

SAFE DISPOSAL OF WASTES IN UNION CARBIDE PREMISES

NO CONTAMINATION OF GROUND WATER OR SOIL FROM WASTES

Bhopal, July 28, 1998.

The Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board collected and analysed the samples from the tubewells and other drinking water sources in the areas around the Union Carbide premises early this month. The analysis found no traces of chemicals in the water sources that may be linked to the chemicals used in the Union Carbide factory or the wastes there. Samples from those water sources were also collected water of which is non-potable. In these sources also no residues of such chemicals were found that may be linked to the chemicals used in Union Carbide or the wastes there.

Contamination of water sources is caused due to improper drainage of water and other causes of environmental pollution. It is, therefore, not proper to assume that the contamination of water sources around the Union Carbide premises is due to the chemicals of the factory or the wastes there.

National Environment Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Nagpur has collected and analysed the samples from these water sources from time to time. In these analyses, no traces of chemicals were found that may be related to the chemicals used in Union Carbide factory. The report that appeared in a section of the press based on the tests conducted by some American Citizen Environmental Laboratory that the chemicals from the Union Carbide have contaminated the ground water is not correct. The State Government or the M.P. Pollution Control Board does not have the report of any such American laboratory. Besides, in 1990, when this laboratory allegedly collected samples from the water sources, the NEERI also took samples from these water sources and analysed them, which also made it clear that the water sources had not been contaminated due to chemicals. The State Government is alive towards health of the people and no such action would be allowed as may cause any adverse effect on their health.

It may also be mentioned here that three solar evaporation ponds were constructed for the treatment of contaminated water of the factory. The silt of pond number one and two has been safely disposed of in pond number three under the supervision of experts. This has been done through secure land fill technique suggested by the NEERI.

Recently, the Industries Department has taken possession of the entire 87.74 acres land of Union Carbide by cancelling the lease. After possession of the land by the State Government, the civil and criminal liabilities of Union Carbide will remain unchanged. The State Government will ensure safe disposal of the residual Sevin tar and Nephthol tar from the factory. This will be done in consultation with the NEERI, Nagpur and I.I.C.T., Hyderabad.