

the settlement. We want more relief, more adequate compensation from the Union Carbide.

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:** It was not a question only of the compensation or relief that these victims have to get. He has, of course, dealt with that question. The settlement to which he has referred to, had also extinguished completely the criminal liability of the company. One is the question of compensation to the victims; the other is liability for this kind of poisoning of thousands of people, by release of this poisonous gas. That settlement has absolved the company of any further question of criminal liability which we people in this country do not accept.

I want to know from the hon. Minister what is the view of the Government on the question of liability of the company?

**SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY:** I will read out the decisions that we have taken. After the new Government came to power, a decision was taken in January, 1990 to support the Review Petitions filed by Action Groups. The decisions taken were:

To repudiate the settlement; non-acceptance of wiping out of criminal liability—that covers your question. And the payment of interim relief on the basis of residence in the 36 affected Municipal Wards of Bhopal and determining the quantum thereof in consultation with the Social Action Group.

These are the decisions taken in the month of January.

In pursuance of these decisions, we have been supporting the petitions filed by the Action Group in the Supreme Court. As I said, the arguments are going on. The Attorney General is arguing our case and perhaps before the end of this month or beginning of next month, there will be a judgement.

**SHRI BHABANI SHANKAR HOTA:** Already we discussed about the disaster of the Bhopal Gas tragedy. (a) The point is whether the Government is going to prosecute in the near future the Union Carbide which is solely responsible for the tragedy;

(b) The various scientists, social action groups and other voluntary agencies are of the opinion that toxic materials have been found in and around Union Carbide. I would like to know whether it has been brought to the notice of the Government and, if it is brought to the notice of the Government, what action the Government proposes to take to rectify the situation.

**SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY:** I am not aware that toxic material is found near about the factory. But, I will check up and find out.

**SHRI BHABANI SHANKAR HOTA:** There is lot of toxic material.

**SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY:** I have no information just now. I will find out and we will take action.

Regarding the prosecutions of the Union Carbide, I have already said that we are not for criminal immunity. We want to take criminal action against Union Carbide. We consider it one of the worst disasters of the world. That is why, one of the reasons for annulling the settlement is that we would like to prosecute the Union Carbide for their criminal negligence and the consequences followed.

#### **Kawas Power Project**

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\*167. **DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:**  
**SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL:**

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated cost of the Kawas Power Project and when it is likely to be completed; and

(b) whether there is presently any time and cost over run as compared to the original estimates and if so, the details thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI):** (a) and (b). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT**

(a) and (b). The project (600 MW) was sanctioned in October, 1986 at an estimated cost of Rs. 410.84 crores based on 4th Quarter, 1985 price levels. As per investment approval accorded by the Government for the project, the first gas turbine unit is scheduled for commissioning 24 months after the date of placement of order for the main plant equipment with the other gas turbine units following at intervals of two months each. The commissioning of the first steam turbine unit is scheduled 36 months after the date of main plant order with the second unit following four months thereafter.

The cost estimates for the project are under revision based on actual award prices for the main plant package and other escalations which have taken place since then. There is no time over-run in the project as compared to the approved schedule. The project is likely to be completed by July, 1993.

[Translation]

**DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the project was approved in 1985, but no headway has been made. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the tenders for this purpose have been invited and how much time will be needed in this regard and whether the project will be completed by 1994. Being it so, will the hon. Minister give an assurance that the scheduled date will not be extended further and the project will be completed within its time frame.

[English]

**SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI:** Earlier, there was some disagreement with the Alstom and the awards could not be completed. But now awards have been placed with Alstom on 5.3.1990 and I am sure we are going ahead with the target schedule of the completion of the project by 1993.

[Translation]

**DR. LAXINARAYAN PANDEYA:** The hon. Minister has mentioned in his statement that "the cost estimates for the project are under revision based on actual award prices for the main plant package and other escalations which have taken place since then." It means that they are still under revision. By what time, they will be revised. This is a very important project and a lot of

developmental work depends on the completion of this project. I would, therefore, like to request the hon. Minister to give the details of the latest position in this regard.

[English]

**SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI:** The award has been placed with Alstom on 5.3.1990 and definite steps were taken and our target schedule date of completion, as I have answered it in the answer to the main question, is July, 1993. Therefore, there has been definite progress in this because awards have now been completed.

[Translation]

**SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would also like to ask a question in regard to the question of Dr. Pandeya. The hon. Minister may kindly state as to by what time the work on this project will be started and when the tenders for the same will be invited.

[English]

**SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI:** The delay has been placed because those awards were issued earlier and there was no agreement on certain very key issues and, therefore, we have to go for rebidding. Now rebidding has taken place. The bids have been evaluated. After the evaluation of the bids, awards have been placed with M/s. Alstom in the year 1990... (Interruptions) Awards have been placed now. Therefore, the tender approval work is going on now. My learned hon. colleague should have no apprehension regarding delay because the awards have already been issued and tender approval work is going on. We do hope we will be able to complete it by the targetted period of 1993.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Next question.  
(Interruptions)

[Translation]

**SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL:** Please tell us as to when the tenders will be invited. Please tell us the time.

[English]

**SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI:** I have already stated that the tender approval work is going on. Therefore, I have adequately replied to the question.  
(Interruptions)