

FILE NAME: Shree Digvijay (SDV)

DATE: 1984 Apr 22

DOC#: SDV031

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Barry Castleman Notes on Shree Digvijay Status Report

Shree Digvijay status report

April 22, 1985

Rani Advani has started her internship w/NRDC, will be:

- w/NY ofc until 4/26
- w/SF ofc 10 days, then w/Sid Walinski
- w/NY ofc after May 12
- w/DC ofc after May 23 when she wants to meet me

A petition has been filed w/Gujarat courts, the best in India. Rani wants to review the petition with me and file amendments to petition as warranted. Govt labor authorities have ordered some improvements at plant, not all have been made. Rani has sued the govt and impleaded S-D (she couldn't sue S-D directly). This is a precedent suit over asbestos in India.

Central Labour Institute has diagnosed 20 definite asbestosis cases and another 36 possible cases. They were sent to another govt office (Nat. Inst. for Occ. Health?) which examined the 20 and said only 8 had asbestosis. The state comp authorities then refused to pay comp to any of the workers. Rani has urged that they develop uniform recognized standards, medically. The fact that these 20 have been diagnosed as having asbestosis is the basis for Rani's demands in court that they receive expedited compensation. Govt action has thus shortcircuited what would have otherwise been a longer process.

Comp status for asbestos-cancer and other subjects will have to await a longer discussion.

Rani has approached all the authors of the Indian articles on asbestosis in 1983, two wrote back, neither would testify. She found another guy w/background in veterinary medicine who has worked w/Selikoff. He had tried to get air samples from S-D for 3 years starting back in 1972 and gave up. He would not testify to that fact, however, nor render any other assistance. Rani will ask Selikoff about docs in India, and about int'lly recognized stds for the diagnosis of asbestosis to support her court complaint.