

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH): (a) and (d) The criminal case against the Union Carbide India Limited and 11 others was committed to the Court of Sessions Judge, Bhopal on 16.7.88. The defence went in appeal against the charges framed and matter was finally disposed of by the Supreme Court on 13.9.96. In pursuance of Supreme Court order, the Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bhopal framed the charges on 29.8.97. The case is now pending at the stage of prosecution evidence. Till date 101 prosecution witnesses have been examined. The next date for prosecution evidence is scheduled on 16/17-9-2003. With regard to extradition request in respect of Warren Anderson, the Government of India has forwarded the extradition request through Embassy of India, Washington, to the US Department of State and US Department of Justice.

(b) According to the Government of Madhya Pradesh, it does not have any such information from any authentic source.

(c) In view of (b) above, the question does not arise.

Assam Gas cracker project

3195. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) details of developments made, in chronological order, on Assam Gas Cracker Project from the time of conceptualization, laying of foundation stone, year-wise progress, present status and target fixed;

(b) details of original commitments made by oil companies, basis of availability of gas resources, details of deviations made by oil companies on their commitments, solution found out, likely time of arriving at a final decision on this issue; and

(c) list of public commitments made by Prime Minister and Petroleum Minister from time to time on this issue till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH): (a) to (c) A Letter of Intent was issued to the Assam Industrial Development Corporation (AIDC) on 25.1.1991 to set up a petrochemical Gas Cracker Complex with a capacity of 3 lakh tonnes per annum (TPA) Ethylene in the joint sector.

The foundation stone of the project was laid by the Prime Minister in November, 1994. A Committee constituted in the Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals to monitor the implementation of the project assessed that gas for production of only 2 lakh TPA Ethylene was available. It was agreed that Oil India Limited (OIL) would supply 5 Million Standard Cubic Meter Per Day (MMSCMD) of gas for the production of 1,30,000 TPA Ethylene and the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) would supply 1.35 MMSCMD for the remaining 70,000 TPA of Ethylene. However, it is now estimated that with 1.35 MMSCMD of gas available from ONGC, it would be possible to produce only 28,000 TPA of Ethylene in the first 5 years and for the remaining 10 years, it would be sufficient to produce 15,000 TPA of Ethylene only. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas have identified Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) for supply of LPG to make up for the shortfall in the supply of gas.

With the passage of time, the price of gas has increased and subsidy to the oil companies will have to be given to provide gas at a concessional fixed rate of Rs. 600 per thousand cu. Meters of gas over a period of 15 years for the project, as decided by the Cabinet in 1994. Action has been initiated for the expeditious resolution of the issue of funds required for subsidy for the Assam Gas Cracker Project.

The cost of the project is estimated at Rs. 3600 crore. On finalization of the Feedstock Supply Agreement (s) and acquisition of land, the project authorities expect the project to be commissioned in 44 months.

The Government is keen to support the implementation of the Project and this has been publicly asserted from time to time.

Compensation fund for Bhopal Gas

3196. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons succumbed to death following Bhopal Gas Disaster on 2nd/3rd December, 1984;

(b) the number of persons who have, so far, received compensation for injuries;