

[Translation]

[English]

**Industrial Pollution**

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\*23. SHRI LALL BABU RAI  
SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR  
SHARMA

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some large and medium units under the 17 categories of industries have been or are being closed down for their failure to fulfil the pollution norms upto december 31, 1993;

(b) if so, the number of such industries which are required to be closed down, category-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether the Supreme Court has given any judgement to check the pollution being caused by industries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the Government are considering any proposal to extend the date fixed for the industries failing to fulfil these norms within the stipulated date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. There were 48 units which did not take any steps to instal the requisite pollution control facilities upto December 31, 1993. Some of them are being closed down by the State Pollution Control Boards.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. The Hon'ble Supreme Court had on different dates ordered the closure of more than 500 industrial units in the Taj Trapezium Zone and in the Ganga Basin.

(e) There is no proposal to grant any further extension of time for compliance of the norms beyond what has already been granted.

Two *Statements*, one relating to (a) & (b) and another to (c) & (d) are laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT I**

(a) and (b). There were 48 units which did not take any steps to instal the requisite pollution control facilities upto December 31, 1993. The State-wise and category-wise number of such units is given below:

State	No. of Units	Category	No. of units
Andhra Pradesh	24	Thermal Power	06
Jammu & Kashmir	01	Distillery	11
Maharashtra	06	Dyes	01
Madhya Pradesh	03	Leather	05

State	No. of Units	Category	No. of units
Orissa	07	Pharmaceuticals	03
Rajasthan	01	Sugar	14
Uttar Pradesh	06	Cement	04
		Fertiliser	01
		Pulp & Paper	02
		Iron & Steel	01

The Capital Pollution Control Board has issued directions on 27.01.1994 to all the State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees of the Union Territories to examine the bonafides of these units and give them the minimum time required for completion of the installation of pollution control facilities on a case to case basis, not exceeding a maximum of six months. They were also directed to initiate immediate legal action against the identified wilful defaulters, who have not taken any steps to instal the requisite pollution control facilities. The legal action can include closure of the unit, prosecution under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981; cancellation of consent granted under the Air Act and Water Act etc., and the State Pollution Control Boards were given the choice to follow any of these legal options as they deemed fit for each unit.

#### STATEMENT II

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. There are two public interest petitions filed by Shri M.C. Mehta, pending in the Hon'ble Supreme

Court, viz. WP No. 13381/84 relating to the pollution in the Taj Trapezium Zone and WP No. 3727/85 relating to the pollution caused by industries in the Ganga basin. The State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) of UP, Bihar and West Bengal have been directed to file affidavits showing the status of industries which had set up pollution control devices. Orders were then issued by the Supreme Court to close down the units which had not set up the effluent treatment plants (ETPs). Once ETPs were set up by these industries, the closure orders were temporarily suspended by the Court enabling SPCBs to check the efficacy of these ETPs. Upon satisfaction by the reports of SPCBs the Court finally revoked closure orders in respect of such units, but no such revocation of closure orders have been passed in respect of units continuing to default.

[Translation]

SHRI LALL BABU RAI: The State Pollution Control Board does not follow the pollution norms laid down by the Central Pollution Control Board, as a result of which the schemes formulated to

check the pollution have been proved unsuccessful. Even the Supreme Court had to intervene in this matter. In regard to part (a) and (b) of my written question I would like to know from the Government the number of units closed down for not fulfilling the norms and the number of units still in operation? In addition to this, I would also like to know the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for extending the date fixed for the industries failing to fulfil the required criteria.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: The hon. Member is right that there are some shortcomings in the State Pollution Control Board. That is why people had to go to the court. The hon. Member had asked about the number of units which have been closed down. As on 10.5.94 the number of such units was 78 and those which are complying are around 50.

SHRI LALL BABU RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per the statement of the hon. Minister, he has stated that till 31st December 1993, 48 units had not taken any action to install pollution control facilities. Whereas the Supreme Court had issued orders for the closure of more than 500 such units, the Government has not complied with the orders of the apex court. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, whether the Government has made any review of the performance of State Pollution Control Board and if so, the number of officers found guilty and the action taken against them?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, no such inquiry is carried out in regard to functioning of State Pollution Boards but from time to time a meeting of State Pollution Control Boards is conducted in Delhi in which attention is drawn towards their shortcomings and whatever assistance they require that is also debated upon.

SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, today everybody is aware of the fact that our 70 percent rivers carry contaminated water and the hon. Minister himself has admitted that the performance in the field of pollution control is not satisfactory, whereas the Supreme Court has given 'crystal clear instruction in this regard. This is for the information of the Minister. This situation does not prevail in Rampur alone, same is the condition of canals and rivers in Nainital too. Leave the human beings aside even the animals are craving for water. Keeping the words of hon. Minister in view that no proper arrangements have been made in this regard, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the manner in which State Pollution Control Boards and Central Pollution Control Board propose to control all these things and how they will function to attain their objects and how they would be able to control it in near future.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the delegation of the State Pollution Control Boards has carried out its responsibilities under the Air and Water Act. Hon. Member had drawn my attention towards all these points and an enquiry was also conducted in this regard. It is true that a number of rivers are highly polluted but to make them pollution free. I had made a announcement on 5th December and on the basis of that very announcement a national action plan is going to be implemented throughout the country. I am sure that all such rivers as are the most polluted, will be cleaned and this problem will automatically be solved.

*[English]*

SHRI M. R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware that some chemical fertilizer factories, in the name of

effluent treatment plant, let their contaminated water nearby the vacant land of the factories and call it as a bird sanctuary. The contaminated water stinks and pollutes the whole area. This attracts some birds like the stork etc. which come and stand in that water. This contaminated water causes a great pollution problem in the whole area. Will the Government take action on such industrial polluting units? They falsely name the contaminated water area as a bird sanctuary.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: As I said, these powers have been delegated to the State Pollution Control Boards. If the hon. Member brings to our notice any specific case, we will be happy to enquire into the matter and take appropriate action.

*[Translation]*

SHRI BRISHIN PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has conceded the fact that State Pollution Control Board has not been performing well as a result of which the Supreme Court had to intervene in this matter.

Through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is not a sign of its inefficiency that hundreds of vehicles are plying on Delhi roads, brazenly flouting pollution control laws under the very nose of Central Pollution Control Board and no action is taken against those.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is correct that 60-65 percent pollution in Delhi is caused by vehicles but the solution to curb pollution is not banning vehicles on roads but to rectify the technical draw-back. To check this growing pollution, there is need to introduce unleaded petrol. It is being discussed with the Petroleum Ministry and

whenever they will be able to obtain unleaded petrol, the requirement of emission standards of vehicles fixed in 1986 will be fulfilled.

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Chairman and Members of State Pollution Control Boards are public representatives only but the Chairman of all the Boards in Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu Union Territories, are bureaucrats and there is not a single member who is a public representative and that is why whatever facilities are required for their functioning are not being provided. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether orders would be issued to ensure that the Public representative may be made Chairmen of these Boards.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: There is scope for a representation from the Public but the number is limited only to 2 or 3 members. So far as appointment of the Chairmen and other members is concerned, it is based on technical qualifications. Moreover there are no such Pollution Control Boards in the Union Territories under this Act.

*[English]*

SHRI K.P. REDDAIAH YADAV: Is it a fact that the hon. Minister has received a representation from half a dozen Members of Parliament from Andhra Pradesh about a world renowned lake by name Kulleru with an extent to 2.2 lakh acres is being polluted with the effluents, molasses and distillery water from the KCP Limited at Vuyyuru in Krishna District? I would like to know whether the hon. Minister has given assurance in writing that by December 1993 the pollution will be stopped and the action will be taken. So far no action has been taken. If such an assurance is given and if

it is not implemented, what is Govt's credibility what is the fate of the farmers of that area who are doing aquaculture fish farming etc. Will the hon. Minister immediately look into the matter and take action against the factory management?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: As I said, the central intervention in this is only called for when the State Pollution Control Boards are not acting. The State Pollution Control Boards have a responsibility and for the Central Ministry to intervene in this matter is not sometimes very appropriate. Hon. Member has referred to the date of 31st December, 1993. It is correct that industry was required to comply with the standards by 31st December, 1993. If this particular unit has not complied with it, we have not directed this unit in particular. But in general we have directed the State Pollution Control Boards to take appropriate action against these units which means, prosecution and or closure.

However, if the hon. Member does bring to my notice, just as he has brought to my notice that this particular unit is not complying, I shall be happy to look into the matter.

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated in his reply that 60 to 65 per cent pollution in Delhi is caused due to vehicles plying on the roads but it does not mean that the movement of vehicles is to be banned. But 300—400 industries and factories in Agra were ordered to be closed down on the ground that pollution caused by these factories had become a great danger to the beauty of the Taj Mahal and resulting in displacement of the workers working in the said factories. Through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to

what action is proposed to be taken by the Government to check pollution in Agra and make it pollution free instead of displacing the workers working in the factories and industries?

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: What are you doing about the political pollution in Delhi?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Only you can solve that problem. So far as the comparison by Shri Paswanji in regard to pollution in Delhi and Agra is concerned, I have already said that we need unleaded petrol in Delhi so that vehicles could be equipped with catalytic convertor but so far as Agra is concerned, the Supreme Court had issued an order to close down around 300 industries situated in Taj Trapezium because these failed to meet the fixed standards. Around 250 out of the said 300 units have got the required equipments installed and have given its proof to the Supreme Court and as a result, these units have been revived. But we have considered its long-term solution. For providing them the right technology we have talked to the Petroleum Ministry so that they may get petroleum gas to run the furnaces of their factories or use electricity. We have also talked to the Uttar Pradesh Government with a view to convert the present furnaces into electric furnaces in order to reduce the pollution load in the area surrounding the Taj.

SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, though I am a member of Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Environment and Forests but we can discuss on this matter also and I would like to ask the hon. Minister, through you, that we have mentioned it several times that many countries of the world have banned the production of certain chemicals because these were causing pollution but these chemicals are still

being produced in our country. There are several such factories. One such factory is in our area Junagarh which is producing these chemicals. I have mentioned it several times but our State Pollution Control Board does not listen to the Central Pollution Control Board. I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to what action is being taken by the Government to close down the said factory because it is producing those chemicals which have been banned in the other countries and these chemicals are causing pollution and the whole world is concerned about pollution.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: What the hon. Member has said is correct that there are certain chemicals whose production is banned abroad, though there is no ban on their utilization, these chemicals are being produced in our country. The manufacturing facilities of the chemicals, whose production is banned though their utilization is not, is being shifted to our country. We are trying to make some rules in this regard with a view to control it.

SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA: No, their production should be banned here also.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Some people maintain that these should close down but the others feel that many people get employment from it. But even then if there are some chemicals which are hazardous or toxic and which pose danger, then, they will not be accorded approval. The hon. Member has mentioned an industry and I would like to say that it is true that an investigation was conducted. If the need be, we will again investigate the matter.

SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA: This factory has been functioning like that

for the last three years and it is still going on. The 15 adjoining villages are worst affected and the villagers are greatly inconvenienced by the pollution caused from it. The people are facing a problem of polluted water there. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister will take any action and issue orders to close the factory. *(Interruptions)*. Is the problem of polluted water biggest there?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: The matter will be looked into again and, if the need be...

SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA: Sir, how do you define the 'need'? It has been going on for years together.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Not like this, please. This cannot be a continuous question from one Member. Even the good thing should come to an end.

*[Translation]*

SHRI KAMAL NATH: If the need be, action will be taken thereon.

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister that since you are closing down many industries and are displacing people from Agra in view of the pollution, what proposals do you have to rehabilitate those rendered unemployed? Sir, my other question is, whether the Government is developing some new technique or getting any research conducted with a view to check pollution?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, no policy has been formulated in our

Ministry to rehabilitate or provide employment to those workers who are displaced due to closing down of these industries, but I would like to say that it is the responsibility of the State Government and I am sure that the State Government will perform its duty.

SHRI SURAJ MANDAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on one hand the hon. Minister is ordering the closure of industries in view of pollution which results in unemployment. But, on the other hand, there is a brewery in my constituency in Bihar and Supreme Court had ordered its closure because its strong smell had caused a disease which was destroying the foetus of the pregnant women. That is why, it was closed down but, then, after sometime, for reasons unknown, it was revived again. I demand from the hon. Minister to order its closure since the people of that area are also demanding that and....

MR. SPEAKER: Look, do you want to ask the question ?

SHRI SURAJ MANDAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am asking a question only that washeries in coal areas also spread pollution. I had written to the hon. Minister also about washeries and coal loading plants and Piparwar Project being run in collaboration with Australia, causes a lot of pollution and diseases and had asked into what action is being taken to check pollution caused by the Central Coal Washery ?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the question of distillery is concerned, it had been closed down by the order of the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court had ruled that this factory would remain closed until they installed pollution control equipment. I do not have a specific information in this regard. But if

it has been reopened even after the order of the Supreme Court to close it down, then, it is possible that they might have installed pollution control equipment. I would see as to what can be done in this regard.

About the coal washery, which the hon. Member has brought to my notice, I would consult the concerned coal company in this regard.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, 6 units have been closed down in Maharashtra due to pollution. But the water of rivers in Maharashtra, especially in sugar industry belt, is still very polluted. Keeping in view the demand being made by the public, the closure of 6 units seems less; it should be increased. There is a city named Ichalkarni near Kolhapur which is called the Manchester of Maharashtra, the sugar industries there have caused so much pollution that a boy who was bitten by a snake survived and the snake died because the boy had drunk that contaminated water. It is not a joke. It has really happened, the local people have told me. Through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Government is proposing to ask the State Pollution Control Board to take some measures to check the pollution in the rivers of Maharashtra caused mainly by the sugar industries?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: If the hon. Member furnishes all the details in this regard, I would talk to the Pollution Control Board.

[English]

#### U.G.C. Committee

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\*24. DR. K.D. JESWANI:  
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: