas tragedy clearly states that the programmes and schemes undertaken by the Central Government, after the most grievous gas tragedy of the world, have shown satisfactory results in regard to the rehabilitation of the affected people within only a period of one year after the grim tragedy. Just now, my predecessor Shri Pradhan has told that the most serious tragedy in the industrial sector occurred almost a year back in Bhopal affecting nearly three lakh or three and a half lakhs people and 25,000 to 35,000 families have been very badly affected. One or the other member of these families has been lost and some or the other member has become infirm. It is, therefore, very necessary that we make a long term scheme for their treatment and maintenance so that they could be provided the medicines by the Government in time and an improvement could be brought about in their health. Complete arrangements should be made for them in the hospitals so that they could be looked after well there. Though addi-

tional arrangements have been made in the hospitals and it has also been said that hospitals with thirty beds would also be built in the affected areas. The Government has made the arrangement of doctors at other places also, where small sheds are available. Keeping in view the large number of people who have been affected and the severe effect which the gas tragedy has caused in various parts of the State, I think that there is need to make arrangements for medical treatment and special care of nearly ten thousand families. I would like to urge the Central Government, Department of Health as also the Minister of State for Petroleum, Chemicals and Industry to look into this matter, because he is fully aware of the problem. All of you have made an on the spot study in Bhopal and also met the affected people. You can, therefore, well imagine the seriousness of the situation as also the difficulties in which the people are living there. There is need to make the maximum medical facilities and other facilities available to them from them Centre so that there could be proper care of them for the next five or ten years.

Secondly, the youth leader and Hon. Prime Minister of our country Shri Rajiv Gandhi has said that top priority would be given to their rehabilitation programme. The first national leader who had visited the gas affected area last year was Shri Rajiv Gandhi. He went there, met the people and he himself made an on the spot inspection of the medical facilities being made available to the people. We want that rehabilitation programme should be given top priority according to his wishes, under which affected families should be given financial help and the families which have suffered loss of life or whose bread-earners have been affected, they should be given training and means of livelihood should be made available to them again by providing them the facility of finance from Nationalised Banks.

Though the Government has sanctioned them the grant-in-aid of Rs. 1,500/- each and about 25,000 families have been paid this amount, yet the payment of lump sum amount will not solve their problem. The sewing centres or other training centres have been opened and training sheds are being constructed to provide training to

the people in electrical jobs and other small and cottage industries, but this measure should be given a modern touch and new projects should be set up in Bhopal and other neighbouring areas so that 10,000 badly affected people could be given training and attracted to start new ventures, because these people cannot do any heavy job. These persons should be provided jobs in their own houses. This is a long term need and it is not a matter of one year or two years. In addition to sewing centres, there are many other works which could be started there by the Ministry of Industry in collaboration with Banks. Our Central Electronics Department or Telecommunication Department can set up projects there in which form thousand or five thousand people could be provided the means of livelihood.

I would also like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister that you have referred to the financial help being made available to 25,000 families and nearly 5,000 families have already been surveyed. For them there is urgent need to provide financial help and means of livelihood. According to my information, out of cases of 5,000 families which have been sent to the Banks, cases of hardly 1,000 or 1,500 families have been cleared. Therefore, special attention needs to be paid in this regard with the help of hon. Finance Minister. After the survey, all the families which have been selected for Bank loans or the persons who are required to be provided loans with a view to provide them means of livelihood, should be sanctioned full amount of loan without any delay and State Government should undertake this work on priority basis.

In the end, I would like to draw your attention towards the most important point. Union Carbide is multi-national company, which has about 700 Units in various countries throughout the world. We should pay our attention towards the attitude of that company also as to in what irresponsible manner the Chairman of that company, Shri Anderson issues his statement. Sometimes, he says that he has to enter into an agreement with Government of India and sometimes he says that the affected people would have to appear in the Court of U.S.A. at Washington to receive the compensation.

13.00 hrs.

His statement is condemnable and shameful. That company which could be said to be the broker of death did not provide any relief or facility to the victims. The Chief Lawyer of the company, Bud Holman had said :

“It depends upon the Government of India to adopt a reconciliation oriented attitude. The ball is in their court.”

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir; it has been further said in the newspaper.

“Holman has warned that if legal proceedings are kept continuing against Carbide, then Carbide would demand that all the 1,03,000 victims should be brought to Washington and presented in the Court there.”

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would request the House to mark the ridiculousness of the statements issued by the Chairman of the Company and its Chief Legal Counsel. I would, also submit that the Central Government and the State Government should take most stringent action against such company and if need be, all their units should be nationalised without any further delay. Most serious industrial tragedy of the world has occurred due to negligence of this company, but this company did not send any help for the victims, nor the doctors and specialists to treat the patients. Therefore, this company should be condemned in the strongest terms.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the end, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether a stringent attitude would be adopted against the multi-national companies under the proposed new Industrial policy and, as our Prime Minister has said, whether in future multi-national companies would be allowed to establish new units in the country only after keeping in view the environmental safeguards, indigenous techniques and engineering requirements. I would also like to know as to what new policy is being adopted to have a check on the setting up of new industries according to the industrial policy so that there could be a control of Government of India on multi-national companies.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Government want that the environment in the country should be pollution free. We have therr

[Shri Pratap Bhanu Sharma]

fore, to ensure to avoid the accidents like the one which occurred in Delhi due to leakage of oleum gas as also to keep the factories of such companies away from dense population. I would be grateful to the hon. Minister if he could kindly tell us the policy Government propose to adopt in regard to setting up of industries in future with this end in view.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I am obliged to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. In the end I would request the hon. Minister to give top priority to provide relief to the people who have suffered in the Bhopal gas tragedy by establishing rapport and coordination with administrative departments.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Amal Datta.

(Shri Amal Datta—Absent)

SHRI K.N. PRADHAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, Shri Amal Datta and two others are not present and, therefore, I may be given some time to speak on this report.....(Interruptions)

SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir if that is so let me continue for five minutes more.....
(Interruptions)

SHRI K.N. PRADHAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the report makes a mention of only those people who have been treated in Bhopal. What about Sehore, Ashta.....
(Interruptions)

SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA : The areas which are near Bhopal.....
(Interruptions)

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Not recorded.]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, much has been said about the Bhopal Gas Tragedy, not only on the floor of this House but in various other forums as well that this is the worst gas leak disaster in the whole industrial history. I have given a statement which comprehensively gives the parameters of the medical

relief work that has been done and the rehabilitation programmes that the Government of Madhya Pradesh has taken up and is going to take up. Few points have been mentioned by the hon. Members, wherever necessary for me to point out any cases of discrepancies in figures etc., I will try my best to bring it to the notice of the House and through you Sir to the hon. Members.

The persons who have died and have been identified so far on roll is 1754. Though we have had reports that there are further inflated figures, but this is being examined by the State Government, whether or not these additional people have been died as a result of the gas tragedy. So the fact that this number is kept on changing over the last few months, clearly shows that people who died as a result of gas tragedy and who did not have the opportunity to report, the next of kin are coming in and the examination is still in the process. Out of these 1754, we have been able to disburse the ex-gratia payments of 10,000 rupees to 1409 so far. Of the remaining 300 and odd, unfortunately, so far, no one has either come forward to take the responsibility or to own up that they are the next of kin. In my visit to Bhopal which is rightly mentioned by one of the hon. Members, I did make an impression to the Chief Minister that he should make all endeavours and he should put all endeavours to inform the neighbouring districts not only in Bhopal and in and around, but even the neighbouring States so that copies of the photographs of the dead persons could be sent to the Police Stations and identification can be had from the Officers incharge of the Police Stations. In October, when I visited Bhopal I had a report that the Chief Minister is taking action in this regard. For the injured persons the ex-gratia payment is Rs. 1 500. It is not true that the progress is very slow. When I visited Bhopal, I remember the target expected by the end of November was 14,000. As a result of the step up measures being taken up by the State Government, this figure has now reached 27,000. So ex-gratia payments of Rs. 1,500 have been made in respect of 27,000 people out of the so far identified 39,000. Again I crave the indulgence of this House that this figure again keeps on going up. It was 31,000 which was identified some time in

November, again it has gone upto 39,000. But the State Government is doing reasonably good work. They have stepped up this work. And I agree with many of the people that this ex-gratia payment to whom it should be given are waiting for one year but they have not been given. This is not a compensation, but it is only an ex-gratia payment. As far as the compensation is concerned, the case as you know is before the United States District Court in New York. This is the claims compensation case. The payment which we are making is just an ex-gratia payment. The moment the claims case is settled, then the question of compensation will arise. The hon. Member Mr. Pradhan has mentioned that only 11 wards were initially taken into consideration which later on increased to 20. Sir, I may inform the hon. Member through you that 30 wards have been included as affected areas which takes into account roughly half or a little more than half of the entire Bhopal. Thirty wards—Municipal wards have been taken in as the affected areas.

Then another point, which was raised was the income limit of 500 rupees. Sir, the State Government have had to put some limit and they have taken as Rs. 500. We know various cases, as pointed out by some of the hon. Members, there may be own genuine cases in this. And one of the reasons for delay in executing this programme is because of the non genuine claims put in by the various people. The Chief Minister has taken keen interest.

The hon. Member Mr. Pradhan himself stated. I have also seen the rehabilitation works being taken up, by way of setting up 63 Anganwadis under three ICDS projects and 50 work sheds, to train various people. In the last category, 15 have already been constructed and 12 are under construction. The rest are going to be completed within the next month or two. I have visited the place, and seen that those affected people are being given skilful training. The State Government is finding out how best these trained people can be given employment.

The hon. Member Mr. Sharma has spoken about the case in the USA, and the statement made by Mr. Anderson. We have stated many a time on the floor of this

House, and the other House also, that we are not going to compromise on anything. May be, Mr. Anderson is in a desperate state. He has got the liberty, viz. to make a statement. Probably he is taking advantage of it. As far as Government of India is concerned, we are not going to compromise on this issue at all.

As for medical treatment, we have taken care of it. I have mentioned in my statement that nearly 3,000 people are visiting the hospitals every day, to have a check up. The question of providing additional medical facilities has been taken up by the State Government. We have converted one of the clinics into a 30-bedded hospital. We are also in the process of constructing a 100-bedded hospital; in fact, the construction has already started. I visited the area. That hospital is coming up. Work is in progress, and we have every hope that by March 1986, the hospital will be completed. Some of the sophisticated instruments which are necessary for treating the affected people are being procured. One other important matter raised was about research and development work by the Union Carbide. Yesterday, in the other House a question came up on this. This R and D Centre is not situated in the Union Carbide complex, near the plant itself. This is situated about 8 to 9 Kms. away from it. The recognition of the Centre expired sometime in March 1985, and the Government of India has not renewed the recognition. The fact that this has not been renewed, shows that they cannot get support to go ahead with the research activities, for which they had sought it.

I think I have made a serious attempt to answer some of the important questions raised by hon. Members. Thank you.

[*Translation*]

SHRI K.N. PRADHAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my questions have not been replied to. 36 wards had been selected but their number has deliberately been reduced by the officers. The Arjun Singh Government had agreed to it. The then Chief Minister had himself asked me to give in writing about it. These wards include even that ward in which Shri Arjun Singh and the Governor reside. Why were

[Shri K. N. Pradhan]

they left out? They too should be included in it.

Secondly, do you propose to sanction special leave to those employees who are sick and unable to work and who have already exhausted all their leave?

Thirdly, will the Government provide best medical care and bear all the expenses on treatment of those people—whether they are employees or not—whose cases are becoming complicated and they need to be sent to Delhi, Bombay or abroad for medical treatment?

Besides, do the Government propose to sanction pension to those who have been rendered unfit to do any job?

[English]

SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH : Regarding special leave, all that we can do is to take care of it under the provisions. About the area, even persons living beyond 30 wards affected area, they are coming to the hospital and are having a medical examination. Regarding the question of people living in other areas, we cannot identify the whole of Bhopal as affected area. So, they have limited certain areas which I mentioned as 30 wards. There are people who are living beyond that and they are also taking medical care.

[Translation]

SHRI K.N. PRADHAN : The question is not who should be taken care of. The question is why gas affected areas have been left out? I charge that some of the bureaucrats are receiving payments from the Union Carbide even today. They are trying to reduce the severity of sickness caused by gas and they have also tried to reduce the number of patients as well. I would like to know as to what action will be initiated against those who have deliberately reduced the number of the persons taken ill as also of the affected areas? I am ready to face trial and punishment if it is proved otherwise.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He wants to know whether an enquiry is going to be conducted on this or not.

SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH : I can pass on this information to the State Government.

[Translation]

SHRI K.N. PRADHAN : The Union Carbide has corrupted many leaders and officers and distributed crores of rupees among them earlier also and they continue to do even today. Therefore, there has not been substantial progress in relief operations... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He wants to know what can you do about it.

SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH : I can pass on this information to the State Government.

13.16 hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Seventeenth Report

[English]

SHRI RAJ MANGAL PANDE (Deoria) : I beg to present the Seventeenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of Public Accounts Committee on Excesses Over Voted Grants and Charged Appropriations (1983-84) and Action Taken on their two hundred and twenty second Report (Seventh Lok Sabha).

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Sixteenth Report

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : I beg to move :

“That this House do agree with the Sixteenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 9th December 1985.”

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :