

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS  
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS  
Lok Sabha  
Un-starred Question No. 4521  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2019

Bhopal Gas Tragedy

4521 SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:

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

- (a) the amount allocated by the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (MCF) in 2010 for economic rehabilitation of the victims of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy;
- (b) the specific heads/purposes under which the amount allocated was divided;
- (c) whether the money allocated has been utilized by the Department of Bhopal Gas Tragedy Relief and Rehabilitation (BGTRR), Government of Madhya Pradesh, for the intended purposes, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether any amount was diverted to fuel different State Government schemes and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether MCF has approved the diversion of any amount of the funds, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (f) whether MCF has sent a letter to the Principal Secretary, BGTRR, regarding alleged misuse of the funds and if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) whether the Principal Secretary, BGTRR has responded to the letter and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING  
AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS RAO  
INDERJIT SINGH.

- (a) A sum of Rs. 272.75 crore was sanctioned by the Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure 'On Account' payment of Additional Central Assistance (ACA) for other projects (Grant Component) to the State Government of Madhya Pradesh projects under the New

Plan of Action for the Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster in the year 2010. Out of that, an amount of Rs.104 crore has been allocated for Economic Rehabilitation.

(b) and (c) The amount of Rs.104 crore was proposed for subsidy to the entrepreneurs to establish their ventures in terms of:

(i) Rs. 1 lakh for each Gas victim provided employment with a capping of 50% of total capital investment – Rs. 100 crore

(ii) Establishment of the marketing cell to promote the products made by Gas victims – Rs.2 crore

(iii) Establishment of the HR cell for placement of the skilled Gas victims at various industries and establishments – Rs.2 crore.

As reported by Government of Madhya Pradesh, none of the organizations/entrepreneurs came forward for the assigned training schedules and the approved plan did not succeed. As per the choice of the affected people/family, an entrepreneurship training programme with built - in mandatory employment was launched by the Government of Madhya Pradesh in lieu of that approved programme. Government of Madhya Pradesh also reported that 12,355 beneficiaries were selected for training in different fields and trained , out of which 5,200 got placement. A sum of Rs. 18.13 crore has been spent under this scheme.

(d) and (e) Government of Madhya Pradesh reported on 10/3/2016 that the entrepreneurship training programme launched under Economic Rehabilitation programme was not attractive, as the beneficiaries after getting training were reluctant to move out of Bhopal. Govt. of Madhya Pradesh submitted a proposal to utilize an amount of Rs. 25.12 crore from the unspent balance for providing self- employment to the gas victims under “Mukhyamantri Swarojgar Yojna” (Chief Minister Self Employment scheme) which include Rs. 1.00 crore for component of appropriate/relevant training. The proposal was considered and necessary administrative approval was accorded in May, 2018.

(f) NGOs viz Bhopal Gas Peedit Mahila Stationery Karamchari Sangh, Bhopal Gas Peedit Mahila Purush Sangharsh Morcha, Bhopal Gas Peedit Nirashrit Pension Bhogi Sangharsh

Morcha, Bhopal Group for information and Action, and Children Against Dow –Carbide in a joint representation dated 28/1/2014 had alleged the misuse of funds meant for Economic Rehabilitation for Bhopal gas victims. The same was forwarded on 9/2/2014 to the Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal Gas Tragedy Relief and Rehabilitation Department seeking their comments/clarification.

(g) Based on the clarification given by Government of Madhya Pradesh, NGOs was replied on 14/01/2015 as follows:-

“The Government of Madhya Pradesh called for Expression Of Interest (EOI) for “Training cum employment/placement” and followed a transparent procedure for selection of the agency that would undertake this. As a result, training and rehabilitation of gas victims has started and so far, the following number of beneficiaries have been selected/trained and given placement:

S. No.	Expression of Interest	Beneficiaries Selected	Beneficiaries Trained	Placement*
1	EOI-1	2130	2130	1605
2	EOI-2	6585	6585	5492
3	EOI-3	3840	3440	2203
	Total	12555	12155	9300

\*Though the selected institutions have reported 9300 placements but 4411 placements of 17 institutions is under verification, hence third and final instalment have not been paid to them. Expenditure incurred till November, 2014 is Rs.18.13 crore.”

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