

## RAJYA SABHA

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

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

### MEMBER SWORN

Shri Kamlapati Tripathi (Uttar Pradesh)

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Questions. Shri Sambasiva 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 nor Guntur is covered. Even Guntur town is not covered. Even the district 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, the 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 population 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 is sufficiently increased or something is done.

SHRI V. N. GADGIL: The tower is being raised. The way passes through a forest. We have taken it up with the State Government. The project is under construction, as I have said. During the course of this 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

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