

The Loot of Public Investment by Adani Group with the Full Support of Modi's BJP Government!

Union Carbide of India an Indian subsidiary to the union carbide corporation of USA, caused a worst ever and the world's largest industrial disaster on the mid-night of 2nd December 1984. Due to the entry of methyl isocyanate (MIC) gas in to the atmosphere, thousands of people were killed instantly, many more subsequently. The poisonous effect of the lethal toxic gas caused thousands of people disabilities of various kinds, besides even the unborn children in the wombs of pregnant women were killed or born with various disabilities. Those who were effected by the poisonous gas are still suffering with diseases like cancer, lung ailments, gesture irritations, eye damages etc for all these 40 years. Even some of the children born after the disaster are suffering with the poisonous effects of the lethal gas. A colossal damage occurred to the environment and atmosphere in and around Bhopal of Madhya Pradesh where this disaster had occurred. The untold human tragedy imposed by the UCC is of a huge scale unprecedented in the entire history of industrial disaster. The victims of the Bhopal gas disaster are still suffering with incurable diseases and illnesses without any recourse for their ruined lives.

The attitude of the Central and State governments to this human tragedy was and is of apathy and utmost callousness. At the time of the industrial disaster, instead of pinning down the culprit – UCIL and its parent UCC, the government had facilitated, the Chairman (CEO) Warren Andreson of UCC to escape from India and to live untouched until his death. The rulers felt it as their duty to serve the interests of the imperialist capital than the ruled even at the cost of the people's lives and their livelihoods.

The Bhopal, UCIL's factory premises is still loaded with the poisonous, lethal gas materials and wastes, which have been seeping into the ground continuously and polluting the land and water around Bhopal, devastating the ecology. Till now no action whatever was taken either by the company nor the successive governments to remediate the UCIL's factory premises and clean the environment around Bhopal from the toxic effects of the poisonous materials seeping into the ground.

The successive governments of the Congress and of BJP – at the centre and in the states have not sincerely attempted to claim damages, compensation to victims and to punish UCIL for its grievous and vicious culpability in creating such a huge scale human tragedy and devastation.

Whether the gas was released intentionally by the UCIL for experimental purpose or the gas leaked due to the failure of safety equipment and precautions, it is indisputable

that the UCC is responsible and liable for the entire destruction for which it is liable not only to pay damages and compensation but also for a severe punishment.

But our rulers belonging to Congress and BJP have willingly allowed UCC; to be left free from punishment for its vicious criminality. They had not even effectively attempted to obtain sufficient compensation. But they have retted with the UCIL for an abnormally low amount as a compensation.

Meanwhile the UCC initially transferred its assets in India to Eveready and subsequently sold it to Dow Chemicals, they were avoided from its liability of paying suitable compensation and responsibility of remediating the factory premises loaded with toxic materials, polluting the environment.

At the time of settlement with corporation, on May 4, 1989, it was estimated that the deaths due to gas were 3,000 and temporary disability were 20,000 and minor injury were 50,000. But as on today the deaths of gas victims increased to 5,479 as on Dec 2022. According to Commissioner's report presently the number of cases of cancer are 16,739 and renal failure are 16,739.

The number of temporary disability actually increased to 35,455 and minor injury cases to 5,27,894 as on today. According to the governments chart, the total number of cases increased to 5,74,376 from 2,05,000 "assumed" on May 4, 1989; which means the number of gas victims is increased more than 100% to number of victims estimated at the time of settlement. There is every chance for the further increase of the gas victims.

According to Bhopal Gas Peedith Sangharsh Sahayog Samiti and Bhopal Gas Peedith Mahila Udyog Sangathan, the medical records of Bhopal Memorial Hospital and Research Centre there are over 4.5 lakh gas victims spanning 22 years. On an average every day about 2,000 gas victims undergo medical treatment at the center and another 4,000 victims undergo treatment at the 6 hospitals and 19 clinics run by the gas relief department of MP government. Many specialist doctors left their jobs from the centre as the government was not paying them benefits on par with the specialists at other hospitals. The victims are left to obtain medical treatment without specialist doctors.

The \$ 470 million settlement reached by the government with UCC is not sufficient to pay the compensation and provide medical treatment to all the victims since their number is being increased.

But the central government has not filed any review petition for enhancement of the compensation, and has directly filed as petition for curative relief for an additional amount of Rs. 7400 crores is compensation from UCC, before the Supreme Court.

The UCC has refused to pay even "a farthing" more arguing that the liability of UCC for the tragedy was never established; even at the reality that it made a settlement with the Central government to an amount of \$ 470 million in lieu of compensation. Such has been the heinous and vicious nature of UCC of USA, which caused the industrial disaster. Such is

the inhuman nature of foreign capital and transnational corporations, that refuse the liability for their nefarious activities to gain super profits.

On the other hand the Supreme Court while agreeing that it is sensitive and do not doubt the enormity of the tragedy making it clear that it would not 'try' the curative petition and reopen the settlement. More over Justice Kaul asked the government why Rs. 50 crores of the settlement amount lying undisbursed with the government? The Supreme Court refused to reopen the settlement stating that it is bound by the 'constraints' by law. The Supreme Court also advised the government "if the government, as a welfare state, felt the victims were entitled to more, it should pay to them".

Such has been the play for justice to the Bhopal gas victims enacted between State and the Supreme Court which emphatically claims that it would protect the rights of people.

This exposes the hypocrisy and anti-people class nature of our system and the constitutional institutions that rule the people!