

(c) whether it is a fact that a surplus over Rs. 1500 crores is still left in the compensation fund; and

(d) if so, by when the same will be paid to the Bhopal Gas victims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATTRA PAL SINGH): (a) and (b) The total number of death claims filed by the claimants is 22,149. As on 31-7-2003, 22,105 death claims have been decided. Out of these in 15,225 cases compensation have been paid, 6880 cases have been rejected and 44 cases are still pending. In all 10,01,723 claimants filed the claims for injuries. All these cases have been disposed of and 5,54,264 persons have been paid compensation for injuries.

(c) and (d) According to information given by the Reserve Bank of India, as on 2-7-2003, as sum of Rs. 475.76 crore is the balance available in dollar component. All the compensation claims have not yet been decided. After disposal of pending cases, the balance amount will be utilized as per the directions of the Supreme Court.

Compensation to Bhopal Gas Tragedy victims

‡3197. DR. AKHTAR HASAN RIZVI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that even after the lapse of twenty years, the victims of Bhopal Gas tragedy have not got the proper compensation;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when these victims are likely to get proper compensation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATTRA PAL SINGH): (a) to (c) The Bhopal Gas victims are paid compensation under the provisions of the Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster (Processing of Claims) Act, 1985 and Scheme, 1985. The claims are adjudicated under the judicial process by the office of the Welfare Commissioner and compensation is disbursed. In all, the claimants filed 10,29,515 cases. As on 31-7-2003, 10,29,462 cases have been disposed of and an amount of Rs. 1526.82 crore has been disbursed as compensation. Only 53 original cases are pending. In addition, 4267 appeal

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

[22 August, 2003]

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and 12,287 revision cases respectively are pending before Appellate and Revisional Courts. Since it is judicial process, no definite time for disposal can be given.

Indian pharmaceuticals in US watch list

3198. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the manufacture and distribution of spurious drugs is increasing at an alarming pace and already account for over one-fourth of the pharma business;

(b) whether consequent to the African and Latin American countries' complaints, the US Government has put India under special 301 watch which would have serious implication on the Indian Pharmaceutical Industry; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND

FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATTRA PAL SINGH): (a) As per the feedback available from the State Drugs Control Administrations, 36947,38824 and 36314 samples were tested during the period 2000-2001,2001 -2002 and 2002-2003, out of which 112,96 and 125 samples respectively were found spurious which is 0.3, 0.25 and 0.34% of the tested samples.

(b) and (c) The Annual Special 301 Report for 2003, released by the United States Trade Representative (USTR) retains India in the "Priority Watch List" alongwith 10 others countries. India is being kept under this category since 1995. USTR lists countries as "Priority Foreign Country"; "Priority Watch List" and "Watch List. Under US Rules, the USTR is obliged to initiate action against only such countries as are listed under "Priority Foreign Country" and that too only after holding consultations with the Governments of the concerned countries. As such, there is no immediate threat to the Indian Pharmaceutical Industry.

Railway lines running through protected wildlife sanctuaries

3199. SHRI R.K. ANAND:

SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :