

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly 40 tonnes of toxic waste has been taken away from the premises of Union Carbide Plant, Bhopal stealthily to Pithampur near Indore in Madhya Pradesh for treatment and disposal;

(b) if so, the details of the circumstances necessitating it; and

(c) whether the waste material so taken away has been treated and disposed of without causing any harm to anybody and, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) The High Court of Madhya Pradesh *vide* its order dated 30th March, 2005 constituted a Task Force under the chairmanship of Secretary (Chemicals & Petrochemicals) for removal of toxic wastes from the former Union Carbide Plant site in Bhopal. The Task Force, in its meeting held on 16th October, 2006 decided, on the basis of recommendation of a Technical Sub-Committee, to dispose of 39.6 MT of lime sludge in a secured landfill at the Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facility (TSDF) at Pithampur. Accordingly, the Government of Madhya Pradesh has disposed of 39.6 MT of lime sludge at the secured landfill at TSDF, Pithampur in the last week of June, 2008 under the supervision of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy Relief and Rehabilitation Department. The secured landfill at Pithampur site has been constructed in accordance with the guidelines of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). Leachate collection system has also been installed. The samples of bore-well water and that of the natural water sources around the secured landfill are continuously monitored and analysed by the Government of Madhya Pradesh. Till now, no occurrence of pollution on account of the secured landfill has come to the notice of the Government of Madhya Pradesh.

Status of office bearers of National Commission for SCs

† *311. SHRI NARAYAJN SINGH KESARI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the post of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Members of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes are offices of profit;

(b) if so, whether a person holding such a post can contest election for Lok Sabha or Legislative Assembly;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether such a person can continue to hold the post, even after losing the election; and

(d) whether such a person would be considered on duty from the period of commencement of election process to its termination?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) Section 3 of the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1959 declares that certain offices of profit in so far as they are offices of profit under the Government of India or under the Government of any State, shall not disqualify the holders thereof from being chosen as, or for being, Members of Parliament. Sub-clause (ii) of clause (ba) of the said section refers to the National Commission for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes constituted under clause (1) of article 338 of the Constitution and hence, the holder of the said office constituted under the said article is exempted from incurring disqualification.

(c) and (d) This is a matter of interpretation to be decided by the competent authority on the basis of facts and circumstances.

Coal supply to thermal power plants

*312. SHRI SHADI LAL BATRA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to short supply of coal to various thermal power plants in the country, the power generation has gone down;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of Coal being supplied to various thermal power plants in the country vis-a-vis their demand;

(d) whether the Coal India Limited has adequate reserves to supply coal to these plants; and

(e) if not, the details of coal imported by the Coal India Limited during 2009-10?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL):

(a) and (b) No, Sir. The coal based thermal power generation in the country was 453.014 Billion

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.