

- (ii) Margin money scheme for sick small scale industrial units.

Filing of a Suit in U.S. Court by Union Government Against Union Carbide

467. SHRI G.G. SWELL :
DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOJ :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether in its capacity of *parens patriae*, Government will bring a suit in an American court against the Union Carbide Corporation for the Bhopal gas leak disaster ;

(b) whether Government propose to deal with hordes of suits on behalf of gas victims or their legal heirs reportedly to be/have been filed by an assortment of American lawyers who visited Bhopal in the wake of the disaster ; and

(c) whether Government have any contingency plan in the event of the suit being thrown out on ground that the tragedy did not occur on American soil ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS, FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) to (c) : Government is committed to do all that is possible to secure that claims arising out of, or connected with, the Bhopal gas leak disaster are dealt with speedily, effectively, equitably and to the best advantage of all the claimants. Necessary powers in this behalf have been vested in the Central Government by the provisions of the Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster (Processing of Claims) Ordinance. These would enable Government to represent the claimants. The Ordinance contains express provisions with regard to the representation by the Central Government of the claimants with respect to the claims filed before American Courts before the promulgation of the Ordinance. Government would, according to the developments, do whatever is to the best advantage of the claimants.

Cooking Gas for Common People

[Translation]

468. SHRI C.D. GAMIT :
SHRI ANANTAPRASAD SETHI :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) the time by which India will become self-reliant in cooking gas ;

(b) whether consumption of gas has remained confined to the upper class people living in cities ;

(c) if so, whether, Government have any plan under which gas could be made available to the common people ; and

(d) whether Government have planned production of cylinders to cater to increased requirements that should accrue if they are able to tap the available gas fully ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) On the basis of current projections of availability of LPG from various indigenous sources, it is expected that full requirement of all domestic customers can be met by the year 1990.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The manufacturing capacity for LPG cylinders is adequate to meet the increasing demand.

Opening of a Branch Post Office in Saistabar Panchayat in Jhanawara Sub-Division

469. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is no post office in Saistabar Panchayat in Jhanawara Sub-Division ; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to open a branch post office in this area which has a population of 8000 persons ?