

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Eleventh Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 15th July, 1992".

*The motion was adopted*

15.42 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE COMPENSATION TO VICTIMS OF BHOPAL GAS DISASTER-  
CONTD.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Gopi Nath Gajapati, not here. Is there any other hon. Member who wants to speak on this Resolution?

[Translation]

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV (Saharsa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you do not allow us to speak. You never do so.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is a little too much.

[Translation]

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: You get displeased with me, kindly do not do so.

MR. SPEAKER: All right, you will also speak.

SHRI RABI RAY (Kendrapada): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order. The day before yesterday, I raised a question on Myanmar that the Burmese army is infiltrating into our territory in Mizoram and attacking the people of India. Replying to this question the hon. Minister had said that he

would make a statement tomorrow. But the reply is yet to be given.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The statement has come to me. He has sought time and I have given time.

[Translation]

SHRI RABI RAY: Now will it be made on Monday?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: May be it will be made today evening itself, after the day's business.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore): Sir, may I say a word about Bhopal gas tragedy?

MR. SPEAKER: Yes.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: I was very much distressed to read a press report of the Judgement of the Supreme Court a couple of days ago, where it is being alleged that the present scheme of interim relief which is being provided or given to the victims of this gas disaster, the final compensation and all that, is still to be computed and when it will be paid, nobody knows. But earlier the court and said that interim relief at the rate of Rs. 200 per month—just imagine, in these days—should be provided to each one of the victims who have applied for relief. And according to the court, out of five lakhs of people who have been identified for this purpose, one lakh have been left out of the scheme. The Division Bench of the Supreme Court comprising Mr. Justice Venkatachallaiah and Mr. Justice Anand made an observation and asked the Union Government of India on what basis the Government is denying this interim relief to one lakh of victims out of the five lakhs who are entitled

to get. Here I quote what Mr. Venkatachallaiah said:

"There appears to be no logic in this. In fact it seems to be a case of inverse logic as the rich are being paid the interim relief of Rs.200 while the poor were not being paid. Even those who have not filed compensation claims appear to be paid the relief".

I quote again from the newspaper report as follows:-

"Mr. Justice Venkatachallaiah wanted to know whether the 1,00,000 victims who had been left out of the interim scheme had filed their claims for compensation."

Of course, they had filed their claims.

.....Mr. Reddy pointed out that the Union of India had no independent sources of information and had to rely on the State Government".

This is the state of affairs. After so many years — in December 1984 this catastrophe took place and this is 1992. After eight years the victims of this disaster who have now been sanctioned that interim relief of Rs.200 per month, out of them, according to the Supreme Court, one lakh of people have been excluded, they are not getting this interim relief and the court has asked the Government to see to it that this is remedied immediately. So, I wanted to bring the attention of this House to the kind of callousness and insensitivity which has overcome the authorities in this country. That same month of December 1984 we had the unfortunate riots in Delhi and some other places where a large number of Sikhs were made the victims and on many occasions in this House the question has been raised and it is a fact that none of the culprits who were responsible for those riots, has been brought to justice, nobody has been punished and so on. In the same month we had this Bhopal gas disaster. One type of callousness is exhibited in the attitude shown towards the victims of those riots and another type of attitude towards the victims of this Bhopal gas disaster.

who are not, after eight years, getting even this amount of Rs.200 per month — miserable pittance of interim relief. I do not wish to say anything about the fact that earlier the court had also fixed the criminal culpability of these multinational companies and had said that the Chairman Mr. Warren Anderson, who lives in the V'SA should be brought here to stand trial before the Indian courts.

It is a criminal offence committed by this company, Union Carbide. Nothing has been done about that. Mr. Warren Anderson, left to himself, will never come back here. I do not know whether the Government of India has got any power under Extradition Treaties to get him back here. But, nothing is said any further about this matter. The Government is silent on it and if this culpable responsibility of the multi-national company is not put on trial and not adequately punished — many people here have expressed the apprehension that a large number of multinational companies are likely to come to our country now under our new economic policy — we have no foolproof arrangement against their industrial practices which they may not indulge in their own parent countries, but which they indulge in, these developing countries, because they do not care for safety regulations at all. That is what had happened in Bhopal. Therefore, I wish to say that this is a very deplorable state of affairs and the Government of India should take more serious note of it and should see to it that all the victims get adequate interim relief and compensation and also that the Chairman of this company, which company has been held to be guilty of a sort of a mass genocide, who is to stand trial here before the Indian Courts which have jurisdiction in this matter and which have asked that he should be brought here for trial, should be punished. The Government should tell us at the earliest occasion what they propose to do in this matter and whether Mr. Anderson can be extradited from the United States of America or not.

Sir, we are not going to let this matter rest and on every suitable occasion, the matter will be raised. It is something which is

[Sh. Indrajit Gupta]

on the conscience of this country. Such a big industrial disaster has not taken place before in any other country. The whole world recognized this fact that this Bhopal gas disaster was something unprecedented, but we have forgotten about this, we have forgotten about these helpless victims, the overwhelming majority of whom are such poor people. Therefore, I take this occasion to impress upon the Government the need to take action in this matter and to see that they are prepared to do justice to the victims as well as to see to it that those who are guilty and who are facing criminal charges are put on trial speedily and are punished.

15.53 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER - *in the Chair*]

[*Translation*]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this time such an event is being discussed as has created a commotion throughout the world and made it realise as to what can the multi-national companies do, not in their own countries, but in other countries like India and how do they disown their responsibility after an accident. This is the glaring example of it. No other incident is as serious as this when the Chairman of the Union Carbide Company left India. There is also a talk about the Chairman, Shri Anderson that he was asked to leave the country but I do not want to go into that issue. After he left India, this issue became all the more serious and this tragic table of this accident will be remembered for a long period.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this incident took place on December 3, 1984. It was my goodluck or badluck that I escaped. It was my badluck that I was in Bhopal on that day, and it was my goodluck that I escaped unhurt. This accident occurred at night. The atmosphere was calm, but as soon as the night passed, there was uproar all around. A polluted atmosphere spread and stampede ensued.

People could not guess what was happening there. A very difficult situation emerged there. Hundreds of people died. Hundreds of people lost their eye-sight. Those who survived, fell victim to many eye diseases and some became handicapped.

Some others fell victim to other sorts of diseases from which they are still suffering.

Investigation started. In the beginning no assistance was made available. Even the State Government did not display its promptness which it ought to have displayed. Probably it had some expectations from the Centre. But when the situation began to deteriorate further, when adversities increased and when some sort of mass agitation started, people visited various places to find out as to how many people were affected by this tragedy. Thereafter it came to light that more than seven lakh people were affected. The number of wards, which were declared affected at that time, was 36. But the Madhya Pradesh Government says that merely giving the amount of aid to only 36 wards will not serve the purpose and aid should be given to all the 57 wards because victims are scattered here and there.

In the beginning, an interim relief of Rs. 200 per month was sanctioned, and probably they might have taken this aid as final. The State Government was entrusted with the job of identifying the number of victims and apprising the Government of India of it. The State Government estimated the number of beneficiaries and the Government of India was made aware of it. In this connection the judgement of the Supreme Court also came two days back that in addition to the number of beneficiaries which have been identified for providing them the amount of aid, there are more than one lakh people left even now who deserve this amount of aid. They should also be given the amount of aid. Efforts are being made since January, 1991 by the Madhya Pradesh Government and especially by the Ministry of Petro-Chemical to assist the State Government and make adequate aid available. But till now it has not been decided to provide aid to the people of

all the 57 wards. It is yet to be ensured. The Gas Relief Rehabilitation Commissioner too has admitted the fact that the interim relief should be provided to all. In this connection, a Bill was presented here which is likely to be taken up for consideration here. Further detailed discussion will be held on that day.

I would like to submit here that the proper medical treatment is not being given to people there. The patients who need aid in time are not getting it. Medical equipment are almost useless. From this point of view some demands have been submitted by the Madya Pradesh Government, the Government should consider those demands. Either in this connection or in connection with the Bhopal Gas tragedy, I would like to submit that although the action to process claims of compensation began from February 3, 1992, yet the process is so slow that it is difficult to say as to by what time 5 or 6 lakh claims will be processed. Therefore, if Additional Assistants are required for the commissioner, they should be posted and those claims should be processed as early as possible.

The Bhopal gas tragedy is a disaster and for processing claims, certain guidelines were determined under the Processing of Claims Act, 1985. But they are so incomplete that the Madhya Pradesh Government has said about them that it cannot decide each and every thing on the basis of these guidelines. The guidelines should be clarified further and if necessary their scope should be broadened.

16.00 hrs.

The State Government has requested that Central Government to further revise the guidelines, which they have considered necessary, so that there may not be any obstacle to processing of these claims. The Government of India has not yet decided as to what should be the accounting procedure. Final decision is yet to be made in this connection. I would like to point out that in its order of October 3, 1991 the Supreme Court has instructed that an Insurance Scheme

should be worked out for such people who do not seem to be gas victims at present, but are likely to be gas victims in future and who may possibly die. The benefit of this insurance scheme should be given to all those persons who have been identified. I am sorry to say that they have not been identified. The judgement of the Supreme Court is meant for the people who did not fall victims to gas leakage instantaneously but who have begun to fall victim with the passage of time. That judgement should be complied with. But till now it has not been complied with properly. The Supreme Court has issued another order that the children the widows, the uneducated persons or the semi-educated persons who are affected by this gas tragedy, should be given compensation amount regularly which might become an interim amount or a part of the entire amount. From this point of view, the Government of India should accept certain scheme of the Unit Trust of India and add some amount to it so that the beneficiaries might get the benefit definitely and regularly. This will help them overcome their future hardships.

In this regard I want to submit only this much that the recent judgement of the Supreme Court and the previous judgement of the Supreme Court delivered on the 3rd October, 1991, and the orders passed from time to time and the Repudiation of claims Act 1985 are not being followed properly. The procedure for the immediate disposal of the claims should be activated. Thousands of victims are still living here and there or in the jhuggis. There is no proper residential arrangements for them.

As I have already stated in the beginning that there is no medical facility available to them. Attention should be paid towards all these things. I have already submitted that a Bill is to be introduced by the Government of India in this regard and I will express some of my views at that time. At present I would like to say only this much that these victims of the remaining wards apart from these 36 wards should also be given compensation. Those who have not been identified as the victims of the gas tragedy should be identi-

[Sh. Laxminarayan Pandeya]

fied immediately to save them from the imminent crisis.

With these words, I support this Motion. I firmly submit that the then Chairman of the Union Carbide, who was responsible for this havoc, as not done his duty properly. He threw lakhs of people in danger and did not carry out his duty. Keeping all these things in view a stern action should be taken against him immediately.

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH (Rajgarh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, To some extent, I support the resolution moved by the hon. Satyagopal Mishra. It is really a matter of great concern that the amount of compensation has been fixed but it has not been paid as yet due to lack of adequate arrangements in this regard. The Supreme Court had clearly directed to pay it by February, 1992 positively. In view of the enormousness of this tragedy and the large number of victims, it can be agreed that the work is not so smooth. But it has been observed during the last few years, the State Government has not shown such promptness in dealing with these cases as should have been shown by it.

Medical categorisation has been talked about. In fact, Medical Categorisation has not at all been done in real sense. For unknown reasons just after that tragedy, the officers of our Health Deptt. were involved in this controversy as to what would be the antidote of the diseases arising out of the gas tragedy from time to time and due to this controversy, the medical categorization was not done with such promptness as it should have been done. As a result of it, if you fix the amount of compensation on the basis of the medical categorisation which is done after a long, it will create a lot of problems and will also create a widespread resentment.

The previous Government had decided to pay a monthly amount of Rs. 200/- to every person who had given his claim and that amount is still continued and will remain

continued upto April 1993. It is available to all the persons living in all the 56 wards of Bhopal whether the gas reached in any of the above wards or not. It appears that you are going to initiate the process of the payment of compensation after April 1993.

I have a strong objection to the guidelines, set by you. Last time I had asked the hon. Minister if he had taken the consent of the Ministers of the Madhya Pradesh Government and the Ministers of the Central Government while fixing the guidelines and if so, I am sorry to state that we could not take proper caution while fixing the guidelines to that extent as we should have taken. The Ministers of the Madhya Pradesh Government who were present in this committee had unnecessarily tried whether knowingly and unknowingly to give it a political dimension. The guidelines were prepared in April, but these guidelines were released in June or July in a press conference in Bhopal and all the blame the tradition of the Madhya Pradesh Government to blame the Central Government in all the cases as if they are very innocent persons. I had clearly asked the hon. Minister whether he had taken the consent of the hon. Minister of Madhya Pradesh Government or not while framing the guidelines? He told me clearly that he had asked and the guidelines had been framed with their consent. Then, we had requested you whether the Government of Madya Pradesh has raised any objection in writing in this regard. Your reply was in negative. It is very sad that our friends do not hesitate to politicking over such a sensitive issue. These guidelines are inadequate and God only knows the basis on which these are framed — and on whose consent these are framed. The kith and kin of the deceased will be given one to three lakh rupees while the gas affected people will be given four lakh rupees. There are no guidelines in respect of the claims which have been submitted. There are certain cases of claims that pertain to ruination of business. Bhopal was uprooted and the people ran away from Bhopal. There is no criteria fixed for these cases in the present guidelines. Some people claimed that it had affected their brains for

which they must be compensated. There is no guideline about it also. There are number of gas affected persons who were not the residents of Bhopal, but who had either come to attend the marriages or those who were the general passengers at the railway stations. These persons have neither got any compensation nor they are getting any claim which they should have got. They have neither got primary compensation of 1500 rupees nor they are getting monthly compensation of 200 rupees which they should have got. There were thousands of such people who had come to attend marriages there on that day or had come to Bhopal in connection with their duties, they were the passengers at the railway stations. The railway station area was worst affected. The administration has not yet paid any attention to their claims. The point is that the medical categorisation is not yet complete, you do not have the full record, then, how the compensation will be fixed. If you go for the hearing of each case and take decision on merits, it is sure that the compensation will never be distributed irrespective of number of courts to be set up for this purpose. You have set up courts in each ward while there was no need at all for setting up these courts in all the wards. In one ward the cases are in large number while in the other area perhaps there is no such case, then what is the need of setting up a Court in that area. The Courts should have been set up in view of the number of compensation claims, while you have taken the geographical area into consideration for setting up the courts. Suppose, if you say that the interim relief has been distributed in all the 56 wards and now it will be distributed only in 36 wards, will the people accept it and tolerate it? So later on, the question of the recovery of 200 rupees per month, which is being given for the last two years will come up. Apart from it you will have to decide that the interim relief should go to the remaining twenty wards excluding 36 wards and will you recover the whole amount from those persons, who are getting a monthly amount of Rs. 200/- for the last two years or will you deduct this amount from the final payment of claims, which will be distributed in 36 wards? You have yet not

framed any guidelines regarding that also.

I am sorry to say that I don't have any hesitation in saying that the seriousness and the promptness which the Government should have shown, has not been shown in dealing with this tragedy. It is immaterial as to which party was in power. The slackness of the Government in dealing with these cases caused undue delay in payment of compensation. Some people criticise the orders of the Supreme Court but I consider it a practical decision. Had this case continued and the victims of the Bhopal Gas tragedy had continued to die then what would have been the use of it. It was a practical decision, they fixed a particular amount and after fixing it, they asked you to distribute it. Now there are two points more arising out the decision of the Supreme Court regarding compensation. Shrimati Malini Bhattacharya ji had raised a relevant question on that day. She had rightly stated that after devaluation the recipient of the compensation are getting less amount and they are getting only 60 per cent of the amount, if we calculate it in terms of dollar and its benefit will go to the Central Government because whatever dollars are deposited with the Central Government, after devaluation, their value will be more in terms of rupees. That is why the compensation should be paid on the basis of dollars as per the judgement delivered at that time.

Secondly, what are you doing with the interest which you are getting? Suppose the compensation is fixed at rupees one lakh and it is fixed today but it will be paid after a certain period. So will you pay the interest on one lakh rupees from the day of its fixation. You will have to take decision in this matter also. If the Central Government keeps the interest or if the R.B.I. or any other bank gets benefit of it and it does not go to the victims then it will be a total injustice with them. You will have to think over it also.

Therefore, my submission to you is that the guidelines should be reviewed, should be reconsidered and the guidelines, which you have fixed should be more specified. If

[Sh. Digvijaya Singh]

someone has passed away in a family so will you give one lakh or three lakhs rupees to his relative, how will you make a discrimination among them, because as per guidelines the deceased person should get this amount; then to whom you will pay this amount. Similarly, will you give it to the rich or the poor?

What would be its procedure? What would be its criteria? What would be the basis of giving compensation to Children, old people and earning hands? What are the guidelines followed by the Government? Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, so far as compensation is concerned, I regret to say whether it is our State Government or Central Government or Government officials or Claims Commissioners that due compensation has not been given to them. Owing to it, there is a great discontentment among the people of Bhopal city. Therefore, review your guidelines at the earliest and send your team again there are initiate negotiations. Go to Bhopal and ask the citizens of Bhopal about their problems. Then instead of dealing individual cases, the Government should fix the norms. If it is proved that a man died yesterday, his compensation should be fixed. Flat rate should be fixed for all identical cases of serious injuries after doing medical categorisation, Government will have to give compensation to them.

Now the decision taken by you in respect of 36 wards out of 56 wards will not be accepted. If you try to rectify your earlier mistake that will not be accepted. It will cause a wide spread reaction. That is why, the Government will have to pay compensation in all the 56 wards immediately. When you take a decision to this effect only then you will be able to solve the problem. So far as the other aspect of the resolution is concerned, stringent action should be taken against Mr. Anderson, Chairman, Union Carbide. We have to hold him responsible criminally.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA

(Mandsaur): He was forced to flee.

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: Nobody forced him to flee. Action was taken against him keeping in view the legal position at that time. Thus, it is wrong to say that the Government forced him or gave him an opportunity to flee. Alongwith the Chairman you are not saying anything about the management, whose carelessness has caused this tragedy. It is all right that moral responsibility of the incident lies with the owner of the company. But I would like to say something about those officials who were present there and were supposed to be careful. I know that even after leakage, nobody knew as to which gas was leaking. Neither Collector knew it nor Commissioner and I.G. knew it. Even the Manager of Union Carbide was somewhere busy in a party. When he was informed of it he said that nothing was serious and went to his house to sleep. Are they not answerable? Why do we not say anything against them? We have to fix the criminal responsibility and take stringent action against the management and supervisors.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the last I would like draw the attention towards those people who are still suffering from the diseases caused by the leakage of this gas. The Central Government as well as the Government of Madhya Pradesh opened hospitals and equipped them with latest testing machines. But these machines are not being used. You kindly find out only this much as to how many machines out of those imported from abroad or out of those received in gifts from other countries are being used.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: More than half number of machines are lying idle.

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: If these are lying idle, put them to use. You have never talked to the Minister of Health in this regard.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: I have discussed it with Shri Babu Lal Gaur.

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: He is the

incharge of the affairs. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is the responsibility of the hon. Minister to make arrangements to provide compensation to the people. The destiny of the people affected by this tragedy is in your hands. I invite you to visit Bhopal and talk to the people and see for yourself as to which agony they are passing through. You visit the hospital there, you will find that these people are leading a miserable life. Houses were constructed for them. But it is again a matter of iniquity as to how the houses were allotted. In allotment nepotism and partiality was made. But the genuine sufferers and homeless persons were not allotted houses.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:  
People are still homeless.

SHRI DIGVJAYA SINGH: Yes, people are still homeless. That is why, I would like to request you to pay more attention to it as the matter is very serious. It would be better if Shri Chinta Mohanji you take initiative as early as possible. Shri Narasimha Rao has entrusted a great responsibility to you and if you discharge this responsibility properly it would be of a great help to those thousand of families who are really facing hardships and confronting with many problems. Although much work has been done to remove the ill effects of this gas on next generation and children yet a lot more is to be done in this regard. There has also been psychological affect on the victims of the gas and they are suffering from depression. Many men and women have been under depression. A special attention will have to be paid to them. In the last, I would like to urge upon the Government not to put off your action on it anymore. Review your guidelines. You should visit Bhopal and talk with the representatives of victims. You should start disbursing compensation in lumpsum to the categories/groups made by you. If you start disbursing on individual basis, you will never succeed. This is my submission.

I am hopeful that you will pay a special attention to it and include all the 56 wards for the purpose of granting compensation. Start disbursing compensation immediately. Pay

special attention to the people who were not the residents of Bhopal but had belonged to nearby areas. They have not been given a single paise as compensation till today. They have medical reports and death certificates. But they have not been heard of at any level so far I wanted to say all these things. I have no objection in supporting the resolution brought before the House. In the last, I would like to thank you for giving me time to participate in the discussion

SHRI SATYNARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain):  
Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, the tragedy is still haunting the people there. Today also we are discussing the tragedy that had occurred eight year back. Because every tragedy or accident has its effects even after long time of its occurrence which reminds us of our responsibility. The way we are discharging our responsibility, it indicates as to how precious we consider a human life. Life and death are in the hands of nature. But it is our responsibility to help as early as possible the victims of tragedy.

Government's replies are very routine. They generally say that Government is taking action. Government is well prepared to face the situation. But still the people are in distress. The number of people would be 5 lakh. O.K. efforts were started to provide relief to 5 lakh victims. Now the number has been increased to 6 lakh and 2 thousand. What are the reasons of not including them? The Supreme Court has directed to provide relief to all the people. But the relief money is only Rs.200/-. What a mockery it is! There is nobody to care the injured people. Due to the ill-effects of gas, lungs have been damaged and it has become difficult for such persons to do hard work. They have become unable to do any hard work. I know most of the families have been displaced. But there is nothing wrong in providing relief to such a large number of people and in paying compensation to the families of deceased persons. It was explained just now that there was a difference in one death and the other. As some will get Rs. 2 lakh and others Rs. 3 lakhs. Is there any difference between the two deaths? There is no reason to distin-



[Sh. Satynarayan Jatiya]

guish between the two deaths. One who is died, is died. We should not categorise them in poor or rich. Will it not tantamount to corruption? If we provide Rs. 2 lakh for one death and Rs. 3 lakh to another. The person who are sourceful will get Rs. 3 lakh and Rs. 2 lakh will be given to those who are not sourceful. We will be giving a chance to indulge into corruption even after their death. Fix the amount of compensation to be given to the persons who had suffered injuries.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Compensation is fixed by taking into consideration the age and the earning capacity of the deceased.

SHRISATYNARAYAN JATIYA: Nowadays a discrimination is made in the death of men. A particular amount of money is paid as compensation in case of death by road accident and in case of rail accident it is different and those who die in air crash are given still more. What does it mean? Such discrimination, between man and a man on physical plane is not good. Discrimination is being made in the death of men, there should, however, be no discrimination. If a few lakh rupees are to be given to the family of deceased, it may be given. A fixed amount should, however, be given to the next of kin of the deceased, there is no scope for corruption. There should not be wastage of time on hearings. The process should be such that it does not involve 2-4 years at all. Suppose it takes a period of eight years on hearings etc. will the party remain alive for such a long period? But where is the guarantee that the report can be ready even after the eight years of the tragedy. More the delay more the injustice. Some sort of relief should be fixed and if there is no decision on the limit of amount should be fixed and if there is no decision on the limit, it may be extended. People of 56 wards are affected. Those who have claimed compensation have got acceptance and those who have not forwarded their claim are being denied. There should be a clear directive regarding this.

The present matter has really become a subject of hot discussions among the people. There is a need of reconsidering the difference and the gap that is being created within it. There should be an adequate directive, if it is given further dimensions and if any gap is maintained it will only give rise to corruptions. All these points should be taken into consideration for wiping out corruptions. There has been no directive as to how the payment will be made. Will the payment be made through the Bank or by the Treasury or it has to be made directly by the Government. It should be made clear as to what would be the mode of payment if the belief amount is received. More than 2850 people have been killed and two thousand men have been traced. There can be a quick disposal of the claims of the deceased and they should be given the amount of compensation. There should be no delay in this. There should be no delay in anything that is true and which has been documented and proved on the basis of documents. It was just now said that some men were travelling by train and the factory is set up near the railway track and the train goes towards Belagarh that way and from there it goes to Bhopal. The factory is situated between Belagarh and Bhopal. The gas leakage has affected the travellers and the employees. Most of the railway employees are in trouble and are suffering from disease because they never got any opportunity to be heard. The railway employees who might be travelling and the station staff should get an opportunity of hearing. It is import and to provide relief to ward No. 56. There should no discrimination in the distribution of relief. It means that you are following the saying charity begins at home. If this is the state of affair the democracy will not survive. On the one hand we talk of democracy, on the other we talk of facts while on yet another occasion we talk of establishing a machinery of justice. If justice is mechanical how will the democracy survive? It should seem that we are doing justice, there should be no injustice to anyone. Keeping in view this law of providence justice should be meted out to the person who deserves it.

It has just now been reported that even the directions issued in respect of compensation have some defects and it is yet to be known whether the Government has sent its protest or not. Our colleague was telling that the government has sent protest. When the Government has protested and when the faults are discernible, what is then the problem in accepting that by correcting them? Our suggestions have been sent by the government of Madhya Pradesh and the information sent by it is that it is being said for the past 6 months that 1 lakh and 2 thousand people are to share the relief amount and money is needed for that; but it is a fact that the funds are not being made available. Whatever information I have received on the basis of the facts furnished by the State Government there are 6 lakh and 2 thousand citizens in the 36 wards. The target of 5 lakh accounts has been reached by 15.6.1991. One lakh and 2 thousand people are eligible for getting the interim amount. Rehabilitation amount has not been made available by the Administration to the victims. The State Government has been trying since January 1991 on all levels to get the amount from the Government of India. There is no question of denying the constant pursuance. So this amount should be given as there is the decision of the Supreme Court. I would request the hon. Minister in this regard that there should a full arrangement of providing relief amount to one lakh people who are saved by passing an immediate order. It should be so arranged that the inhabitants of the 56 wards get full amount.

A scheme is being worked out in which the Ministry has made a long term plan for relief and rehabilitation. Have you worked out any action plan for carrying out the scheme prepared by the Ministry and to assess as to what amount is to be spent every year and also to assess other things. Has the Government put a clear picture before the public of what it is going to do through relief and rehabilitation scheme and has the Government made it clear that it would act to fulfil the aim of providing relief, rehabilitation and the amount of compensation.

What I am stating here and what causes concern to the hon. Member and what ultimately necessitated to bring forward this Bill, agreeing with all these points, I would like to request the hon. Minister through you that relief should be provided to the people without any further delay and without neglecting the issue. I hope that those who have so far been waiting for relief will not have to wait for the same any longer.

SHRI KAMLA MISHRA MADHUKAR (Motihari): Mr. Deputy Speaker, my colleague has done the right thing by initiating a discussion on the Bhopal gas tragedy. Many aspects of this gas tragedy have not come to light yet even though such a long period of time has elapsed. There was the Gas tragedy in Bhopal but why did it happen and who is responsible for it and those who were held responsible have been set free. They have gone out from India. They are moving freely without the fear of the law and the Court. Even after being responsible for such a large number of killings they are moving about like other common people. It is important to consider this. This not only a question of Bhopal, but it is a question of all those foreign traders who are coming to India in a large number. The hon. Prime Minister has also said that many more trades are yet to come to India, now the question is whether there is any guarantee that they would provide security to the life and property of the labourers. The tragedy of Bhopal was greater than the one that occurred in Chernobyl. The tragedy has shaken our country as well as other countries. I would, therefore, like to suggest that those hon. Members who have brought forth this proposal should consider all these important issues and the Government should bring a Bill which may impose a condition on all such companies to undertake complete maintenance of these companies whether they are of minerals or of Atomic Energy to safeguard the interests of the labourers. The question now is of considering ways and means to safeguard the interests of the common man. I would like to draw your attention to the serious threat posed by the liberty given to foreign companies under the

[Sh. Kamla Mishra Madhukar]

new policies adopted by the Government. My friend, Shri Digvijaya Singh placed the basic problems before us, but we should not think on the lines that in the Centre we have a Congress Government in Madhya Pradesh, we have a B.J.P. Government, and, therefore, only the Communist, Congress and Janata Dal Members should raise the Bhopal issue here. What I mean to say is that the victims are not being provided with all requisite facilities and whatever is being provided, is inadequate. Their housing, educational and health problems are not being solved.

. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the most important thing is that despite the passage of so much time, the problems of the Bhopal tragedy victims remains to be solved. My good old friends Dr. Laxmi Narayan Pandeya and Shri Satya Narain Jatiya have also raised this question many times and I am in complete agreement with them. If the Union Government and the State Government start passing the buck to each other, the problems can't be solved. Therefore, it is my suggestion that we should not neglect these problems in the name of Centre or States, because human tragedies should not be a matter of dispute on the grounds that it is the Tamil Nadu Government's headache or that of the Bihar Government. If a bridge is to be built in Bihar or a power station set up, we should not adopt the approach that just because the Congress party is not ruling the State, the plan should be postponed. Therefore, it is my humble suggestion that we should rise above petty party politics and consider the issue in its entirety, so that the problems faced by the victims of the Bhopal gas tragedy, whole numbers have risen to a whopping five lakh, are solved. Instead of blaming each other and ignoring the problems, we should sit together, formulate a time bound programme and take action.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is my humble suggestion to you that you should bring this matter to the notice of both the Union Government and the Madhya Pradesh Government. I would certainly like to add here that

the Supreme Court has done a commendable job but, as the hon. Member correctly observed, we should give a rethinking to compensation amount. As the rupee has been devalued and the prices have gone up, the compensation amount looks meagre. Therefore, we should not be adamant about it, rather, we should revise it as otherwise a lot of harm may be done. We should consider the vale of human life in terms of inflation and the devaluation because many families have been ruined and find themselves in dive straits. Attention should be paid to these aspects. Therefore, it is my suggestion that the Government should pay attention to the points raised by hon. Members belonging to the B.J.P. as well as my young friend, Shri Digvijay Singh with regard to the safety aspects in the industrial units, which would be set up in future. The Centre should comprehensively consider the problems of people working in foreign companies including their safety aspects as human life is at stake because eight such accidents have already occurred. The Government should also bring forward a Comprehensive Bill in this regard which should provide guarantee to the workers. Whenever such a proposal is made, many obstacles are brought to the fore and this affects the Centre as well. I would also like to make an appeal to Pandeyji that the B.J.P. Government in Madhya Pradesh should not make it a party issue and should look it from the viewpoint of human values and human welfare only.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: It is being done on the basis of human values only.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The time allotted for this debate was three hours and we have already exhausted the time. Is it the pleasure of the House to extend the time for this debate by half-an-hour?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The time for this debate is extended by another half-

an-hour. Now, Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Bhopal gas tragedy was the worst industrial accident in world history and the night of 2nd and 3rd December, 1984, when more than 2850 people were killed in sleep in one go and many mothers were left childless, will remain a black day in World History. (*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Did you not participate in this debate?

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Yes, Sir. Still, I have some more points to make.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you have still other points, you may raise them next time. Better luck next time.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Sir, only one point I want to make.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. It is against the rules.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Hon. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have a submission to make. It is my request that the Indian Council of Medical Research has.....

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Prof. Rawat, there is one thing. It is against the norms. Whatever, you wanted to say that have already been said by the other hon. Members.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: I would like to ask, so that the hon. Minister may

reply. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I just want a clarification. The Indian Council of Medical Research has done a lot of research in this regard and has prepared a report on the fall out of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy. That report has not been made public so far. Therefore, through you, I would like to get a clarification from the hon. Minister as to why even after eight years, the report has not been made public and why a restriction has been put on it? Alongwith this, I would like to submit that the ill-effects of this gas on the survivors, on pregnant women and on the future generation suggested in this report or in other measures to improve environment should be highlighted to make the masses aware and conscious of the facts. There were many loopholes in that Bill, there was lack of coordination and the Centre and States continue to level allegations against each other. The amount of claims have also gone up from Rs. 715 crore to Rs. 1200 crore. Now, they are also talking about sector 36 and 56. The hon. Minister is requested to expedite the process of introducing the Comprehensive Bill he proposes to bring in this regard, so that all the problems are resolved properly. Thank you.

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES (Udupi): Thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on this subject. We are thankful to the hon. Member for raising a debate on this very important issue, an issue which has engaged the sentiments of the people of this country, the concern of the people of this country; and a tragedy of this magnitude has never taken place in this country.

Now, while demanding adequate and proper compensation for the victims, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what are the measures that the Government is contemplating to avoid such a tragedy taking place, which has never ensured that an accident cannot take place at all. But, definitely, certain measures can be thought of to see that such kind of accidents are minimised.

Further, if an accident does take place, what will be the mechanism through which

the people will get proper protection? Today, this accident has taken place in Bhopal and a big multinational company is involved. We shall definitely sue them, make them to pay which they are liable to pay. Supposing, it is a company run by our own people; may be this will not be the measure by which we will be able to compensate, in which event, what should be the law that we have to enact or what would be the mechanism; whether it is insurance or from the Government resources, we will be able to compensate to the victims and see that their suffering is kept at the minimum.

Now, we are told that the Bhopal gas victims are being given treatment; some have recovered; may be some are in the process of recovering; may be some will never recover; and this is a human tragedy. We request the hon. Minister to definitely spell out the measures that the Government is contemplating to take to avoid such incidents in future.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): I am grateful to Shri Satyagopal Misra for bringing this Resolution on 30th April, 1992. The hon. Members were kind enough to express their views. I am also really thankful to Shrimati Malini Bhattacharaya for giving us lot of information about the criminal cases; she has also given many suggestions to the Government. We are also thankful to Dr Laxminarayan Pandeya, Shri Digvijaya Singh and others for their suggestions. Shri Oscar Fernandes has just now expressed his views. He has said that this is the greatest tragedy of this century and the greatest tragedy of this kind. Though it happened in December 1984, the Supreme Court has taken a long time to give its judgement; the Supreme Court had given its judgement in the month of October 1991. After that, the Supreme Court has given four months to the Government to prepare all the guidelines to pay compensation.

Exactly at the end of February we

started the adjudication process. We appointed a Welfare Commissioner, who is a High Court Judge of Madhya Pradesh. From March onwards they started constructing a building. Madhya Pradesh Government was also kind enough to give some buildings for Commissioner's office. They have appointed five Additional Commissioners and 17 Deputy Commissioners. The Government has given a blanket permission to the Commissioner to appoint about thousand people immediately to start the adjudication process. Usually, we go to the UPSC or the Staff Selection Commission and there are so many other processes involved in the recruitment of people. But as a special case the Government has given all blanket permission to Welfare Commissioner to recruit about thousand people to start the adjudication process. Keeping in view the problems of the victims in mind, we have taken certain steps. Members have said about the guidelines. The guidelines which the Government of India had given, were only indicative guidelines. We have given guidelines for releasing some amount for the people with minor injuries. We have also released certain amount for seriously injured people. But it is all for the Welfare Commissioner to decide. This is a judicial process. He will start the adjudication. Director of Claims is already there in Bhopal. He is taking care of the claims to be given to the victims. We have given enough guidelines by saying that this is their judgement to decide, if anybody has received serious injury and so on. Day before yesterday the Prime Minister was kind enough to say that if a Judge feels that instead of giving rupees four lakhs if he wants to give rupees five lakhs, he can do so. He should be sympathetic to those victims. If the Judge feels that he can give rupees five and a half lakhs to the victims, it is for him to decide. We are also trying to bring forward a Bill sometime next week, may be on Monday, for giving all the powers to the Welfare Commissioner. He is the competent authority. He is a person who is going to decide all these compensation claims.

With regard to delay, I would like to submit that since March, we are working

[Dr. Chinta Mohan]

very seriously in this. And you all know, it will take a little time to start a few courts, appointing some people for taking all the infrastructural facilities. They have taken normal time. We are monitoring it and every week we are getting reports from the Welfare Commissioner's Office. I had also sent a team two months ago to study what is exactly happening there.

Regarding compensation amount, I would like to mention here that it is already available with the Reserve Bank. That was done after the Supreme Court's Judgement. The amount is lying with the Reserve Bank for which we are getting interest also. The total amount comes to about Rupees fourteen hundred crore.

Regarding compensation, previously it was decided to give them rupees five lakhs and now day before yesterday the Supreme Court has given a judgement saying that rupees one lakh more may be added. We are also examining it. We are certainly flexible in this case. This is a very big disaster. The Government is very serious about it. Government is very sympathetic to these Bhopal Gas Victims. We want to give big compensation as early as possible. We do not want to delay it. But it is upto the judiciary. If he was an officer of the Department, I could certainly tell him to do it within one year's time. If it is a question of a politician, I can certainly request him to do the needful as early as possible.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARAYA (Jadavpur): May I ask a question? The question is not only of speeding up the process now.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Maliniji, let him complete his speech and afterwards you can ask clarifications.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: All possible measures will be taken to speed up the process and to see that the compensation is given to them as early as possible.

Regarding the medical facilities, I would like to mention here that the Supreme Court had already given its judgement saying that the Union Carbide should come forward and start a five hundred bed hospital.

17.00 hrs.

The Union Government is very keen about it. If they want some more help we are ready to extend our help. The State Government is also very keen to give the land and other facilities required for the hospital which will be a monument in the city of Bhopal. Some sort of super speciality hospital is likely to come up and we are starting it very soon. Some people asked about the ICMR report. I will send the report. It is not a secret document. Immediately, on Monday itself I will send this report to the hon. Member. He can go through it. If he can give any suggestions, we are ready to accept them and consider his views also.

Coming to the team, as suggested by Shri Digvijaya Singh we are ready to send the team. If the people are interested, they can go to Bhopal see the victims and the adjudication process. They can come back and give their views to the Government.

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: You can also come.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: I will definitely accompany.

Shri Oscar Fernandes asked about the measures we are taking to see that such disasters do not take place in future. The Government is taking all possible measures to see that there should not be any such type of accident in future. I assure you that this Government is very much concerned about the victims and we are ready to tackle any type of problems that may come up in Bhopal.

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: About the wards, 50 and 36 wards etc., are you taking action?

[Sh. Digvijaya Singh]

**DR. CHINTA MOHAN:** That is all left to the Welfare Commissioner. Those who want to claim more compensation they can go and meet the Director of Claims.

**SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH:** What about the guidelines?

**DR. CHINTA MOHAN:** They are only indicative guidelines given by the Government of India. It is for him to decide.

**SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH:** Can he go beyond the guidelines?

**DR. CHINTA MOHAN:** He can. It is for him to decide. He can give more also.

With these clarifications, I request Shri Satyagopal Misra to withdraw his Resolution.

**SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia)** Is the Government pursuing the case or has it given it up?

**DR. CHINTA MOHAN:** The CBI is at present looking after the case. We have advertised about the arrest of Mr. Anderson in *Washington Times* the newspaper in USA and we are trying to attach the properties of the UCI. Through diplomatic channels we are working out to see that Mr. Anderson is traced also. We will see that all possible measures are taken.

**SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA:** I was saying that the question is not just that of speeding up the process now. But the question is clearing the backlog of all these years which has accumulated. In other words, other claims may come later, but of the claims that have already come, you have not been able to clear even half. These are still pending.

I would like to know what measures have been taken to clear this backlog of claims, the claims which are already there, but which have not been processed, which

have not been scrutinised and cases which have not been medically examined. As the hon. Shri Mukul Balkrishna Wasnik had pointed out yesterday, all these pending cases have to be speeded up and for that some special measures will have to be taken. In the cases of cases requiring medical categorisation, action should not be simplified.

Instead of these seven categories have you got any guidelines in respect of all the 15 categories as stated earlier in the scheme? These things have to be immediately decided upon. That is one point or one question that I wanted to ask you. What are the measures you are taking for the clearing of this backlog?

The other question is in regard to the amount. You have referred the amount as Rs. 1400 crores. Initially the amount was Rs. 750 crores. Is this amount of Rs. 1400 crores subsequent to the devaluation? In other words, is it because of the devaluation that Rs. 750 crores is now estimated as Rs. 1400 crores? Does it include the interest that has accrued on the total amount in the last three years? So, in your guidelines when listing the various ranges of damages, you have put these categories in rupee terms like one to three lakhs, four lakhs and so on. This is why in these categories the devaluation is not reflected. It is not charity the victims want. It is the minimum justice they want. If you keep this categorisation in rupee, the devaluation will not be reflected and the necessary appreciation of the damages will not be available.

**DR. CHINTA MOHAN:** About backlog, we will get in touch with the Director of Claims, who is sitting in Bhopal. We will get all the reports from him. We will give him an indication that he should be more sympathetic with the victims. It is already a judicial process. The Welfare Commissioner is there. We are going to give him power if Parliament permits. And it is for him to decide. He will take all possible steps because he is from Bhopal; he was there on that day when this disaster took place and his relatives were involved. He is very much concerned about

that. I had a personal contact with him. I discussed with him and he is very much concerned about the victims of Bhopal gas disaster. We will give him all possible guidelines to him and see that maximum compensation is given to the victims within the infrastructure.

Coming over to this amount of Rs. 1400 crores, this is including the interest accruals....(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARAYA: Is it because of devaluation? (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Minister, Shrimati Malini Bhattacharaya will come to your Chamber and discuss with you.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: I will go to her and have a talk.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: She makes valuable suggestions. That is better.

[*Translation*]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: How can you put a restriction on the Report of the Indian Council of Medical Research?

[*English*]

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: On Monday itself, I will send the Indian Council of Medical Research Report.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SATYNARAYAN JATIYA: It is clear that the Government is providing relief to six lakh people and there are also about 2000 such people, who are in need of immediate relief. Half of the affected people have staked their claims for documentation and the claims of three lakh such people are pending. Even after eight years, this is the condition of three lakh people. Please let us know, if the Government proposes to issue any special guidelines or any special scheme

to dispose off the cases of others at the earliest.

[*English*]

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: Sir, already we have five lakhs people. About one more lakh is left. That we will try to do as early as possible and we will instruct the Director of Claims to take all these claims and put them before the Welfare Commissioner, who is going to decide all these claims. The Government is ready to take any problems of Bhopal gas victims and we will see that justice reaches the victims.

SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA (Bhopal): I do not want to say anything at this stage because I have been asked by the Party to participate in the deliberations when the amendment is taken up. But I would like to make one clarification since I have personal knowledge about this incident and what are all happening there, being an M.P. of that area. Under the Act not a single claim has been decided so far. The Courts are to be set up in fifty six wards. All these I will explain when my turn comes next. But just for her clarification, not a single case has been decided. 56 courts are to be constituted and only 17 are there in position. The cases which have reached the final stage are only four thousand. No compensation has been awarded in a single case. So, the courts have to do a lot of work. They have to handle more than six lakh cases because these are the claims which have been filed. So, a lot of work has to be done.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Vermaji, just now, the hon. Minister is answering. If there are any more clarifications, you can ask?

SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA: I think the appropriate stage for me would be when the Bill comes up next week.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: Shri Vermaji, has said about the delay. I have already said that the Supreme Court has given time for four months to start the adjudication process. Within time, we have started the adjudication process, you know it very well. To



[Dr. Chinta Mohan]

start any court, it needs buildings, it needs other infrastructural facilities. Only four months have passed and the process has already started. The court takes time to read the claims and then other judicial process is also involved. Once they are ready, the money is also ready in the Reserve Bank. They are ready to transfer it. We are waiting for the judgement of the Welfare Commissioner. You know very well, the Bill is going to come next week wherein we are going to give all the powers to the Welfare Commissioner. You are in Bhopal and he is in Bhopal. You can get in touch with him. You can advise him. If there is any problem, we are ready to intervene at any stage. Everything is in your hand.

With these words, I request Shri Satyagopal Misra to withdraw his legislation.

**SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA (Tamluk):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to all the hon. Members who have participated in this Debate. All of them have given valuable suggestions. But the answer of the Government is not at all satisfactory.

Coming to the question of compensation, I cannot still understand why the Government came to a settlement of 470 million US Dollar while claiming 3,000 million US dollar. What was the reason? What was the incident that took place behind the screen?

According to the verdict of the Supreme Court, 40 claims tribunals should have been started by 3rd February 1992 to settle compensation claims of Bhopal Gas victims. The Bill is still pending before the Parliament to give legal status to these tribunals. Only 17 out of 40 tribunals have been opened up till now. This is the attitude of the Government towards the victims of the world's worst industrial disaster. The Government of India, at last, have found some time to issue guidelines to the tribunals on the basis of which the compensation will be settled. But while formulating the guidelines, the Government did

not consult with the representatives of the gas victims or with any other experts. These guidelines are not acceptable to the victims. A large number of victims will not be covered with these guidelines and they will be deprived of the opportunities of receiving compensation. There is no time left for the completion of the payment of compensation. The whole matter is still in deep water. Even more than seven years after the December, 1984 Bhopal gas disaster, there are no signs of its victims getting compensation in the near future.

The fact that till today not a single victim has received the compensation is largely the result of the manner in which the State Government and the Union Government have handled the issue.

There is wide apprehension among the victims that their amount of compensation will not be adequate. I again urge upon the Government to ensure disbursement of proper compensation without wrongful denial, harassment and corruption, to the victims of the Bhopal gas disaster.

I also urge upon the Government to give proper emphasis on the rehabilitation of the victims. The construction of the 500-bed hospital should be completed in time and the Government should also see that proper medical facilities are provided to the victims in future.

On third October, 1991, the Supreme Court had permitted the criminal prosecution of Mr. Anderson and others of the Union Carbide Corporation in connection with the Bhopal gas disaster. What has happened to the extradition of Mr. Anderson, the question still remains unanswered. The Government is silent on this issue. On 7th December 1984 as soon as Mr. Anderson arrived in Bhopal, he was arrested along with others. But after detaining him at his own Guest House for some hours, he was released on bail. He was then taken to Delhi by a State Government aircraft and was then allowed to leave the country. This is a fact. This is the attitude of the Government towards a per-

son who is an accused in criminal prosecution. Mr. Anderson was listed as accused No.1 in this case. What steps has the Government taken for extradition of Mr. Anderson? He had been declared as an absconder for failing to appear before the court. Has the Government of India taken up the matter with the Government of U.S.A. for the extradition of Mr. Anderson? If not, why?

What has happened to the attachment of property of the Union Carbide Corporation and its subsidiary in India? I do not know why the Government is handling this case with a soft attitude towards this multinational corporation.

All these questions still remain unanswered. But the hon. Minister, while intervening in the debate, has assured that he will look into the matter. I also request him that the valuable suggestions which have been put forward by hon. Members from all sections, all corners of this House, should be looked into. All these things the hon. Minister should take care of. If that assurance is given, I am ready to withdraw my Resolution.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: Sir, we will take all possible care to see that the victims get the compensation without any delay and we will take the views given here by the hon. Members also into account.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are you withdrawing your Resolution?

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA: Sir, I seek leave of the House to withdraw my Resolution.

*The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn*

17.19 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE: REVIEW OF DISINVESTMENT POLICY

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now we take up the next Resolution.

Shri Rupchand Pal.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL ( Hooghly ) :  
Sir, I beg to move:

" That this House calls upon the Government to immediately undertake a comprehensive review of the disinvestment policy of the Government in respect of Public Sector undertakings".

Sir, at the outset, let me explain why I have brought this Resolution.

As you know, the Government has decided to dis-invest the equity of the public sector undertakings. How was this decision arrived at? What was the motivation, what was the *modus operandi*? Who authorised them to do that? All these fundamental questions are related to this issue.

A number of committees were set up for studying the public sector undertakings. The latest one of such committees was the one set up when Shrimati Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister. The report of that committee, which reviewed the policies of the public sector undertakings under the chairmanship of Shri Arjun Sen Gupta - who is now representing India at Brussels - had never mentioned, had never recommended that any portion of the public sector should ever be disinvested.

17.21 hrs.

[SHRI PETER G. MARBANIANG *in the Chair*]

He had said that the public sector enterprises should be put into three categories. One of them was the core sector. In the core sector, he has defined what should be considered as the core sector. He included coal, lignite, crude oil, petroleum and natural gas, power, primary steel production, primary production of aluminium, copper, lead, zinc and nickel and fertilisers and primary production of petroleum intermediaries. He had said that, may be over the years, some