

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;

(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.