

Shivraj Singh Chouhan

Letter No 29/CMO/VA/2011; Date: 8/12/2011

Chief Minister

Government of Madhya Pradesh  
Bhopal – 462 004

Respected Mr Prime Minister,

The disaster that occurred in the capital of Madhya Pradesh on the night of 2nd – 3rd December is known as the world's worst industrial and environmental disaster. The union carbide factory was closed down right after the incident and investigation was handed over to the CBI. The Government of India passed the Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster (Processing of Claims) Act, 1985 and arrogated to itself all powers related to the matter of compensation. The Government of India has constituted a "Group of Ministers" with Home Minister P Chidambaram as its Chairperson. This Group of Ministers was given the responsibility to provide recommendations on the matters under consideration in the interest of the gas victims.

2. In the meetings of the "Group of Ministers" it was requested and demanded on behalf of the Madhya Pradesh government that for payment of proper and dignified compensation to the gas victims of Bhopal city, the families of the people killed by the disaster should be paid Rs. 10 lakhs and those affected by the gas should be paid Rs. 5 lakhs compensation by the Government of India.

3. The Government of India set up a separate judicial tribunal (Welfare Commissioner, Bhopal Gas Victims) under the Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster Act that was directly under the control of the Government of India. Judges of High Court (Welfare Commissioner), Additional Sessions judges (Additional Welfare Commissioner) and First Class Magistrates (Deputy Commissioner) were appointed in this tribunal.

4. In the meetings of the "Group of Ministers" recommendations were made to pay additional ex gratia amounts in different categories, after deduction of amounts earlier paid as compensation, in 48, 694 out of 5,74, 376 cases.

5. In this context, it was requested by me through my letter dated 24.06.2010 that 10, 047 victims actually died as a result of the disaster but the "Group of Ministers" and the central cabinet did not include them for payment of ex gratia amount to their family members.

6. It is my humble request that in the categorization of death claims, persons who died as a result of the disaster have been considered to be in the category of permanent and partial disability. Similarly in some other cases the cause of death has not been considered to be due to the effect of gas and they have been categorized as having suffered minor injury and this categorization

does not appear to be just. Hence these 10,047 cases should be considered to be deaths caused by the disaster and they should be paid Rs 10 lakh compensation so that the dependents in 15,342 death cases can get justice. In addition no recommendations have been made to pay additional compensation to 5,21,332 persons who were actually in the category of partial victims. In these cases compensations should be paid after proper consideration so that gas victims can get justice.

7. I would like to request you that the victims of the worlds' worst industrial disaster in the Bhopal city are demanding that Government of India should pay proper and dignified compensation.

8. On the occasion of the 27<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the gas disaster I request you to reconsider the above mentioned points and take positive decision so that Bhopal gas victims can get full justice.

9. In this regard it is my humble request that I would like to meet with you on this issue. Representatives of gas victims voluntary organizations will also be present with me during my meeting with you.

10. I request you to kindly fix a date for this meeting

Respectfully

Yours Sincerel

Shivraj Singh Chauhan

Dr. Manmohan Singh  
Prime Minister  
Government of India  
7, Race Course Road, New Delhi 110001