

## RAJYA SABHA

Monday, the 21st January, 1985/1st  
Magna, 1906 (Saka)

*The House met at eleven of the Clock,  
Mr. Chairman in the Chair.*

### MEMBER SWORN

Shri Kamalapati Tripathi (Uttar Pradesh)

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Questions. Shri  
Srnbasiva Rao.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:  
Before that, I would like to draw the attention  
of the .. (*Interruption*)

SHRI J. K. JAIN: No, Sir. It is the  
question Hour. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:  
The Government should make a detailed  
statement on.. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, please sit  
down. Mr. Sambasiva Rao.

#### Opening of T.V. relay centre at Guntur

\*21. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBA SIVA  
RAO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION  
AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of T.V. relay centres  
opened in Andhra Pradesh so far  
during the current financial year;

(b) whether Government propose  
to open a T.V. relay centre at Guntur  
also during the current financial year;  
and

(c) if so, by when it is likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE  
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND  
BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL):

(a) Twelve.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBA SIVA RAO:  
Sir, neither Vijayawada Guntur is covered.  
Even Gum town is not covered. Even the dis-  
trict is not covered. To cover Vijayawada, it is  
essential that one more station at Guntur also  
should be set up.

SHRI V. N. GADGIL: Sir, position is that  
at Vijayawada we are raising a new high  
tower. The construction work is going on.  
After it is completed, 91 per cent of the popu-  
lation of Guntur will be covered.

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBA SIVA RAO:  
There is a hill between Guntur, and  
Vijayawada. This cannot be covered properly  
unless the tower sufficiently increased or  
something is done.

SHRI V. N. GADGIL: The tower is being  
raised. The way passes through a  
forest. We have taken up with the State  
Government. The project is under  
construction, as I have said. During the  
course of year it will be completed when 91  
per cent of the population will be covered.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question. We  
shall take up Questions. Nos. 22 and 24  
together.

#### Methyl-Isocyanate gas leakage in Union Carbide factory of Bhopal

\*22. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT  
BHANDARE;;  
SHRI H. L. KAPUR:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that several hundred  
residents of Bhopal have died due to leakage  
of the MIC gas

†The question was actually asked on the  
floor of the House by Shri Murlidhar  
Chandrakant Bhandare.

from the Union Carbide factory at Bhopal; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to prevent recurrence of such incidents elsewhere in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### Statement

(a) The Government of Madhya Pradesh have, so far, ascertained that 1408 persons died in the accident. Further verification is being done by the State Government. The State Government have engaged the Tata Institute of Social Sciences and a few other similar institutions to do a detailed 'house to house' survey for assessing, *inter alia*, the casualties resulting from the accident.

(b) The Union Carbide factory at Bhopal has since been closed and the factory inspectorate of the State Government has not renewed the licence of the factory, under the Factories Act.

The Central Government have advised all State Governments to undertake a thorough review of various regulations, control and preventive measures contained in the Rules and Regulations relating to hazardous chemicals' manufacturing processes and evaluate the existing arrangements with reference to the special need for enforcement of safety.

Besides, Central Government have also decided to set-up a special cell to make a detailed study of the practices in vogue, in developed countries for dealing with hazardous substances and to identify gaps in the prevailing legislative and institutional arrangements in the country and suggest suitable steps for strengthening such arrangements.

#### Technical enquiry into the leakage of Methyl-Isocyanate gas from Union Carbide factory at Bhopal

\*24. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:† SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:

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

(a) whether Government have caused any technical enquiry into the causes of the disastrous leakage of Methyl-Isocyanate gas from the Union Carbide factory in Bhopal in the first week of December;

(b) if so, what is the outcome of the enquiry;

(c) whether any lapse on the part of the Union Carbide management has been detected which has resulted in the leakage of the deadly gas; and

(d) if so, what action Government have initiated against the management of the company?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL):- (a) Government of Madhya Pradesh have set-up a Commission of Inquiry headed by a Judge of the Madhya Pradesh High Court and its terms of reference, *inter alia*, cover investigation into the events and circumstances of the accident, the adequacy of steps taken by the factory authorities and adequacy of safety measures and their implementation.

Apart from this, the CBI is investigating into the criminal case registered under Indian Penal Code against the plant authorities in this connection.

(b) Investigations are in progress.

(c) and (d) production activities in the factory have since been stopped

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†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Bhagatram Manhar.