

specific time will be fixed within which, if all the documents and other clearances are there, the imigration will be given?

MR. SPEAKER: Can you fix the time?

SHRIPABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: Sir, because a lot of people are waiting there, it will be very difficult for me to give a categorical answer.

SHRI A. CHARLES: He has got all the other documents.

MR. SPEAKER: He said that it is not possible.

SHRI A. CHARLES: I want your protection. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: He categorically answered that it is not possible.

SHRIPABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: Sir, we will do our best.

SHRI P. C. CHACKO: Sir, in the answer given by the hon. Minister it is admitted that a large number of persons with valid employment visa are not given the emigration clearance. This is such a disturbing situation and the answer given is a routine one. Since it is a fact that thousands of people are waiting in the queue for emigration clearance and the steps taken by the hon. Minister are of routine nature, will the Minister may please state that a special cell will be formed in his Ministry to expeditiously implement the steps taken by the Ministry?

SHRIPABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: Sir, I have already stated that six categories of workman in the specialised and semi-skilled sector, will not be requiring emigration check. I think that will cover majority of the workers. For other workers, our officers have to satisfy themselves about the documents.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: Mr. Speaker, Sir the questioner has said that a large number of people have been stranded. The Minister has also said that many persons

have been stranded. I would like to know whether he has got figures as to how many persons have been stranded at Bombay, Delhi and Trivandrum because of the non-compliance with the emigration rules. Secondly, I would like to know when is he exactly relaxing the rules for the purpose of emigration clearance.

SHRIPABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: Sir, at present I do not have the actual figures of these places, but within this month I think we will clear the emigration in those categories already mentioned by me.

SHRI P. M. SAYEED; Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is an outlet in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep where the emigration clearance is given. When Rajivji paid a visit to the Union Territory, we demanded that because of its isolation, the Territory must have an outlet there. But the officials have confined it only to the Island where Rajivji had declared this, that is, Minicoy, excluding all other Islands. Will the hon. Minister assure me that the other Islands will also be covered under that?

SHRIPABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: Sir, I welcome the suggestion of the hon. Member. I will look into the matter.

[*Translation*]

Water Pollution

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*734. SHRI YASHWANTRAOPATIL:
SHRI BARE LAL JATAV:

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

(a) Whether 70% water of the rivers in the country is polluted;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the names of the rivers whose waters are polluted; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to check river water pollution?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

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| <p>(a) No precise determination has been made available of the percentage of the total river water of the country that is being polluted.</p> <p>(b) River stretches downstream of urban sewage outfalls and industrial discharges are generally polluted. Most of the urban sewage is discharged untreated or partially treated. A part of the industrial effluent is also not treated to the desired level, thereby affecting the river water quality. In addition, agricultural run-offs containing pesticides, insecticides & fertilizers, dhobi ghats and bathing by human beings & livestock also contribute to the pollution load of river water.</p> <p>(c) Based on river water quality monitoring data, the Central Pollution Control Board has identified some highly polluted stretches other than those of the Ganga in thirteen rivers, namely Sabarmati, Yamuna, Subarnarekha, Godavari, Krishna, Chambal, Sutlej, Damodar, Gomti, Kali, Khan, Kshipra and Hindon.</p> <p>(d) Steps taken by Government to check river water pollution include:-</p> <p style="margin-left: 2em;">i) Effluent standards have been prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.</p> <p style="margin-left: 2em;">ii) A network of ambient water quality monitoring stations have been set up;</p> | <p>iii) Environmental guidelines have been evolved for siting and operation of industries;</p> <p>iv) Industries have been asked to comply with consent requirements of the State Pollution Control Boards to keep the discharge of effluent and emissions within the stipulated limits;</p> <p>v) Prosecutions have been launched against some of the industries causing river pollution;</p> <p>vi) Fiscal incentives are provided and loan facilities made available for installation of pollution control equipment;</p> <p>vii) A scheme has been initiated to give assistance to clusters of small scale industrial units for setting up common effluent treatment plants;</p> <p>viii) A time bound action plan for control of pollution in highly polluting 17 categories of industries has been prepared in consultation with State Governments and a Notification has been issued under which polluting units of these categories are required to meet the standards by December 31, 1991;</p> <p>ix) A special project was taken up to bring about improvement in the water quality of the Ganga under the Ganga Action Plan.</p> |
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[Translation]

SHRI YASHWANTRAO PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question was whether 70% water of the rivers in the country is polluted? The hon. Minister has stated in his reply that

no precise determination has been made available of the percentage of the total river water that is being polluted. Sir, it is a serious matter. The Government should have had the information. The Industrial Sector is fast expanding today and because of pollution, thousands of acres of land is becoming infertile. Moreover, there is acute drinking water problem also. I would like to know whether Government proposes to conduct a survey of major rivers in this regard? If so, the time by which work of this survey would be completed.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that I have stated in the reply that precise determination of the percentage of total river water that is being polluted is not available but we have set up about 450 monitoring stations for this purpose. Some of them are doing major work in this field whereas others have taken up whatever little they can.

So far as industrial pollution is concerned, the major polluting industries have been asked to set up effluent treatment plant by 31st December this year.

SHRI YASHWANTRAO PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my supplementary question is whether it is a fact that some state Governments had sought Central assistance for removing industrial pollution and if so, whether Central Government is agreeable to it.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: In our proposed action plan 50 percent will have to be borne by the State Government and 50 percent will have to be borne by the Central Government. Some States have demanded that the entire burden should be borne by the Central Government, but some States like Haryana have agreed that they would bear 50 percent of the expenses.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir it was during Rajiv Gandhi's Government that initiative was taken to clean Ganga in Banaras for the first time and lot of money was spent on it. I would like to know

how much money has been spend so far on Ganga Action Plan to clean Ganga and how far have we succeeded in it?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: So far as Banaras is concerned about Rs. 4062 lakhs has been sanctioned under the scheme... (*Interruptions*)...

[*English*]

Sir, as per the Ganga Action Plan the total aid sanctioned for UP was 12,774 lakhs, the expenditure till March 1990 is Rs. 6,892 lakhs. Expenditure in 1991 has also been incurred.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: I want to know how far we have succeeded in the cleaning operation?... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI CHANDRAJEET YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, most of the cities in India are on the banks of rivers because of historical reasons. The hon. Minister has stated in the reply that the main reason of pollution is because of urban sewage and industrial effluents. The problem is that the State Governments do not have adequate resources to treat the urban sewage discharges and industrial effluents and consequently, these are being discharged in the rivers untreated causing pollution. Crores of people bathe in the rivers and crores drink the same water. Keeping in view these things will the Government consider an increase in 50 percent Grant to State Governments to deal with this problem. Besides, will the Government help Municipal Committees and heavy industries in tackling this problem so that urban sewage and industrial effluent is not discharged in the rivers?

[*English*]

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, with regard to urban pollution, I mean, the urban areas causing pollution to rivers, the Urban Development Ministry has various schemes which are interacting with the State Governments

and both large and small municipalities and municipal corporations to take up such things. So, this is primarily being done by the Urban Development Ministry for pollution caused by urban centers.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister spoke about Varanasi just now.

MR. SPEAKER: He asked a question and I allowed him.

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: I have also a related question. The Hon. Prime Minister inaugurated special bodies to check pollution in Varanasi and Kanpur and crores of rupees have already been spent. The hon. Minister has stated in his reply that dhobi ghats also contribute to the pollution load of Ganga. Large number of dhobis have been stopped from using dhobi ghats in Varanasi and Kanpur, thereby depriving them of their means of livelihood. What arrangement has the Central Government made for them? Besides, hundreds of dead bodies are cremated at the Manikanika ghat and the Harish Chandra Ghat every day, thereby further increasing the pollution level. Though an electric crematorium has been set up there but for the last three years it has not been functioning and it is in a bad shape. The dead bodies continue to be cremated at Manikanika Ghat and Harish Chandra Ghat in Varanasi and the ashes are thrown in the Ganga. What has the Government thought about these *dhobis* and the cremation of dead bodies?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, maximum funds have been spent in Varanasi, and maximum schemes have been launched there. So far as the question of dhobis and cremation of dead bodies is concerned it is a State subject and the State Government is definitely paying attention to it.

[*English*]

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in part 'C' of the reply the hon. Minister has stated that the Central Pollution Control Board has identified some highly polluted stretches in Krishna river. The river Krishna is highly polluted near Vijayawada city. So, will his Ministry take appropriate steps to reduce water pollution?

Further, a scheme was sanctioned earlier for sewage treatment, but now the Government of India says that it is not possible to go ahead with that because of the cost escalation. But, in view of the importance of water pollution, will his Ministry take necessary steps in consultation and in coordination with the Ministry of Urban Development, to reduce water pollution in Krishna river near Vijayawada city.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir river Krishna undoubtedly has some very heavily polluted stretches. One of them is from Karad to Sangli. This has been identified and the source of pollution is the waste from sugar and distillery industries, especially in this belt between Karad and Sangli. I had stated earlier also in this House that there are new schemes which are aided by World Bank for pollution control and the industries can take advantage of those schemes; for clusters of small scale industries there is 50 per cent grant and for other industries loan facility is available.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: My question is regarding letting of sewage near Vijayawada city in river Krishna.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: I am coming to that point. I am talking about industrial pollution in river Krishna. As far as the question of sewage disposal leading to pollution in river Krishna is concerned, we shall take up the matter with the Urban Development Ministry to see what can be done.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Sir, the hon. Minister has just now stated that

river Krishna is highly polluted between Karad and Sangli. We all know that the main reason for pollution is molasses which is released from the sugar factories. I would like to know whether any prosecution has been launched against the sugar factories in that region. I would also like to know whether there is any proposal to give them some incentives or some funds to install water pollution control equipments from the Sugar Development Fund.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, these industries have been given time till 31st December, 1991 to instal effluent treatment and pollution control equipments. After that also, if they do not do so, steps will be taken. As far as the question of incentives is concerned, there are adequate incentives and I think, one of the incentives will be this enforcement which we are going to do after 31st December, 1991. With regard to fiscal incentives there are World Bank schemes where industries will be able to take loans at attractive terms; for cluster of small scale industries, 50 per cent shall be grant and 40 per cent shall be loan.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RABI RAY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to request the hon. Minister to reply to the question seriously as it is a very important question. Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Member who put the question had asked whether the water of 70% rivers in this country was polluted and in reply to which it was stated on behalf of the Government that they did not have figures available, which means the Government had accepted it. Here, there are a number of hon. Members who hail from the villages situated on the banks of rivers and they would be knowing that the water of almost all the rivers is polluted. Crores of people of India drink water of these rivers. Keeping all this in view I would like to know that the State Governments that seek 50% grants from the Centre do not comply with the guidelines laid down for them in this regard and the crores of people of the country have to face hardships. I would like to know whether there are any guidelines or not

or there is any dearth of funds.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the other thing is that the business houses, which have set up their industries on the banks of rivers, as I think and as given in a number of reports, violate the guidelines laid down by the Government I would like to know from the hon. Minister how many such houses are there who have violated the Government guidelines putting crores of people to hardship and whether he has any figures available to show that actions have been taken against them. I want a specific information from the hon. Minister whether it is in his knowledge that as per the report of the Parliamentary Committee a business house has violated the guidelines by setting up an Industry on the bank of the river Rishikulya in Orrisa and whether the State Government has taken any action against them and if so, what action has been taken?

[*English*]

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, expert group was set up which identified 542 industrial units which discharged effluents into the Ganga water. They were 191 in Uttar Pradesh, 6 in Bihar and so on and so forth. They were discharging into the river gross pollutants. Out of these 68 units have been identified as causing pollution of a very high magnitude. We have identified them.

As I said, there are some units which have been prosecuted; some are public sector undertakings; some are State units.

I have no information regarding the particular unit which Mr. Rabi Ray has referred to. But if he does give it to me, I shall take steps against that unit.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RABI RAY: It means that no action has been taken against any business houses.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Against whom action has not been taken ?

SHRI RABI RAY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know whether any action has been taken against those who have been identified.

[*English*]

SHRI KAMAL NATH: No substantial action has been taken. Only one of them has been prosecuted. Others have asked for time. The cut-off time which has been allotted to them is 31st December this year under Water Pollution Act and other legislation in this regard.

DR. (SHRIMATI) K.S.SOUNDARAM: Since the people living in Erode and Tiruchengode in Tamil Nadu are suffering a lot for not getting drinking water because of the industries like Seshayee Paper, Ponni Sugar Mill etc., which are polluting the river Cauvery, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the action taken against these industries.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, action is primarily—I would like to convey this to other Members also—to be taken by the State, as it is the act of the State Pollution Control Board, not of the Central Pollution Control Board.

I am not aware if the State Pollution Control Board in this Particular case has taken any action. But if the hon. Member does bring to my notice, I shall direct the Central Pollution Control Board to have a look into this.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that the cut off time allotted to them is the 31st December and after that action would be taken. What would be the action? Would it be the action that the industries be given more time? That action would not be an "action". Rather it should be stated that the

"action" would be taken. There is a difference between the two.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am asking whether the industries would make arrangements to control pollution. The licences being given these days for setting up of industries on the banks of the rivers do not contain the condition to control pollution. New industries are being set up on the banks of the rivers that would further pollute the rivers. Is there any clear cut policy in this regard?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I agree to what hon. Vajpayeejē has expressed. Now, industries are being set up keeping in view provisions of the Environment Protection Act and as I have stated in the House that we are issuing notification. Since the industrial policy has liberalised conditions for industries, we are afraid of some industrialists, taking advantage of it, might set up industries on the banks of the rivers which would further pollute the rivers. We are going to take some action to control pollution. As far as Vajpayeejee's question is concerned as to what kind of action would be taken after 31st December, the time of 31st December has not been given now, it was given much before, and I assure him that stern action would be taken without any relaxation because they have already been given enough time. There are nearly 17 particular type of industries that would have to comply with it by 31st December.

[*English*]

SHRI D.K. NAIKAR: I want to ask the hon. Minister whether he is aware that the Tungabhadra water is polluted near Harihar Polyfibre factory. On either side of the bank of the river, people are taking drinking water and it has become injurious to the people and many people have died.

I want to know from the hon. Minister whether any drastic action has been taken

in this connection to improve the water.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: There are various levels of pollution in all rivers. There is no river which is not polluted. So, the degree of pollution is the question. Some are more highly polluted and some are less polluted. I have no information available with regard to the river the hon. Member has mentioned. But I shall look into it.

[*Translation*]

National Commission on rural labour

*735. **SHRI JANARDAN MISHRA:**
SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission on Rural Labour in its report has recommended minimum wages of Rs. 20/- per day for rural labourers on the basis of prices prevailing in December 1990;

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Government in this regard ; and

(c) if not, the time by which the decision is likely to be taken?

[*English*]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) Yes, Sir, and

(b) and (c) The recommendation will be examined in consultation with the State Governments.

[*Translation*]

SHRI JANARDAN MISRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in parts 'B' and 'C' I had asked as to what decision has been taken in this regard and

when it is likely to be taken, but no clear answer has been given in this regard. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to by which time decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

[*English*]

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: The fixing of minimum wage is always done by the State Government. The Commission on Rural Labour has submitted their report. We are sending the copies of the report to the concerned Ministries for their comments and after getting their comments, we will take a decision.

[*Translation*]

SHRI JANARDAN MISRA: I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how long it will take to have a discussion with State Governments in this regard?

[*English*]

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: This will be one of the subjects in our next State Labour Conference.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I do not understand why it is necessary to have consultation with the State Governments because when the National Commission on Rural Labour was constituted, then the views of the State Governments were obtained and we have been demanding since long that there should be a comprehensive legislation on rural labour not only on payment of minimum wage. The wage that was fixed four years back was only Rs. 11/-. Agricultural labour constitutes 41 per cent of the rural labour. The number of agricultural labour is 110 millions. In some of the States, they do not get even the minimum wages fixed four years back. There are other aspects like guarantee of work etc. The em-