

alaria and Encephalitis are also the major public health problems till today. The progress of these diseases is static. And it is felt that majority of the victims are mainly from the poorest of the poor sections of the society. There is a Malaria Control Programme which is a national programme to eradicate malaria and for eradicating filaria, there is a Vector Control Programme. The Government is unsung DDT as the main drug... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You ask the question. What is your question?

(*Interruptions*)

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: Now mosquitos have developed resistance to DDT in controlling the vector. Also, it causes the environmental problem. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask the question. This information is already available with all of us.

(*Interruptions*)

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: In view of the increase in the resistance, part (a) of my supplementary to the Minister is whether the Government is going to change its Vector Control Programme. My suggestion is to use Malathion in place of DDT. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I gave you the opportunity. But you are not using it properly.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: Part (b) of my supplementary is, whether the Government is ready to provide the mosquito nets at a subsidised rates to the poorer sections of the society and whether the Government is going to increase the Budget allocation for that this year. There is a radical curtailment of nearly two crores of rupees in this Anti-Malaria and Filaria Control Programme. I would like to know whether the Government is going to combat this major public health problem by increasing the Budget alloca-

tions or not. This is my supplementary question.

SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR: I can tell the hon. Member that it is not the question of increase or decrease. We have kept about Rs. 50 crores in this Malaria Control Programme during the current year. So far as the Filaria Programme is concerned, for the people also have to take the initiative. It is not the question of the poor and the rich. It is a question of the people living in that environment so that they take sufficient precaution to see that this mosquito does not bite them. Perhaps, the hon. Member himself is a medical scientist and he knows that this mosquito bites during time and place. It has to be taken for clinical purpose during night time. I would request the hon. Member that he must approach the State Government to provide mosquito nets for the poor and the needy. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): Mr. Speaker, Sir, what is expected from a Government which is not able to will mosquitoes even!

[*English*]

SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR: You ask the hon. Member.

Pollution Around Coal Mines

*291. SHRI HARADHAN ROY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representation regarding pollution and environmental degradation in and around coal mines in West Bengal and other State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Government have received representations on insufficient stowing of sand coal mines of the Coal India Limited, on reclamation-restoration of mined areas and on pollution caused by industries around coal mines.

(b) Steps have been initiated for taking necessary action for stowing the voids after extraction of coal and for restoration of the mined land through an approved environmental management plan. Government have also taken various steps to control pollution by industries around coal and the details thereof are mentioned in the statement laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Steps taken by the Government to control pollution by industries around coal mines:—

- (i) Effluent and emission standards have been prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986;
- (ii) Environmental guidelines have been involved for siting and operation of industries.
- (iii) Industries have been asked to comply with consent requirements of the State Pollution Control Board to limit the discharge of effluents and emissions within the stipulated standards;
- (iv) Fiscal incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment and also for the shifting of pollution industries from congested areas;

(v) Network of ambient air quality and ambient water quality monitoring stations have been set up;

(vi) A scheme has been initiated to give assistance to clusters of small scale industrial units for setting up common effluent treatment plants.

(vii) An industry, operation or process which has commenced production on or before 16th, May 1981, and has shown adequate proof of at least commencement of physical work for establishment of facilities to meet the specified standard within a time-bound programme, to the satisfaction of the concerned State Pollution Control Boards, shall comply with such standards latest by the 31st December, 1993.

(viii) An industry, operation or process which has commenced production after 16th day of May, 1981 but before the 31st day of December, 1991, and has shown adequate proof of at least commencement of physical work for establishment of facilities to meet the specified standards within a time-bound programme, to the satisfaction of the concerned State Pollution Control Board, shall comply with such standards latest by the 31st day of December, 1992.

SHRI HARADHAN ROY: Sir, during to unscientific and star mining, gas, fire subsidence is taking place almost every day in and around coal mines causing serious pollution, environmental degradation. As a result, more than ten towns and about 100 *mauzas*

covering three lakhs population have been declared unsafe for human lives and properties. And the people have been told to vacate those areas. On being pressurised by the aggrieved people, the Department of Coal, Ministry of Energy constituted a group for advance environmental planning in Ranigunj coal fields on 25.3.88 with Dr. H. B. Ghosh as the Chairman. Dr. Ghosh submitted a report on 5.11.88. My question is whether the Ministry of Environmental and Forests is aware of such Committee and its recommendations? If not, whether the Ministry of Environment and Forests in consultation with the Ministry of Coal will jointly undertake to implement those recommendations?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, there is a report. There was an expert Committee constituted for the abatement of pollution in this region. And this air pollution problem - not only the air pollution problem but also the contamination of the Damodar river which is passing through that area - was considered as very serious. This report has been received and steps are being taken. There have been consultations with the Department of Coal. Now, for all coal mining projects, environment management plan is being made and steps are being taken to further prevent the severe degradation which is taking place in the entire coal belt of this region and the Damodar river flowing through that region.

SHRI HARADHAN ROY: I would like to know whether the Government of West Bengal have submitted a memorandum for setting up a statutory organisation for operation/restoration with clearly defined roles and objectives like sources of funds etc for planning, implementing and monitoring involving the West Bengal Government.

Also, I would like to know whether the Department of Environment and Forests received any preliminary status report of unstable areas of Ranigunj coal fields made by CMPDIL.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, a nodal agency has been set up and the nodal agency is DVC, which has been identified to work as such and which will work in collaboration with the West Bengal Government with the Bihar Government and the Central Government, to look into the problems of this area.

Regarding specific report of CMPDIL, I am unable to say anything.

[Translation]

SHRI TEJSINGHRAO BHONSLE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Maharashtra there are some open coal mines especially at Umred and Kamphal Kalre in Ramtek area. In this area, these open mines are creating the pollution problem. The mines from which smoke and dust are discharged which later on mix with air are quite close to the villages. May I know whether the Government has got any programme to afforestation around these open mines to prevent the environmental pollution?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: We gave talked to Western Coal Fields for the restoration of that area and evolving of a scheme so that regeneration of that area is possible. As far as the question of open Cast Mines are concerned, it is a fact that the coal dust is spread within a vast area. Environment Management Plan is given to every coal mine before sanction and then alone the scheme for cal mine is accepted. As per condition laid down in the plan. It is specified as to what is to be done when the mine is in operation and when it is closed.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia. I hope you are not going to speak after this, between 12 noon and 1 o'clock.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Better allow him now; not in the Zero Hour!

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: None of

the instructions given here are being followed by the Coal India. I request the hon. Minister to visit one of the coal mines, either ECL of BCCL. If he visits Sudamdi Washery, he can see for himself as to how the effluents from the washery are polluting the river Damodar. The river Damodar is not less polluted than the river Ganga. I asked previously also a question about the pollution of the river Damodar.

May I know from the hon. Minister that when these instructions from the Coal India, what action the Government of India proposes to contemplate to take against this company. Because a number times this question was raised about the environmental pollutions.

MR. SPEAKER: You have asked a very good question. Now you are polluting the question!

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: May I know what action is proposed to be taken by the Environment Ministry whose instructions are not followed by the Coal companies.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE:
Apart from the de-nationalisation!

SHRI KAMAL NATH: The coal washeries are a major source of pollution along with industrial discharge in the Damodar river. It is unfortunate but true that belt of the Damodar river is perhaps one of the most polluted stretches of any river in the country. So much so that the high concentration of oil and grease - oil is also coming out of washeries, bits are coming out of washeries; slurry is the oil in the bits - has rendered the river into a biological desert. The water which is used from this river for irrigation has started affecting agriculture also. There is no doubt on this; the washeries have played a very major role coupled with industrial effluents. Where any specific case of Coal India, BCCL or ECL violating any condition is brought to my notice, I shall certainly take action.

But I would also additionally like to inform the Member that for this area we have included if in the Ganga Action Plan Phass II and Rs. 35 crores expenditure has been tentatively worked out starting works one-fluent treatment plants, common treatment plants etc. to do some restration of the river belt in this particular area.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI RITA VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in continuation to the question asked by Shri Acharia, I would say that the hon. Minister has given a long list of his works, by which it appears that he has himself visited all the coal belts. It is a fact that if a person moves about in Raniganj, Dhanbad and Asansol, his hands and face would be completely tanned. I would request the hon. Minister to pay a visit there... (*Interruptions*) Wherever you go in these are your body will be tanned due to coal dust. I would like to request the hon. Minister that he should positively go there. (*Interruptions*) He has said that so work has been done to prevent air and water pollution. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any work is being done in this direction or not, whether there is any machinery to review this work which can review the work at a particular time. Whether any report has been presented by such machinery if at all it is existing? As the hon. Minister has said that if any such case has been brought under his notice. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please don't spoil such an excellent question. Further details spoil the question. Please be seated.

SHRIMATI RITA VERMA: He would take some action only when it is brought to his notice. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I do not say pollution; but diluting.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Is there any machinery? Is there any report?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no such machinery or agency... (Interruptions) I am telling you the fact. If you have got any suggestion, I am ready to accept it. Today... (Interruptions)..... If you listen me then I will be able to tell you something. There is no particular agency for this area. When we get some information from time to time, we undertake a study of the area. We have our regional offices in various parts of the country and we call for information in this regard from these offices.

Sports Talent in Rural Areas

*292. KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering any scheme for identification of sports talent from rural areas for proper coaching;

(b) if so, the details of the efforts made in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) and (b). The following are the schemes for identification of sports talent and proper coaching, under which the talent is overwhelmingly drawn from the rural areas:

(i) National Sports Talent contest scheme

(ii) Special Area Games Scheme

(iii) Sports Project Development area Scheme.

Rural Schools are also provided assistance upto Rs. 1.00 lakh for development of play ground and purchases of non consumable sports equipment without insisting on any matching contribution.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is quite unfortunate that in our country politics has crept into games to a great extent, because of which we lag behind in the sports of international level despite having promising talents. Its main reason is that the rural sports talents do not get adequate encouragement. Therefore, I would inform the hon. Minister through you, that these three schemes to identify the sports talents are meant only for the children who are going to school in villages and cities; but what about the children who accompany buffaloes to pastures, who work in fields. Such children have very good skill in horse-riding, swimming, archery and kabaddi. Such children do not go to schools, but these children can be good sportsmen and can bring laurels to the country and earn a fame for the nation. May I know whether there is any agency with the Government to search such children and the encourage them? Secondly, such good sportsmen should be given nutritious diet, may I know whether they would be provided with any special monthly financial assistance for that?

KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a fact that the sports performance of our country is extremely poor. Therefore..... (Interruptions)