

the Union Carbide plant at Bhopal on 28.3.1985 and 1.4.1985.

2. According to the information received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh on 28th March, 1985, while a chlorine tanker for moving out chlorine stored in the factory, was being filled, some smell of chlorine was felt and the work of filling the tanker was immediately suspended. The workers who were filling the tanker were kept under observation, but no after-effects were noted.

3. On 1.4.1985, it appears that an empty tank of chloro-Sulphonic Acid started releasing some fumes on account of effect of moisture in the air on the residue in the tank. However there was no consequent ill-effect.

4. I may assure the House that the Union Carbide Factory at Bhopal is closed and necessary steps have been taken to remove the possibility of any hazard arising from the plant.

13.08 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

- (1) Shortage of filtered and unfiltered water in Delhi and need to take immediate steps to overcome the chronic problem

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Balasore): Scarcity of drinking water and unfiltered water in the Union Capital, Delhi, has become an acute problem for the people. Shortage of drinking water and sometimes non-supply of the same has created a big problem for almost all the people including VIPs and MPs. The posh areas are also going without drinking water. Government has drawn up a programme to bring water from the river Ganga to feed Delhi and New Delhi. This seems to have remained on paper only. The office-goers including some of the M.Ps, are compelled to forgo their bath and sometimes they cannot cook their food.

The supply of unfiltered water is still worse for the last more than a fortnight. There was no supply of unfiltered water to the lawns and other places resulting in drying of valuable plants and trees in the kitchen gardens and flower gardens etc. Even the requests of M.P.s are not headed to by the authorities taking the plea of repairs. If this is the condition before the commencement of summer which has created panic among lakhs of people, one can imagine what will be the condition at the peak of summer.

In the face of such chaotic situation arising in the Union Capital, I would request the Government to take immediate action so that adequate and regular supply of drinking water as well as unfiltered water is restored at the earliest. The hon. Minister of Works and Housing may kindly make a statement on the floor of the House regarding the action taken by the Government on this issue.

- (ii) Need to improve the working of telephone system in Vidisha parliamentary Constituency and to provide S.T.D. facility between important towns in the area

SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA (Vidisha): The telephone system in Vidisha Parliamentary constituency is very defective. Subscribers are experiencing day-to-day difficulties in local and trunk calls. Most of the exchanges and rural P.C.O.s, are either defective or out of order due to poor maintenance and faulty equipments. I would like to draw the attention of the Communications Minister to the following points of urgent public importance:—

1. Vidisha auto exchange is not working satisfactorily due to various technical faults and ineffective maintenance.
2. Vidisha Trunk Exchange is connected with Indor-TAX by means of operator Trunk Dialling Circuit (OTD). But most of the time the TAX system remains out of order resulting in poor trunk services to the subscribers of Vidisha District.