

DECEMBER 3, 1984 BHOPAL DISASTER DAY

TOXIC CHEMICAL RELEASE FROM A CHEMICAL MANUFACTURING PLANT.

WHERE

UNION CARBIDE INDIA LIMITED (UCIL)

STARTED IN 1979 – TO MANUFACTURE CHEMICALS -

CHEMICAL PESTICIDE SEVIN [CARBORYL] IS HIGHLY TOXIC, NEEDS GLOVES AND OTHER SAFETY GEAR WHILE HANDLING -

CHEMICAL PROCESS IN MANUFACTURING CARBORYL USED MIC [METHYL-ISO-CYANATE]

WHAT HAPPENED

MIDNIGHT OF DECEMBER 2nd, 1984 -

LEAKAGE FROM THE CHEMICAL STORAGE TANK OF METHYL-ISOCYANATE - MIC GAS IS DEADLY TOXIC EVEN IN SMALL QUANTITIES -

40 Tons (1 ton = 1000 kgs) OF THIS GAS CAME OUT.

THIS COMPANY's PLANT WAS RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF BHOPAL CITY (AND NEXT TO RAILWAY STATION) -

BHOPAL- CAPITAL OF MADHYA PRADESH. POPULATION 9 LAKH THEN –

EFFECTS

EYES AND SKIN IRRITATION -

LUNGS AFFECTED -

MANY BLINDED -

TOTAL OF 5 LAKH PERSONS WERE EXPOSED -

IMMEDIATE DEATH – 3000

DEATH WITHIN 2 WEEKS – 8000

THOUSANDS OF ANIMALS (CATTLE, DOGS, CATS, BIRDS, MANY DOMESTIC ANIMALS)

HEALTH PROBLEMS – ESTIMATED 50000 PERSONS

CHILDREN BORN WITH DEFECTS

**PERSONS EXPOSED AND ALSO CHILDREN BORN TO THEM SUFFERING EVEN TODAY
- 30 YEARS AFTER THE ACCIDENT**

POINTS TO REMEMBER

**MOST OF THE CHEMICALS ARE TOXIC. SOME ARE HIGHLY TOXIC AND DANGEROUS
CHEMICAL FERTILIZERS ARE HARMFUL. AGRICULTURAL PESTICIDES ARE MUCH
MORE HARMFUL**

**ANY CHEMICAL USE SHOULD BE PROPER AND CAREFUL- WITH FULL KNOWLEDGE
OF ALL SAFETY PRECAUTIONS**

**CHEMICAL FACTORIES NEED EXCELLENT PLANNING, DESIGN AND DAY- TO- DAY
OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES**

ANY ACCIDENT EVEN MINOR ONES CAN BE HARMFUL

**IN THE CASE OF MIC GAS AND CARBORYL [SEVIN PESTICIDE] NO NEW SCIENTIFIC
DATA WAS NECESSARY. THEIR TOXICITY AND DANGER WERE WELL KNOWN**

BEFORE THE ACCIDENT PRECAUTIONS WERE NOT TAKEN

**AFTER THE ACCIDENT NEITHER THE COMPANY NOR THE GOVERNMENT TOOK ANY
PROPER ACTIONS**

MORAL

USE CHEMICALS ONLY WHEN IT IS NECESSARY.

**TOXIC ONES ARE BETTER AVOIDED
OR USED VERY CAREFULLY**

**LOCATION OF THE CHEMICAL FACTORIES MUST BE FAR AWAY FROM POPULATED
PLACES.**

THIS COMES FROM

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