

268

Telephone: 0755-2533106, Fax: 0755 2533976

Email: nirehbhopal@yahoo.in



राष्ट्रीय पर्यावरणीय स्वास्थ्य अनुसंधान संस्थान
NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH IN ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान अनुसंधान परिषद
INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH
कमला नेहरू चिकित्सालय भवन, भोपाल
Kamla Nehru Hospital Building, Bhopal - 462001

Dr. Anil Prakash
Director-in-Charge

Do. No. NIREH/BPL/52/2015-16/ 541
21st May, 2015

Dear Dr. Shukla,

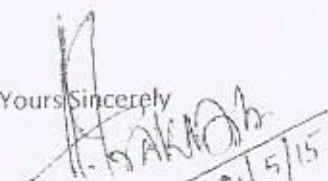
With reference to your letter no. 66/16/NIREH/2014-NCD-II dated 19/5/2015 my comments on the letter no. 21/15/2014-B.Cell (part) dated 12th May, 2015 received from the Under Secretary, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals, GOI (enclosing the representation dated 28th April, 2015 submitted to the Hon'ble Minister, Chemicals and Fertilizers by 5 NGOs working for Bhopal Gas victims) on the subject "Scientific basis for upward revision of death and injury figures associated with the December Union Carbide Disaster in Bhopal" are given below-

1. The figure of deaths attributable to gas exposure given in the curative petition, 2010 of GOI (which is being contested by the NGOs) has been decided by the Welfare Commissioner, GOI, Bhopal through a judicial process by the tribunals constituted under the Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster (Processing of Claims) Act, 1985. Till December, 2014, the O/O the Welfare Commissioner, GOI, Bhopal had reviewed and decided a total of 22,151 claims registered under the death category on the merit and available medical records. Of these, 5,474 deaths cases were attributed to the MIC gas exposure and 9,868 claims were found eligible for compensation under the category of permanent disability (n=1703), temporary disability (n=1783) and minor injury (n=6,382) and remaining 6,809 cases were rejected.
2. Since this is a judicial matter and curative petition is in court, it will not be prudent to comment at this stage on the issue of the revision of the figure of mortality (as being insisted by the NGOs by putting forth various arguments and arriving at a projected figure by extrapolating the recorded deaths in the ICMR cohort and also certain assumptions) -
3. Importantly, the limitation of extrapolating the recorded deaths in ICMR cohort has already been mentioned by the Secretary DHR and DG, ICMR in his earlier letter no. 66/16/NIREH/2014-NCD-II dated 28/1/2015 addressed to the Secretary, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals, GOI in response to his DO letter no. 21/15/14-B.Cell dated 30 December, 2014.

With regards

Dr. D. K. Shukla
Head, Div of NCD
Indian Council of Medical Research
Ansari Nagar, New Delhi-110029

Yours Sincerely


(Anil Prakash) 21/5/15