

**Committee for Co-ordinated Study on  
effects of Toxic Gas Leakage on  
Live Systems**

\*95. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have set up any national scientific and medical committee for a co-ordinated study on the effects of toxic gas leakage on live systems ; and

(b) if so, the details regarding composition and terms of reference of the Committee ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) and (b) : No, Sir. A proposal to set up a national scientific and medical committee for a coordinated study on the effects of toxic gas leakage on life systems and to give authoritative opinion about appropriate step that need to be taken on the medical and scientific level is being worked out. No decision has yet been taken in the matter.

**Survey of Gas affected Families in Bhopal  
conducted by Tata Institute of  
Social Sciences**

\*96. SHRI MOHAN LAL PATEL :  
PROF. MADHU DANDA-  
VATE :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a team of experts from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, engaged by the Government of Madhya Pradesh, has conducted door to door survey of the gas-affected families in Bhopal ;

(b) if so, the findings of the team ;

(c) the number of persons suffering from long-term effects of the poisonous gas ; and

(d) the details of help rendered by Government to such patients ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) to (d) : Yes, Sir. However, this survey has not covered the entire affected area. The complete findings and the analysis of the data collected during the survey has not been received from the State Government, so far.

**Effect of withdrawal of American Firm  
"Chevron" on India's Plan to attain  
Self-sufficient in Oil and Gas**

\*97. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the American firm "Chevron", which under a five-year agreement had contracted for exploration of oil in the continental shelf of Saurashtra, has decided to quit in view of its failure to strike oil and gas in the area after drilling three wells ;

(b) if so, whether it is likely to affect India's plans for attaining self-sufficiency in oil and gas ; and

(c) the alternatives that are being tapped to ensure achievement of self-sufficiency in oil as earlier projected ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Greater thrust is proposed to be provided in the VII plan to exploration and exploitation of oil and gas by ONGC and OIL.

**Steps for Higher Production of Paper**

\*98. SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that prices of paper in the country have

considerably increased due to the shortage of paper ;

(b) whether Government are considering any proposal for higher production and easy availability of paper ;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) the total production of paper in the country at present and its consumption ?

**THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEE-RENDRA PATIL) :** (a) Although most of the manufacturers have recently increased the price of papers by about Rs. 500 per tonne to cover the increase in the cost of major inputs such as raw material, chemicals, power and coal, there is at present no shortage of paper and paper board in the country.

(b) and (c) : The installed capacity for manufacture of paper and paper board in the country has reached a level of 23.49 lakh tonnes as on 1.1.85, thus exceeding the target of 20.5 lakh tonnes fixed for the Sixth Plan. An additional capacity of 34.8 lakh tonnes has also been approved by way of Industrial Licence/Letters of Intent and Registration with D.G.T.D., which is under various stages of implementation. Apart from improving the infrastructural support to enable the industry to achieve higher capacity utilisation, the other steps taken to improve the performance of the industry include, *inter-alia* the following :

- (i) Excise rebates have been offered for use of unconventional raw materials by small paper mills, utilisation of bagasse for paper manufactured by new units.
- (ii) Customs duty on imported pulp and wood chips totally exempted.
- (iii) Customs duty on wood in certain specified form has been reduced from 100% to 10%.

(iv) Import duty on waste paper used for paper making has been waived.

(v) Flexibility has been given to the paper industry for production of any variety of paper and pulp, including paper board/straw board within the licensed capacity in line with the market demand.

(d) The production of paper and paper board in 1984 was 14 lakh tonnes which more or less matches the consumption.

#### **New Industrial Policy**

\*99. **SHRI KAMAL NATH :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are working on a new Industrial policy ;

(b) if so, when the new policy will be announced ;

(c) whether Private Sector will be allowed to enter some areas which were hithertofore the monopoly of the Public Sector ; and

(d) the other steps envisaged to increase industrial production, improve quality of production and to bring down prices of industrial goods ?

**THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) :** (a) to (d) : Government's Industrial Policy is set out in the Industrial Policy Resolution of 1956 and more precisely in the industrial policy of July, 1980. The role assigned to the public sector and private sector is also set out in the Industrial Policy Resolution, 1956 which continues to be operative except that the private sector has been recently permitted to take up the manufacture of telecommunication equipment for installation at the subscriber's premises, such as telephone instruments,