

Name: _____ Date: _____

Law and Social Justice

Q1. A 'clean environment is a public facility.' Can you explain this statement?

Ans. _____

Q2. How did Bhopal gas tragedy occur?

Ans. _____

Q3. What are the reasons for the sharp differences in safety standards between the two Union carbide factories in the USA and India?

Ans. _____

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Q1. A 'clean environment is a public facility.' Can you explain this statement?

Ans. The environment is something that people over generations will share, and it could not be destroyed merely for industrial development. The courts also gave a number of judgments upholding the right to a healthy environment as intrinsic to the Fundamental Right to Life. It includes the right to the enjoyment of pollution-free water and air for full enjoyment of life.

Q2. How did Bhopal gas tragedy occur?

Ans. The world's worst industrial tragedy took place in Bhopal 24 years ago. Union Carbide (UC) an American company had a factory in the city in which it produced pesticides. At midnight on 2 December 1984 methyl-isocyanite (MIC) - a highly poisonous gas - started leaking from this UC plant. Within three days, more than 8,000 people were dead. Hundreds of thousands were maimed.

Q3. What are the reasons for the sharp differences in safety standards between the two Union carbide factories in the USA and India?

Ans. In India, one worker can easily replace another. Since there is so much unemployment, there are many workers who are willing to work in unsafe conditions in return for a wage. Making use of the workers' vulnerability, employers ignore safety in workplaces. Thus, there were the sharp differences in safety standards between the two Union carbide factories in the USA and India.