

## LOK SABHA DEBATES

### LOK SABHA

Tuesday, December 17, 1991/Agrahayna  
26,1913 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

#### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

#### Schemes for Pollution Control

\*365. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state the broad details of the schemes formulated by the Government for containing the increasing pollution of water and air and the rising noise level, separately?

[English]

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

#### STATEMENT

The details of the schemes formulated by the Government for containing the increase in the rate of water, air and noise pollution in the country are as under:

(i) Effluent and emission standards

have been prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986;

- (ii) Environmental guidelines have been evolved for siting and operation of industries;
- (iii) Industries have been asked to comply with consent requirement of the State Pollution Control Boards to limit the discharge of effluents and emissions within the stipulated standards.
- (iv) The Central Government, in consultation with the State Government, has prepared an action plan for polluting industries to meet the effluent and emission standards;
- (v) Fiscal incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment and also for the shifting of polluting industries from congested areas;
- (vi) Network of ambient air quality and ambient water quality monitoring stations have been set up;
- (vii) A scheme has been initiated to give assistance to clusters of small scale industrial units for setting up common effluent treatment plants;
- (viii) A scheme is being implemented by the Central Government under the Centre-State co-ordinated programme for strengthening the State Pollution Control Boards and the Department of Environment of the States;

- (ix) A coastal monitoring programme is being implemented by the Central Government in association with the State Government of coastal states to assess the extent of pollution and to take the necessary measures for its prevention;
- (x) Prosecutions have been launched against some of the industries causing water and air pollution;
- (xi) Loan facilities are made available for setting up and upgradation of pollution treatment systems in polluting industries;
- (xii) A special project was taken up to bring about improvement in the water quality of the Ganga under the Ganga Action Plan. Under this project schemes for construction/ augmentation of sewage have been taken up:
- (xiii) Standards for exhaust from automobiles have been laid down for the vehicles on the road;
- (xiv) Public awareness campaigns have been launched about pollution in general, including vehicular pollution;
- (xv) The Petroleum Industry has been asked to bring down the lead content in petrol to 0.15 gms/ litre by 1993;
- (xvi) Mass emission standards of pollutants for vehicles have been notified under the Motor Vehicles' Rules on September 27, 1989. Petrol-driven vehicles are meeting these standards from April, 1991 while those for diesel-driven vehicles would be effective from April, 1992;
- (xvii) The manufacturers have been asked to give a certificate to the effect that the exhaust from the vehicles are within the prescribed limits;
- (xviii) Steps have been initiated to lay down the long term mass emission standards for vehicles;
- (xix) A trapezium surrounding the Taj Mahal and Bharatpur has been constituted and no new polluting industry is allowed to be set up in this area. Similar corrective measures have been taken in identified areas;
- (xx) Noise pollution has been included in the amended Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1987 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1987 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Ambient air quality standards in respect of noise for different categories of areas have been notified under the Air Act and the Environment (Protection) Act. Noise standards have also been prescribed for automobiles, domestic appliances and construction equipment to be adopted at the manufacturing stage;
- (xxi) Codes of practice for controlling noise from sources other than industries and automobiles have been evolved by the Central Pollution Control Board;
- (xxii) Restrictions placed on blowing of horns in the silence zones, outside hospitals and schools, are being enforced by the Delhi Traffic Police. Sign Boards indicating silence zones to be observed by the vehicles/public are displayed and in case of any damage they are restored.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that I had asked a question

about water, air and noise pollution. I received a very lengthy reply. The hon. Minister has stated that in order to control water pollution Ganga Action Plan has been taken up. The Ganga is the life line of the Indians and the Government has taken up some plan to control Ganga water pollution. But many rivers like Yamuna and the Ramganga converge in the Ganga. These rivers pollute Ganga with the effluents they carry with them. All the sullage from cities located beside Ramganga and Yamuna is discharged in Ganga.

**MR. SPEAKER:** You are to ask a question.

**SHRI RAJVEER SINGH:** The tributaries of Ganga carry effluents with them and when they converge in Ganga they pollute Ganga water. Has any plan been formulated to control water pollution of these tributaries?

**SHRI KAMAL NATH :** Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has said that I have given a very lengthy reply. I thought that my reply would be appreciated. So far as the tributaries are concerned, a National River Action plan is being formulated and the tributaries of Ganga are being included in the Ganga Action Plan Phase-2. They will be included in the Eighth Five Year Plan. Some rivers are included in the Ganga Action Plan Phase-2 and a National River Action Plan is being formulated for the rest of the rivers not included in phase-2. It has been studied. Steps have been taken to give priority to the most polluted rivers.

**SHRI RAJVEER SINGH:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has said about controlling the water pollution of the tributaries of Ganga. Big factories have been installed on the banks of Ganga whose water is still being discharged into Ganga. For example, the effluents from tannery at Kanpur are discharged into Ganga. Other cities also have similar factories. Will the hon. Minister tell us to what action he has taken to check the effluents from being discharged into Ganga and why the factory-owners have not been

forbidden to do so. What action is being taken by the Government to prevent the effluents from being discharged into Ganga.

**SHRI KAMAL NATH:** The hon. Member has said about Kanpur. If we have failed somewhere in implementing the Ganga Action Plan Phase-1, it is in Kanpur areas.

Since the flow of the water of the river becomes very slow there, the measures contemplated and implemented there, could not be successful. So, far as the factories are concerned, action was taken in accordance with the Environment Protection Act, and the Water Pollution Act. Some of the steps are being suspended, some are being initiated. For this purpose time was given up to 31st December. Now it is being examined whether the steps taken by them are bonafide or not.

**SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR:** Has it been adopted in principle by the Government that the factories that discharge effluents into rivers, may be warned or informed not to discharge effluents into rivers? At the same time, I would also like to ask whether any Master Plan has been prepared to check discharge of effluents into rivers?

**SHRI KAMAL NATH:** A number of plans have been prepared. Especially there is an Effluent Treatment plan for the big and the medium industries. The House has recently passed the Water Cess (Amendment) Bill in which there are provisions of extending financial assistance to them. There are many clauses in law on the basis of which stringent action will be taken against the industries that discharge effluents into rivers.

**SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:** The reply given by the hon. Minister is longer than the 20-Point Programme. Such a lengthy reply does not serve any purpose. He has stated in Number (VIII) that the State Pollution Control Boards.....

**MR. SPEAKER:** You have not to read it. Please ask the question.

**SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:** The

Central Government has formulated the scheme, I would like to know whether the State Pollution Control Boards are under the Central Government? Moreover, he has given a detailed reply but the pollution has not decreased even by one per cent. If an M.P. complains to you that pollution is taking place at a particular place, would he like to take action on that? What scheme has the Centre formulated for States?

**SHRI KAMAL NATH:** I would like to assure the hon. Member that if a Member of this House draws my attention to any particular case and cite an example where the pollution is taking place, I would certainly take action on it. There is no doubt about it. So far as the question of the hon. Member is concerned, I have just said that in order to activate the State Pollution Control Boards and enlarge the infrastructure, the House itself has passed a Bill on the basis of which their resources will increase further.

**SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:** Are the State Pollution Control Boards under you or not?

**SHRI KAMAL NATH:** So far as the State Pollution Control Boards are concerned, we are in constant touch with them and under law also these Boards are in the Concurrent List. The Central Pollution Control Board can issue directives to the State Pollution Control Boards.

[*English*]

**SHRI K.P.SINGH DEO:** Sir, in view of the hon. Minister's statement where he has taken twenty laudable initiatives, the fact still remained that large number of rivers are still being polluted. Just now he has an assurance that if we bring to his notice, he will take action. I would like to know whether any study has been made on the pollution in the rivers Brahmani, Rushikulya and Vansadhara in Orissa and whether safe drinking water is being affected. Also I would like to know that are the steps being taken and whether any punitive action has been taken against people

who have been violating the guidelines?

**SHRI KAMAL NATH:** Sir, it is a very specific question but I would like to answer.....(*Interruptions*).

**MR. SPEAKER:** Now he is from general to specific. It was about policy, he is asking about a river now.

**SHRI KAMAL NATH:** Sir, out of the three rivers which the hon. Member has mentioned, river Rushikulya is polluted by the discharge of effluent from a chemical company. River Vansadhara does not receive any major industrial effluent but does receive effluent from small townships nearby like Gumbur, Gutari and Kashinagar which are discharged into it. Similarly, domestic effluents are discharge into it from Ganjam, etc.

With regard to river Brahmani, there have been complaints and we have observed that the Talchar Thermal Power Station as well as the fertiliser plants are polluting this river. We are taking action.

In the case of the chemical unit, some notices were served and a case was also filed. They have assured that this is being done. We are taking adequate steps to see that corrective measures are taken.

**SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA:** Sir, I will ask a very specific question River Damodar...(*Interruptions*)

**MR. SPEAKER:** Please remember, this is a question on the policy formulated by the Government to control the pollution on land, water andn air, not rivers specifically.

**SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA:** I am asking about pollution of water. The river Damodar is as polluted as the Ganga, if not more, because there are a number of industries-thermal power plants, coal washeries, fertiliser plants, twobig steel plants-on the banks of this river. Last year, in this very House, it was discussed when the furnace oil was

released from Bokaro Steel Plants and the entire water from Bokaro to Durgapur got polluted. May I know from the Minister whether the Government is considering to formulate a specific plan in coordination with the public sector undertakings—because most of the industries on the banks of river Damodar are public sector undertakings to stop the pollution of river Damodar.

**MR. SPEAKER:** You are not asking a question on policy.

**SHRI KAMAL NATH:** Sir, the stretch of the Damodar river from Dhanbad to Haldia is, I entirely agree with the hon. Member, one of the most highly polluted stretches. It is presently categorised in the D and E categories. This is one of the rivers which is planned to be included in the National River Action Plan and the Ganga Action Plan Phase-II. The water problem here is both in the dissolved oxygen in the BDO and in the toxicity of the water. This is arising mainly, as the hon. Member said, from the industrial waste and from the large industries alongside the river. We are planning to include this. This has been identified. The water survey there has been done and we are planning to include this in the next programme which comes up.

#### **World Bank Report on Population Growth**

\*366. **SHRI MOHAN SINGH:** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank in its recent report has commented upon India's population growth rate;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the efforts made so far to bring down the birth rate with the assistance of the States and the voluntary organisations?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY**

**WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA):** (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the table of the House.

#### **STATEMENT**

According to the latest "World Development Report, 1991", published by the World Bank, the projected average annual growth rate of population of India during 1989-2000 is 1.7% and the size of population in 2000 A.D. is 1007 million. Another World Bank publication, namely, the "World Population Projections (1989-90 Edition)- short and Long Term Estimates" also indicates an average annual growth rate of 1.86% during 1990-95 and 1.65% during 1995-2000 with the size of population estimated to be reaching 1010.8 million in 2000 A.D. The latter report has, *inter alia*, expressed the concern that India presently contributes more to world population growth than China or any other country and will continue to do so upto the year 2150. Its eventual stationary population is estimated at 2.3 times of its 1985 population (estimated by the World Bank as 765.1 million).

A Standing Committee of Experts on Population projections appointed by the Planning Commission had, in 1989 prepared a set of population projections. According to this, the projected population growth rate of India by the year 2001 A.D. is 1.6% with a population size of 987 million by 2000 A.D.

So far, the projections of this Standing Committee of experts in respect of the year 1991 (843.6 million) has been found very close to the actual latest provisional Census (1991) figure of 844.3 million.

Although the 1991 Census figures have revealed the annual exponential growth rate as 2.11% during 1981-91 decade, which is marginally lower than the corresponding figure of 2.22% during the preceding decade (1971-81), the population growth rate is still considered very high and is a cause of concern.

The population problem is primarily