

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 27.11.2009
ANSWERED ON
REMOVAL OF TOXIC WASTE GENERATED BY UNION CARBIDE

944

Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi

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

- (a) the number of people who died due to leakage of gas in the Union Carbide plant in 1984;
- (b) the quantum of toxic waste left in the complex;
- (c) Whether any study has been conducted to check the toxicity of the said waste after 25 years;
- (d) whether the State Government of Gujarat has filed a petition in the Supreme Court against decision of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh to dump toxic waste in Ankleshwar in Gujarat; and
- (e) whether Central Government has to present its view in the Supreme Court, if so whether It has presented its views in this matter ?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS

(SHRI SRI KANT KUMAR JENA)

(a) As per information received from the Office of the Welfare Commissioner, Bhopal Gas Victims, Bhopal, 5295 people died due to leakage of MIC gas in the Union Carbide plant in 1984.

(b) As per information received from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh, 346 MT of stored toxic wastes are lying at the former Union Carbide Plant Limited (UCIL) site at Bhopal.

(c) The Defence Research and Development Establishment (DRDE), Gwalior in June, 2008 conducted Acute Oral Toxicity Studies in Rats and Primary Skin Irritation Test in Rabbits of the stored Toxic Wastes at former UCIL plant site at Bhopal. In their report on Acute Oral toxicity, the report has concluded that all the samples viz. Excavated waste, Lime sludge, Naphthol tar, Reactor residue, Semi processed pesticide and Sevin tar were having very low mammalian toxicity. With regard to Primary Skin Irritation Test, the report has concluded that all the samples were found to be non-irritant to the rabbit's skin.

(d) & (e): The State Government of Gujarat has filed two SLPs (No. 21936/2008 and No. CC 292 of 2009) in the Supreme Court against the Madhya Pradesh High Court Orders dated 15.7.2008 and 16.12.2008 containing direction for incineration of the 346 MT of toxic waste of former UCIL plant site at Bharuch Enviro Infrastructure Limited (BEIL) incinerator, Ankleshwar. In response to the counter- affidavit filed by this Department on behalf of Union of India, the Government of Gujarat filed an affidavit on 13th April, 2009 raising certain issues of alleged technical deficiencies and legal aspects pertaining to the BEIL incinerator at Ankleshwar. The Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals on behalf of Union of India sought extension of time from the Supreme Court to enable resolution of the issues raised in the affidavit filed by Government of Gujarat. The Court was pleased to grant extension of time. The case is listed for hearing on 22.01.2010.