

- (c) Yes, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

Registration of death claims of Bhopal gas leak victims

2132. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the break-up of rejected death claims of Bhopal gas leak victims, Municipal ward-wise, age-wise (such as below 5 years; 6 to 18 years; 19 to 45 years; 46 to 60 years and above) and gender-wise;
- (b) the reasons for stopping registration of death claims of Bhopal gas leak victims from April, 1997 onwards; and
- (c) the steps contemplated for reopening the registration from April, 1997 onwards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) The Welfare Commissioner's office has informed that the details of rejected death claims are not maintained ward wise, age wise and gender wise.

(b) and (c) The Office of the Welfare Commissioner had vide Gazette Notification dated 2nd December, 1996 invited applications for claims from persons affected by the Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster within a period of 60 days commencing from 10th December, 1996. This was extendable by another 60 days. The registration of death claims was accordingly stopped from April, 1997.

Funds for R&D in pharmaceutical sector

2133. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has planned to set up a Rs. 10,000 crore Venture Capital (VC) fund to finance Research and Development (R&D) activities in the pharmaceutical sector; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) The Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) is in the process of