

AYA: Since the Women's Commission has now been set up, we know that the examining of the various laws, their monitoring and implementation are going to be within the purview of the Women's Commission. But nonetheless, the executive duty lies with the Government and my question concerns that. It is a hard fact that so far as laws regarding women are concerned, whether they are labour laws or laws for the prevention of social abuses, very few complaints are lodged even now. And even when complaints are lodged, there are even fewer cases of conviction. So, I would like to know from the Government, from the hon. Minister, whether the Government is considering extension of legal facilities in the States so as to make justice available to women, particularly to the poorer sections of women.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: I am sure that the Commission for Women will place its decisive role in all these matters and regarding the anxiety of the hon. Member about the implementation of the laws in the real capacity to give protection, I have already said that there is much to be desired. But we will certainly see that these laws will become more stringent. The fact is that now there is greater sense of awareness. Previously, people would not like to come and report cases. Now, cases are being reported and are being tried and convictions are also made. But I still say that more needs to be done. I am sure that the collective action of the society in this matter will make all the difference. Whatever laws have to be amended and rules to be framed will be done with the consent of this august Parliament.

Cleaning of Gangotri Basin

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*288. SHRI SHANKERSINH
VAGHELA:
SHRI ATAL BIHARI
VAJPAYEE:

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

(a) whether two big industrial houses have offered support for cleaning of the Gangotri basin;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the decision taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) the reasons for unchecked pollution load on the river in that area; and

(e) the steps proposed for restoring the water quality of Ganga?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c). No offer has been made to the Government by any big industrial house for cleaning of Gangotri Basin.

(d) Pollution load on the river in the Gangotri region is on account of discharge of human and animal excreta in the catchment area and throwing of garbage by pilgrims, tourists and inhabitants.

(e) The steps initiated to control the pollution of River Ganga in the Gangotri region include:

(i) Special Area Development Authority has been set up by the Government of Uttar Pradesh to check environmental degradation of the Gangotri Region.

(ii) Growth of tourism in Gangotri Region is being discouraged.

(iii) Building activity is being discouraged in the area.

(iv) Construction of Sulabh Shuchalayayas along the route to Gangotri has been taken up by the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has given a reply that no big industrial houses have made any offer to the Government. I have a cutting of the 'Times of India' dated 6.6.91 in which it has been said....

MR. SPEAKER: Newspapers should not be quoted here.

SHRI SHANKARSINH VAGHELA: Sir, the Indian Mountaineering Federation has said that Tata and Birla have given a big offer. If it is not so then leave it, but will the Government do something to inspire the big industrial houses or the other people to donate money for cleaning of the Gangotri basin and checking pollutant loads on the river.

[English]

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, I will dispel this doubt about the newspaper report, which is there in the mind of the hon. Member. That is not the scheme which is submitted to the Government. It is an NGO scheme of the Himalyan Environment Trust and the Indian mountain neering Federation. They have interacted with two or three big business houses and prepared a scheme costing about Rs. 25 lakhs. So, it is a scheme between the NGOs and the big business houses. It is not a scheme which has been presented to the Government by anybody. Of course, if there is any such scheme, we shall support it.

Regarding the other aspect as to what the Government is doing in this regard, I would like to say that this stretch, which covers the area in the Gangotri basin, is not that much heavily polluted. In fact despite all the pollutant loads, which I have stated, the water is still of drinking quality. As of now, there is no such scheme envisaged by the Centre other than I have mentioned.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in reply to part (c) of the question you have mentioned the U. P. Government. I would like to ask the Central Government whether it will share the expenditure made by the U. P. Government or whether you have any scheme of your own for the purification of the Ganga as was the position when Shri Rajiv Gandhi's Government was in power? If you have a scheme of your own then what is the amount earmarked for it and how much will you give to the U. P. Government?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, Uttar Pradesh Government has made its own scheme which has been mentioned. It the Uttar Pradesh Government formulates such a scheme in which help of the Central Government is needed, or funds are needed than we shall certainly think about this and we shall help them. Besides this, today there is no Central Government scheme, even then, the State Government and the Central Government are working very closely on it. There is no such need for the Central Government to formulate a separate scheme. If the State Government, has any scheme it can it to the Central Government it will definitely help them.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker Sir, I beg your pardon, for coming late.

MR. SPEAKER: No, NO, you have come in time. I was about to ask, you reached here before that.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: No, I did not hear, what reply you have given.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, this is all right.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: I shall again give a reply.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: It is not right to trouble yourself again and again.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has given a reply that tourists are being discouraged but the fact is that the tourists are going there. Temporary resorts are being made for them. Small shops are also being opened there. The area is being polluted due to influx of tourists there. I would like to know that how you are stopping the tourists and the second thing is that if no industrialist has offered his services or money for this purpose then whether the hon. Minister, who himself is a resourceful person, will take help of the industrialists and inspire them to invest money.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, the Central Government has discussed this matter with the State Government. The hon'ble member is right that tourists are still going there and it is a fact that they are polluting the area. But the State Government has not made any scheme to discourage them or encourage them upto now. Time and again, it has been said that some tents may be pitched there and sign-boards should be fixed there to create awareness among the tourists. As far as the question of big business houses taking part in this is concerned the Government has not received any such proposal, but as I was saying in reply to the last question, the Himalayan Mountaineering Trust and the Indian Mountaineering Federation have talked to big business houses for the purpose of making a scheme in this regard. If they want any help from us, we will certainly talk with the big business houses and try to help these non-Governmental Organizations.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Kuppuswamy We are giving an opportunity to Kanyakumari to extent help in regard to Gangotri.

[English]

SHRI C. K. KUPPUSWAMY: I would like to know whether the Government of India have received any proposal from the Tamil Nadu Government in order to bring a big scheme to control the pollution at Tripura

caused by the Dyeing and Bleaching factories.

I would also like to know whether the Government of India received any proposal from the Tamil Nadu Government to bring a major scheme in order to control the pollution from the ACC Cement Factory, Coimbatore by which the nearest agriculture lands are affected.

MR. SPEAKER: This is about Gangotri!

SHRI C. K. KUPPUSWAMY: The hon. Minister should reply. This is very very important.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not even about the entire Ganga River. It is about Gangotri only!

SHRI KAMAL NATH: The hon. Member has moved from Gangotri to Tamil Nadu!

MR. SPEAKER: I thought you are moving from Kanya Kumari to Gangotri!

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Never thereless, under the National River Action Plan, which is being propose, the Central Pollution Control Board has identified major stretches of rivers all over the country. We all know, the Ganga Action Plan was only for Ganga and for major tributaries of the Ganga. But the new Plan which is being made, the National River Action Plan, will cover major polluted areas of rivers all over the country. Should the hon. Member desire to bring any specific polluted stretch to my notice, I shall be happy to receive the same and we shall consider it.

Filaria Cases

*290. **DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN:** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Microfilaria carriers and Chronic Filaria cases reported in the country during 1991, State-wise;