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COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS
(FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA)

TENTH REPORT



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

August, 2010/Bhadra, 1932 (*Saka*)

TENTH REPORT
COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS
(FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA)
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
AND FORESTS

(Presented to Lok Sabha on 31.08.2010)



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

August, 2010/Bhadra, 1932 (Saka)

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COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS
(2009-2010)

Shri Anant Gangaram Geete — *Chairman*

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4. Shri E.T. Mohammed Basheer
5. Shri N.S.V. Chitthan
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3. Shri U.B.S. Negi — *Additional Director*
4. Shri Hulasi Ram — *Deputy Secretary*

TENTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

(FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA)

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman, Committee on Petitions, having been authorized by the Committee to present the Report on their behalf, present this Tenth Report of the Committee to the House on the representation from Dr. Laxmikant Vajpayee, Ex-Minister, Uttar Pradesh and forwarded by Shri Rajendra Agrawal, MP (Lok Sabha) regarding ill effects of Water and Air Pollution caused due to slaughter of animals in slaughter house (Kamela) run by Meerut Nagar Nigam and related issues.

2. The Committee considered and adopted the draft Tenth Report at their sitting held on 26th August, 2010.

3. The observations/recommendations of the Committee on the above matters have been included in the Report.

NEW DELHI;
26 August, 2010
04 Bhadra, 1932 (*Saka*)

ANANT GANGARAM GEETE,
Chairman,
Committee on Petitions.

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REPORT

**REPRESENTATION FROM DR. LAXMIKANT VAJPAYEE, EX-MINISTER,
UTTAR PRADESH AND FORWARDED BY SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL,
MP (LOK SABHA) REGARDING ILL EFFECTS OF WATER AND AIR
POLLUTION CAUSED DUE TO SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS IN
SLAUGHTER HOUSE (KAMELA) RUN BY MEERUT NAGAR
NIGAM AND RELATED ISSUES**

The Committee on Petitions received a representation dated 17 December, 2009 from Dr. Laxmikant Vajpayee, Ex-Minister, Uttar Pradesh and forwarded by Shri Rajendra Agrawal, MP (Lok Sabha) regarding pollution caused due to slaughter of animals in slaughter house (Kamela) run by Meerut Nagar Nigam, Uttar Pradesh and related issues.

2. In his representation, the petitioner has stated that due to slaughter house located at densely populated Hapur Road, Meerut city under Municipal Corporation, Meerut, the people within a diameter of 5-6 K.M. from the slaughter house are forced to drink polluted water and breathe suffocating and foul/smelly air. According to the petitioner, the provisions of Central Water Act and Central Pollution Control Act are being violated by this slaughter house. The petitioner also claimed that Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board (UPPCB) had examined the potable water in the hand pumps of the area and also checked atmospheric air in the region and the same were found highly polluted and were not in accordance with the prescribed norms for the purpose. The petitioner has further stated that due to mass slaughtering of animals, there is heavy downfall in the number of milching animals causing decrease in milk production and increase in synthetic milk production in Western Uttar Pradesh. The rate of milk has gone up from Rs. 30 to 32 per litre. The UPPCB has directed the Municipal Corporation to close the slaughter house under section 33A of the Water Act and declined to issue No Objection Certificate (NOC) in this regard. The Municipal Commissioner was directed to close the slaughter house on 30 December, 2008. The petitioner has also alleged that the discharged sewage (solid/liquid) waste flows in the Odean Canal which passes through the urban area, mingles with the Kali river and thus pollutes the river. The animal bones brought from other districts are also boiled. According to the petitioner, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India provides 20% subsidy on the export of frozen meat packing which is the sole reason behind the reckless slaughter of animals and as a result thereof, the people of Meerut have to undergo terrible suffering. Further, as a result of 20% subsidy of the Government, a number of frozen meat plants have mushroomed in Western Uttar Pradesh and 324 tonne of frozen meat are packed per day in Meerut. The petitioner has claimed that the slaughter of animals is in violation of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act notified by Government of India.

The petitioner has, therefore, prayed that slaughter house at Meerut should be closed down with immediate effect and Government should stop grant of subsidy in the export of meat products and relief should be given to people of Meerut city from the ill effects of water and air pollution. Boiling of bones for extracting fat should also be stopped.

3. The Committee on Petitions took up the above representation for examination under Direction 95 of the Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha. Accordingly, the representation was referred to the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Food Processing Industries and Ministry of Commerce and Industry on 15 January, 2010, for furnishing their comments.

4. The Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries) *vide* their letter No. 18-1/2010-Meat dated 20 January, 2010 forwarded this Secretariat's letter dated 15 January, 2010 along with the representation of the petitioner to the Principal Secretary, State Government of Uttar Pradesh with the request that the matter may be taken up with Local Self Government Secretary of the State to take up appropriate action in the matter as local bodies are the licensing authorities for slaughter houses.

5. The Ministry of Water Resources *vide* their letter No.1/1(5)/2010-WQAA/62-63 dated 20 January, 2010 forwarded the representation under reference to the Ministry of Environment and Forests mentioning that the subject-matter comes under the purview of the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

6. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Department of Commerce) *vide* their O.M. F.No. 6/7/2010-EP (Agri. -IV) dated 9 February, 2010 have stated that the matter has been examined in consultation with Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) and Council for Leather Export (CLE). CLE has mentioned that its mission is to promote export of leather and leather products. It is also committed to Animal Welfare Programme as the basic raw material is derived from animals. CLE has been voluntarily implementing various activities for animal welfare since 2000-03. As part of the Animal Welfare Programme, the Council is reported to have launched a Pilot Project in Tamil Nadu and is planning to conduct awareness seminar/training on best Animal Handling Practice in various locations in the country, towards educating animal handlers in animal markets, slaughter house etc.

7. The Food processing Industries *vide* their letter F.No. 2-19/2009 dated 29 January, 2010 have stated that before considering the release of grants-in-aid for the modernization of Abattoir, NOC is required by the Ministry from State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) and from local body. The Ministry have not agreed to and funded any Abattoir Project in Uttar Pradesh including Meerut (Kamela) slaughter house.

8. The Principal Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development, State Government of Uttar Pradesh informed the Committee in writing that the slaughter house in question was established in 1956 after acquiring the land near Odean drain on the Hapur Road

which was then on the outskirts of Meerut city. The slaughter house is being operated by Municipal Corporation, Meerut. The construction, maintenance and regulation of the slaughter house is one of the several obligatory duties of the Municipal Corporation under sections 114 (XXI) of the Uttar Pradesh Municipal Corporation (UPMC) Act, 1959. Sections 421 to 439 of the UPMC Act, 1959 describe various provisions for regulation of slaughter house. Apart from this, the bye-laws 1957 of Municipal Corporation, Meerut are also in existence to regulate the slaughter house. The purpose of establishing the slaughter house on the outskirts of the Meerut city was to shift it from the urban area and discharge the effluents through the Odean drain. Presently, the slaughter house has come amidst the dense population of the city. The slaughter house on account of being old, does not have modern facilities. UPPCB tested the water of three hand pumps and one tubewell installed in the vicinity of the slaughter house and after analysis of the water, the results were not found to be in conformity with the prescribed standards. Municipal Commissioner and District Administration, Meerut and UPPCB have undertaken the task of inspection of slaughter house, prevention of illegal slaughter and demolition of illegal furnaces. A total number of 544 furnaces were demolished during 25 October, 2009 to 31 October, 2009. UPPCB filed a complaint on 24 August, 2009 under section 44 of water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended in the Special Court (Water and Air Pollution), Lucknow against 43 operators of furnaces boiling fat and bones within the premises of the slaughter house under question. The court issued summons on 3, 4 and 5 September, 2009 in all the 43 complaints. In 22 cases out of these 43 cases, the accused appeared in the court which accepted the bails and initiated prosecution evidence under section 244 of Cr. P.C. Rest of the accused (21)/opposite parties have not appeared in the court. The Court has issued bailable /non-bailable warrants against them.

9. On being enquired about the inspection of the slaughter house carried out by the authorities concerned, the State Government of UP informed the Committee as under:—

“Inspection of the slaughter house is done from time to time by the Municipal Corporation, Meerut. The last inspection was done in 15.01.2010. In addition, UP Pollution Control Board also inspected the slaughter house from time to time and collected the water samples on 16.02.2009 from 03 hand pumps and a tube well installed in the vicinity of the slaughter house for testing the ground water pollution. After the analysis, the samples were not found to be in conformity with the specified standard.”

10. The Committee were also informed by the State Government that no subsidy is given by the UP Government. The State Government have also stated as under:—

“Subsidy is given by Government of India. Slaughtering within the city limits of Meerut is to be regulated by Municipal Corporation under Chapter XVI of the UP Municipal Corporation Act, 1959. The Corporation is shirking from its responsibility under the Act and also not acting upon State Government’s directives.”

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry also informed the Committee that Ministry does not give 20% subsidy on the export of frozen meat packing as mentioned by the petitioner. However, transport assistance is given to the meat exporters for exporting to West Africa only.

11. In response to question as to whether CPCB/UPPCB have conducted any study about pollution caused to environment and potable water and the action taken on the findings of CPCB/UPPCB, the State Government of UP stated in their written reply as under:—

“No, UPPCB inspected the site on 25.10.2004 and collected the specimens of effluents most of which were found to be above the specified norms. In addition, on 16.02.2009, UPPCB also collected water-samples from 3 hand pumps and a tube well installed in the vicinity of the slaughter house for testing the ground water pollution. The samples were not found to be in conformity with the specified norms.

UP Pollution Control Board issued order for the closure of slaughter house operated by Municipal Corporation, situated on Hapur Road, Meerut on 24.02.2005 u/s 33-A of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. Subsequently, to facilitate Corporation to discharge its legal duties to run a slaughter house, it gave an NOC/consent on 29.10.2009 with following conditions:—

1. Slaughtering was permitted for 350 animals per day.
2. Issued directions to the industry to comply with the action plan submitted by them to the National Human Rights Commission.
3. To discharge the effluents in the Odean Nala only after due treatment.
4. To provide the solid waste to M/s Rainbow Organics Private Limited, Ghaziabad as proposed by them for disposal in rendering plant and submit the monthly progress report to UP Pollution Control Board.
5. Municipal Corporation to obtain permission from district authorities before processing slaughter and intimate the same to UP Pollution Control Board.
6. The functioning of slaughter house to be conducted in such a way so as not to spread any foul smell or unnecessary waste.
7. No illegal ‘bhatti’ for boiling of bones and tallow production to be allowed by the Municipal Corporation within the premises of the slaughter house.

However, these conditions were not fulfilled by Corporation within the time prescribed.”

12. In response to question as to whether due to mass slaughtering of animals, there is a heavy downfall in milching animals resulting in decrease in milk production

and hence increase in rate of milk and production of synthetic milk in Western Uttar Pradesh, the Ministry of Agriculture commented in writing as under:—

“As per the Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics Report (2008), milk production has been increasing in the country achieving an estimated annual output of 104.84 million tonnes in 2007-08 and 108.46 million tonnes in 2008-09. Milk production in Uttar Pradesh increased from 18.86 million tonnes to 19.53 million tonnes during 2008-09, thus growing by 3.58%. Procurement price of milk has been increased in recent months in many States including Uttar Pradesh and it is presently Rs.22 per litre in Western Uttar Pradesh and the sale price ranges between Rs.19 to Rs.28 per litre for different categories of milk as per the reports of State Milk Federation (PCDF).”

The Ministry of Commerce replied in writing as under:—

“It is mentioned that primarily buffalo in India is reared to produce milk and secondarily the animals which have retired and cannot be used for milk, work or breeding purposes, are used for production of meat. Similarly, unproductive and surplus males are used for meat production. Milk giving buffaloes are not slaughtered for meat purpose which is ensured by the concerned State Veterinary Authorities. Otherwise also no farmer would like to sell milk giving animals for slaughtering because cost of milk giving animals is very high than the animals slaughter for meat purposes.”

The Principal Secretary, Uttar Pradesh Government commented as under:—

“As per the preliminary cattle-census conducted during the year 2007 in Meerut, Saharanpur, Moradabad, Agra and Aligarh divisions, there has been an increase of 17.96 percent in the number of milch cows and 4.99 percent in milch buffaloes as compared to the data of the year 2003. Similarly a rise of 15.87% and 8.44% in the number of milch cows and buffaloes respectively in the whole State is estimated in the coming years.

As regards milk production, there has been an increase of 3.67% during the year 2008-09 as compared to the data of the year 2007-08 in the aforesaid divisions.

In the whole State, milk produced was 195.37 lakh tonne which is more than 188.59 lakh tonne produced in the year 2007-08. During the year 2007-08 per capita per day milk availability in the State was 311 grams which rose to 322 grams during the year 2008-09.

As per the available figures, the milk in the category of FCM, Standard toned and loose standard is being sold by Parag Dairy, Meerut @ Rs.28, Rs.24, Rs.22 and Rs.23 per litre respectively in accordance with the rates approved by the Government.”

13. Responding to a question about the action taken by the Government on the complaints received about supply of synthetic milk, the Ministry of Agriculture commented as under:—

“Some VIP references have been received by this department about sale of adulterated milk and milk products in some States. Any complaints received in this regard are transferred to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare since

the subject matter comes under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act administered by them. However, this department has also written to State Milk Federations to monitor the quality standards of milk to ensure supply of wholesome milk to the consumers.”

On this issue, the State Government of Uttar Pradesh stated as under:—

“The Government has directed all Commissioners/DMs/Chief Medical Officers and others to launch a campaign to prevent the preparation of synthetic/adulterated milk and product prepared from synthetic/adulterated milk. Apart from this, directions have also been issued to conduct special weekly inspection of construction-units, concerned dairies milk-collection centers and milk tankers by constituting joint teams and to collect samples by regular raids with the help of police administration.

Under clause 5 of Food Adulteration and Prevention Rules, 1955, milk has been defined as the one obtained from the milch animals. In the Act, different standards have been specified for different varieties of milk. There is no description or definition of synthetic milk in the Act. Probably, in the common language, synthetic milk means such milk which has been prepared completely by mixing various chemicals. During the lab-testing, no such cases have come to light. Generally, in the sample testing of milk, mixing of water has been found. Moreover, in some samples, neutralizer, glucose, urea, different kind of fat and detergent have been found. For these types of adulteration, action is taken by the food inspectors by filing complaints in ACJM courts u/s 16(1) of the Act.

The district administration is ensuring effective action against synthetic milk. During the year 2007, the district administration after conducting the raids, collected 163 samples of milk out of which 89 samples were found to be adulterated. In all such adulterated cases, legal cases have been filed. During the year 2008, out of the 142 milk samples collected, 42 were found to be adulterated and legal cases were filed in all such cases. During the year 2009, out of 61 samples collected, 20 were found to be adulterated and cases registered. It is to be clarified that in Meerut, out of the milk samples so collected, no sample was declared as adulterated under the category of synthetic milk by the Public Analyst, Lucknow.”

14. On being asked about the orders/directions issued by the Uttar Pradesh Government /UPPCB to close the slaughter house and action taken thereon, the Principal Secretary, State Government of Uttar Pradesh stated as under:—

“(1) The Supreme Court in SLP No.10174/06 (Appeal No.5673/06) Nagar Nigam, Meerut vs Al Faheem Meat Export Pvt. Ltd. & others passed following orders on 07.12.2006 with regard to the slaughter house at Hapur Road run by the Municipal Corporation, Meerut:—

1. We think that the interest of justice would be sub-served if the appellants Corporation is directed to issue an advertisement in well known newspapers having wide circulation again calling for bids on such terms and conditions which it may find to be reasonable within six weeks from

the date of communication of this order. The bids offered pursuant thereto must be opened and a final decision must be taken within eight weeks thereafter.

2. Till such time it will be for the appellant Corporation to decide as to how the slaughter house should be allowed to function by making such interim arrangements as it may find fit and proper.
 3. We direct the State to have a fresh look at the matter and to consider the feasibility/desirability of grant of a license to run the slaughter house for a longer period than one year on the condition that the plant should be modernized by the licensee.
 4. We would request the High Court to consider the desirability of disposing of Civil Misc. Writ Petition No.11069/06 (Asaf Ali vs State of U.P.& Ors.) as expeditiously as possible.
 5. If respondent No.1 has deposited any amount for the modernization of the plant, which has not been carried out, the Corporation may refund the amount subject to any outstanding dues.
- (2) In compliance of the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court quoted above, the State Government issued G.O. dated 06.08.2008 that the slaughter houses under the ownership of Municipal Corporations of the State be given to the private participants for possession and use for a minimum period of 5 years and the maximum period of 10 years on the basis of PPP model, subject to the condition that the private participant will have to modernize the slaughter house in accordance with the specified norms during the possession-period.
 - (3) In continuation of the G.O. dated 06.08.2008, another G.O. was issued on 26.6.2009 wherein the limit of maximum period of possession by the private participants was raised to 20 years in order to encourage investment in slaughter houses run by the Municipal Corporations.
 - (4) State Government *vide* G.O. dated 01.01.2009 issued directions to Municipal Commissioner, Meerut that the illegally run slaughter house be closed immediately and no further contract be awarded until a no objection certificate is obtained from UP Pollution Control Board. In continuation of this G.O., the Municipal Commissioner was informed *vide* G.O. dated 21.08.2009 that the compliance of G.O. dated 12.06.2009 regarding interim arrangement of meat as per the requirement of the local population, is necessary after obtaining the permission of Pollution Control Board and National Human Rights Commission. The Municipal Corporation was, therefore, directed under section 533, of UP Municipal Corporation Act, 1959 that till the construction of modern Slaughter House, the supply of meat required by the local people be ensured as an interim arrangement by the Municipal Corporation in one portion of the land acquired in the village Ghosipur.
 - (5) As stated in para-1. In addition to this, legal cases were also filed against 46 persons indulged in operating illegal furnaces and exercising illegal

slaughter under section 437 of Uttar Pradesh Municipal Corporation Act, 1959. Out of these 46 persons, 12 filed writ petition in the High Court with regard to illegal furnaces. The High Court on 19.11.2009 after staying the action of Municipal Corporation ordered the *status quo*. The Municipal Corporation has filed an application in the High Court to vacate the above order. In view of the Court's order, no action could be taken to continue the demolition of illegal furnaces. However, strict vigil is being kept by Municipal Corporation, Meerut, Pollution Control Board Meerut and concerned Thana to check the reconstruction/operation of demolished furnaces.

Moreover, as per the decision of the Municipal Corporation Board on 30.12.2008, the contract of the Slaughter House has been cancelled after blacklisting the contractor for slaughtering the animals over the prescribed number and for violating the norms and conditions of the contract.

- (6) A land measuring 5.26 hectare has been acquired in village Ghosipur on the outskirts of the city and got registered in revenue records in the name of Municipal Corporation to construct a modern slaughter house, in view of the situation of the present slaughter house in the midst of the urban area.”

As regard the action taken by the UP Pollution Control Board and Meerut Municipal Corporation, the State Government of UP responded as under:—

“UP Pollution Control Board had issued order on 24.02.2005 to close the slaughter house under section 33A of Central Water Act, 1974 but later on, in view of the Supreme Court order and the interim arrangement of the meat, the closure order dated 24.02.2005 was relaxed till 31-12-2009. So far as the Municipal Corporation is concerned, a decision was taken on 30.12.2008 in the meeting of Municipal Corporation Board that the slaughter house shall not be operated until a no objection certificate is obtained from PCB. In this continuation the State Government issued to Municipal Commissioner, Meerut *vide* G.O. dated 01.01.09 referred in para-4 of the reply given above.

Further, on 12.06.2009 the State Government issued directions to Municipal Corporation, Meerut to ensure modernization of the slaughter house in compliance of the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The Corporation was further directed to ensure running of the slaughter house as an interim measure as per the requirement of the local population after obtaining the consent of the UP Pollution Control Board. Since the Municipal Corporation did not take required steps to run the slaughter house, the State Government on 21.08.2009 directed the Corporation to make interim arrangement of meat for requirement of local population at the newly acquired site of the slaughter house at village Ghosipur.”

15. On being enquired about the reasons for not complying with the directions/orders of the UPPCB and Meerut Municipal Corporation to close the Slaughter House, the State Government of UP commented as under:—

“Municipal Corporation, Meerut has an obligatory duty under section 114 (XXI) of the Act to control and maintain slaughter houses. It is duty bound to

run the slaughter house in compliance with pollution control norms. The Government has also issued directions in this regard on 01.01.2009 and 21.08.2009. In the teeth of its obligatory duties, it cannot order closure; it has to take appropriate steps to ensure that it is run in accordance with law.”

16. In response to a question regarding number of animals being slaughtered per day and whether any modern mechanism is being used for this purpose and the arrangement made for disposal of the waste products after slaughtering of animals, the State Government of Uttar Pradesh informed the Committee in their written reply as under:—

“The slaughter house, in question, is the only one within the limits of Meerut Municipal Corporation which has a maximum limit of 350 animals to be slaughtered per day. There is no modern plant in this slaughter house. As stated in the preceding Paras, construction of a modern slaughter house is proposed in village Ghosipur on the outskirts of the city on PPP model. Land (5.26 hectare) has already been acquired. A consultant was appointed, who has prepared the tender documents including R.F.Q and R.F.P. These documents after clearance by State Government have been given on 11.01.2010 to the Corporation for acceptance and proceeding further in the matter. However, the Corporation has failed to proceed further.

Municipal Commissioner has apprised that usually dirty water flows in the drain situated near the slaughter house and the remains of dead animals are sent to the rendering plant of Al Nafees Frozen Food Pvt. Ltd. located at Dasna by the animal traders.”

17. Responding to a question about the allegation of the petitioner that the discharged sewage (solid/liquid) waste flows in the Odean canal which mingles with Kali river and that the bones brought from other districts are also boiled illegally, the State Government of Uttar Pradesh commented as under:—

“Municipal Commissioner informs that sanitary workers have been appointed on contract basis for the sanitation of Odean drain and some machine is also used for the purpose.

The Government had directed the Corporation on 21.08.2009 u/s 533 of the Act that until a modern slaughter house is constructed, the Corporation should take immediate interim arrangements with the consent of UP Pollution Control Board for supplying meat to local population. However, the Corporation has not made any such arrangements.”

18. In response to the question about the allegation of the petitioner that cowclan are being slaughtered despite total ban on cow slaughter in Uttar Pradesh, the Ministry of Commerce replied in writing as under:—

“It is submitted that export of beef *i.e.* meat of cow or its progeny is prohibited. As per the export/import policy of Government of India it is stipulated that export of meat of buffalo is allowed for exports on production of a certificate from the designated veterinary authorities of the State Government to certify

that meat or offals meant for exports are from the buffaloes and not used for breeding and milching purposes.”

The State Government of UP in their written reply stated as under:—

“There is total ban on cow slaughter in the State. Effective steps are being taken to check cow-slaughter. During the year 2008, 2343 cases were registered under the Prevention of Cow Slaughter Act and 19085 cows were saved from slaughter. During the year 2009, 2362 cases were registered and 20236 cows were saved from slaughter. The State government is committed to implement the total ban on cow slaughter.”

19. Responding to the prayer of the petitioner that slaughter house should be closed down immediately and the relief should be given to the people of Meerut from the ill effects of water and air pollution, the State Government of Uttar Pradesh in their written reply stated as under:—

“Supply of meat for consumption of residents of the city is a genuine requirement. It is for this purpose that the Municipal Corporations have a legal obligation under section 114 (XXI) of the UP Municipal Corporation Act, 1959 to construct and maintain slaughter houses. This obligatory duty requires the Corporations to run it efficiently and following the requirements of pollution control standards. Closing down of slaughter house is not the solution contemplated under the duties of Municipal Corporation. State Government has also been asking the Corporation to set up a new modern slaughter house and until it starts functioning, making interim arrangements in conformity to the standards set by the UP Pollution Control Board. The Corporation is not proceeding further with the setting up of the new modern slaughter house, even though the State Government has done necessary spadework for setting it up under PPP mode. Nor is the Corporation making interim arrangements. The UP Pollution Control Board had on 29.10.2009 given an NOC/consent for running the slaughter house subject to certain conditions. The Corporation appears to have done nothing in this regard with the result that the NOC lapsed on 31.12.2009.

The relief sought would be available if the Municipal Corporation, Meerut lives up to its responsibility as stated above. The State Government had earlier issued directives u/s 533 in this regard, but with no effect. Dissolution of the Corporation is the last remedy available to the Government u/s 538, which it would have to exercise, most reluctantly, if the Corporation persistently fails in its obligation.”

20. On the issues raised by the petitioner in his representation, the Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF) in their written reply have commented as under:—

“1.1 The Meerut Nagar Nigam Slaughter House has been inspected 04 times in the year 2009 and twice during 2010 by Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board (UPPCB). In addition, it has also been inspected on 13.08.09 by a committee constituted by the District Magistrate, Meerut. On all these occasions, the samples collected from the common drain of the Slaughter House have shown the Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) and

Total Suspended Solid (TSS) levels exceeding the prescribed norms. It is true that the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 have been violated.

1.2 There are no standards prescribed for odour. However, odour is the result of improper management of the Slaughter House and the waste being generated therefrom.

1.3 The UPPCB did collect samples of 3 hand-pumps and one tube well situated in the vicinity of the area on 16.02.2009, which were analysed in the laboratories of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and UPPCB. However, they have not communicated the implications of the analysis.”

21. About the authority to issue license for running slaughter houses, the MoEF in their written reply stated as under:—

“2.1 According to Municipal Solid Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000, management of solid wastes including from slaughter houses is the responsibility of the municipal authorities. Secretary in-charge of the Department of Urban Development of the State Govt./UT in all metropolitan cities and the District Magistrate in other towns/areas and districts have the overall responsibility for the enforcement of the provisions of these rules in metropolitan cities.

2.2 The UPPCB has to issue the authorization to the municipal authority or an operator of a facility within forty-five days stipulating compliance criteria and standards as specified in Schedules II, III and IV of the Municipal Solid Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000, including such other conditions, as may be necessary. The authorization shall be valid for a given period and after the validity is over, a fresh authorization shall be required.

2.3 The UPPCB is also empowered to grant consent to the slaughter houses for the discharge of effluent/emission as per the provision of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.”

22. On being enquired as to whether any norms/guidelines have been prescribed to issue the license for the purpose, the Committee were informed by the MoEF in writing as under:—

“3.1 The Municipal authority or an operator of a facility shall make an application to the State Pollution Control Board in Form-1, for grant of authorization for setting up waste processing and disposal facility including landfill in order to comply with the implementation programme laid down in Schedule-I of the said MSW Rules, 2000. The compliance criteria include setting up of waste processing and disposal facilities, improvement of existing landfill sites as per provisions of these rules and identification of landfill sites for future use and making site(s) ready for operation.

3.2 The UPPCB while issuing consent to a slaughter house has to take into account the following standards for effluent discharge as notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986:

| Categories | Parameters | Limit |
|---------------------|---------------------|----------|
| Above 70 TLWK/day | BOD | 100 mg/l |
| | Suspended solids | 100 mg/l |
| | Oil and grease | 10 mg/l |
| 70 TLWK/day & below | BOD[3 days at 27 c] | 500 mg/l |

Note: (i) TLKW—Tonnes of live weight killed. (ii) In case of disposal in to municipal sewer where sewage is treated, the industries shall install screen and oil & grease separation units. (iii) The industries having slaughter house along with meat processing units will be considered in meat processing category as far as standards are concerned.”

23. On being enquired about the mechanism to monitor the activities of these slaughter houses, the MoEF have stated in writing as under:—

“4.1 The UPPCB has the power to grant consent to establish/operate and authorization. In order to monitor compliance with the stipulated conditions, the UPPCB has to carry out inspections of the slaughter houses under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

The UPPCB is supposed to monitor the compliance of the standards regarding ground water, ambient air, leach ate quality and the compost quality including incineration standards as specified in Schedules II, III and IV of the Municipal Solid Waster (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000, including such other conditions , as may be necessary. The authorization is valid for a given period and after the validity is over, a fresh authorization is required.

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) co-ordinates with the State Boards with particular reference to implementation and review of standards and guidelines and compilation of monitoring data. The SPCB shall prepare and submit to the CPCB an annual report with regard to the implementation of these Rules by the 15th of September every year in Form-IV. The CPCB shall prepare the consolidated annual review report on management of municipal solid wastes and forward it to the Central Government along with its recommendation before the 15th of December every year.

4.2 According to Municipal Solid Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000, management of solid wastes including from slaughter houses is also the responsibility of the municipal authorities. Secretary in-charge of the Department of Urban Development of the State Govt./UT in all metropolitan cities and the Districts Magistrate in other towns/areas and districts have the overall responsibility for the enforcement of the provisions of these rules in metropolitan cities.

Schedule-II of the Municipal Solid Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000 prescribes the parameters and compliance criteria for Management of Municipal Solid Wastes. These are collection of municipal solid wastes, segregation of municipal solid wastes, storage of municipal solid wastes, transportation of municipal solid wastes, processing of municipal solid wastes and disposal of municipal solid wastes.

4.3 As per clause 9 of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Slaughter House) Rules, 2001 the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) or any person or Animal Welfare Organisation authorised by it, may inspect any slaughter house without notice to its owner or the person in charge of it any time during the working hours to ensure that the provisions of these rules are being complied with. The person or the Animal Welfare Organisation authorized under sub rule (1) shall after inspection send its report to AWBI as well as to the municipal or local authority for appropriate action including initiation of legal proceedings, if any, in the event of violation of any provisions of the rules.”

24. On being enquired about the number of times these slaughter houses were inspected by the authorities concerned and the finding thereof, the MoEF submitted in writing as under:—

“5.1 The Slaughter House situated in the Meerut was inspected 08 times during the last three years by the officers of the UPPCB and samples of effluent were collected. The analysis report of the effluent samples are as under:—

(a) Slaughter House owned by Meerut Nagar Nigam.

| S.No. | Date of Sample | pH | TSS (mg/l) | BOD (mg/l) | COD (mg/l) |
|-----------|----------------|---------|------------|------------|------------|
| 1. | 22.11.2007 | 8.20 | 8600 | 9700 | 24000 |
| 2. | 14.08.2008 | 8.40 | 8916 | 9600 | 24600 |
| 3. | 28.02.2009 | 8.40 | 7680 | 7200 | 18000 |
| 4. | 13.08.2009 | 8.20 | 6560 | 8000 | 20000 |
| 5. | 24.11.2009 | 7.80 | 6800 | 4200 | 12000 |
| 6. | 09.12.2009 | 7.07 | 1502 | 960 | 2560 |
| 7. | 22.01.2010 | 7.12 | 1860 | 3200 | 8400 |
| 8. | 17.02.2010 | 9.2 | 7238 | 9600 | 26000 |
| Standards | | 5.5-9.0 | 100 | 30 | 250 |

As is evident from the Table, the levels of TSS, BOD and COD in the slaughter house effluents are exceeding the prescribed norms.

(b) M/s Al Saqib Exports Pvt. Ltd. Alipur Hapur Road, Meerut has installed the Effluent Treatment Plant and discharges their treated effluent on land.

5.2 The Slaughter House owned by Meerut Nagar Nigam was also inspected on 13.08.09 by a Committee constituted by the District Magistrate, Meerut. During inspection the sample from the common drain of Nagar Nigam Slaughter House before confluence to Odean Nala was collected and after analysis it was found to be violating the prescribed norms of BOD, COD and TSS.

5.3 The AWBI has also issued an order on 22.02.2010 for inspection of the slaughter house and report within 10 days to check violation, if any. The results of the inspection are awaited.”

25. About the action taken by the Government on the findings of these reports, the MoEF have stated in their written comments as under:—

“6.1 The UPPCB has to take action on the present violations of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 against the Nagar Nigam Slaughter House. A closure order had been issued earlier by UPPCB against the Slaughter House owned by Meerut Nagar Nigam on 24.02.2005 under Section 33A of Water(Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. The closure order dated 24.02.2005 was suspended conditionally *vide* letter dated 29.10.2009 up to 31.12.2009 as a short term measure restricting the maximum number of slaughtering animals as 350 per day. The Nagar Nigam is not fulfilling the condition. The Consent seeking application under Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as amended has been received in the UPPCB on 11.01.2010 submitted by the Nagar Nigam for the suspension of the closure order further from 01.01.2010 to 31.12.2010, which is under process. However, no compliance report of the closure order suspension letter dated 29.10.2009 has been submitted by the Nagar Nigam.

6.2 The Slaughter House owned by Meerut Nagar Nigam and adjacent godowns and Bhattis situated at Hapur Road, Meerut were inspected on 13.08.09 by the Committee constituted by the District Magistrate, Meerut. At the time of inspection it was found that total number of 163 illegal ‘bhatti’ were used for boiling of bones, tallow and other wastes. The State Pollution Control Board has lodged 43 complaints against the owners of these illegal ‘bhatti’ operators under section 44 of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 in the Special Court at Lucknow on 24.08.09.

6.3 The AWBI has not reported any action taken against Slaughter Houses so far.”

26. On being inquired as to whether CPCB/UP Pollution Control Board have conducted any specific study about the pollution caused to the environment and potable water as well as to the inhabitants of the area, the MoEF in their written reply stated as under:—

“8.1 The CPCB has not conducted any specific study for the area. However, CPCB has brought out a publication entitled “Solid Waste Management in Slaughter House, September 2004” to guide SPCBs/PCCs/slaughter houses in taking pollution control measures.

8.2 For the assessment of ground water pollution, the UPPCB collected the samples of the following 3 hand pumps and one tube well situated in vicinity of the area on 16.02.2009:

- (a) Hand Pump 60 feet Kanch ka Pul, Mala Road, Umar Nagar, Meerut.
- (b) Tube well 120 feet slaughter house, premises, Meerut.
- (c) Hand Pump, Aashiana Colony, Mazzid, Meerut.
- (d) Hand Pump, House of Sri Tayyaub, Aashiana Colony, Meerut.

The samples were analysed in the laboratories of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and UPPCB. The UPPCB has, however, not communicated the implications of the analysis.

8.3 The UPPCB has not conducted any detailed study about the pollution caused to the environment and to the inhabitants of the area.”

27. In response to a question about the arrangements made for disposal of waste products after slaughtering of animals, the MoEF stated in writing as under:—

“Municipal solid waste including wastes from slaughter house is to be managed and handled in accordance with the compliance criteria and the procedure laid down in Schedule-II of the Municipal Solid Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000. The waste processing; and disposal facilities are to be set up by the municipal authority on their own or through an operator of a facility which shall meet the specifications and standards as specified in Schedule III and IV of the Municipal Solid Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000.

As informed by UPPCB, in Nagar Nigam owned Slaughter House there is no rendering plant facility and it appears that the disposal of waste is not proper. In the Slaughter House of M/s Al Saqib Exports Private Limited, Alipur Hapur Road, Meerut rendering plant is available for disposal of waste products after slaughtering of animals.”

28. On being enquired about the arrangements made by the slaughtering houses for de-polluting the environment, the MoEF in their written comments stated as under:—

“17.1 No proper arrangement has been made by the Nagar Nigam Slaughter House for de-polluting the environment. The issue of bones being procured from other districts and boiled illegally relates to police. No information has been provided by UPPCB on the issue of blocking of canal.

17.2 The Slaughter House owned by Meerut Nagar Nigam and adjacent godowns and bhattis situated at Hapur Road, Meerut were inspected on 13.08.09 by the Committee constituted by the District Magistrate, Meerut. At the time of inspection, it was found that total number of 163 illegal ‘bhatti’ were used for boiling of bones, tallow and other wastes. The State Pollution Control Board has lodged 43 complaints against the owners of these illegal ‘bhatti’ operators under Section 44 of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 in the Special Court at Lucknow on 24.08.2009.

17.3 In the privately owned Slaughter House of M/s Al Saqib Exports Private Limited, Alipur Hapur Road, Meerut, the provision for green belt and disposal of waste arising due to slaughter is done in an eco-friendly manner *i.e.* through rendering plant.”

29. Responding to a question about the allegation of the petitioner that the discharged sewage (solid/liquid) waste flows in the Odean canal which mingles with Kali river, the MoEF commented in writing as under:—

“ 18.1 In compliance of the National Human Rights Commission’s order, a conditional consent was issued by UPPCB *vide* letter dated 29.10.09 valid up to 31.12.09 to the Government slaughter house but these conditions are reportedly not being met with by the said industry. The UPPCB has to give a time bound direction for compliance along with a bank guarantee and in case the slaughter house fails to comply with the same, the consent to operate should be withdrawn.

18.2 As reported by UPPCB, a conditional NOC was issued *vide* letter dated 29.10.09 to Nagar Nigam, Meerut for establishing a modern slaughter house at Ghosipur, Meerut with a slaughtering capacity of 350 animals per day.”

30. The Committee took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Commerce & Industry and State Government of Uttar Pradesh on 11 March, 2010.

31. At the outset, the Principal Secretary, State Government of Uttar Pradesh briefed the Committee as under:—

“Sir, this slaughter house in Meerut was constructed in 1956, and it has been running since then. Now, as per the UP Municipal Corporation Act, it is an obligatory duty of the Municipal Corporation to maintain and run a slaughter house. The provisions in Sections 421 to 439 in the Act have also been given and how they will regulate the functioning of this slaughter house.

When this slaughter house came up in 1956, it was outside the city. But now with the growth in population, it has come into the heart of the city. In 2005, the UP Pollution Control Board issued a directive that this slaughter house was not following the pollution control norms and, therefore, it should be closed down. Thereafter, another tender was issued by the Municipal Corporation, and the matter went to the Hon’ble Supreme Court. In December, 2006, the Hon’ble Supreme Court issued three directions. One is that interim arrangement should be made; two, a tender should be issued in the newspapers in accordance with law—they did not say that you do not follow the pollution control norms—and you finalize the tender; and then, for a long-term they directed the Government to consider a policy where the tender could be given for a longer period so that the contractor could modernize the plant. The State Government agreed with this. We issued a directive on 6th of August, 2008, a new policy, on the public-private partnership model where, first we said that it will be for five to ten years; later on we extended it from five to twenty years. We said that the Municipal Corporation should take up these slaughter houses on a public-private

partnership basis and modernize them by installing all modern pollution control equipment like Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP), rendering plant and other equipment. This action has been taken by the State Government and the policy was communicated.

In the light of this current case, the situation is that there was a tender which was valid till 31st December, 2008. On 31st December, 2008, the Municipal Corporation of Meerut did not extend the tender saying that since the pollution control norms are not being followed by the contractor, and the Pollution Control Board has issued the directives also for closure, they will not extend it further. We also, on 1st of January, have issued a directive to the Municipal Corporation that since pollution control equipment have not been installed, you may not continue with this tender further till measures are taken to control the pollution. Now, the only thing that I have to say is that the view of the State Government on this is, one, slaughter houses have to run with pollution control equipment, there is no denying that. They should have a proper effluent treatment plant, rendering plant and everything. That should be done. But it is also our view that running and maintaining slaughter houses is an obligatory duty of the Municipal Corporation under the Municipal Corporation Act to cater to the needs of the meat eating population. It is an obligatory duty. Therefore, we issued directives again, and twice we wrote to the Municipal Corporation in the month of July and again in the month of August saying that this was the obligatory duty; they should make arrangements for provision of meat to the meat eating population as running of slaughter houses was their duty, in accordance with law, that is, following the pollution control norms prescribed. They should follow that and make meat available to the meat eating people. This is the situation, as far as the Government is concerned.

This matter was also taken up by the National Human Rights Commission, and the Human Rights Commission also had evidence on this matter. Then, an action plan was submitted to them. There was a three-fold action plan. One was long-term. We have identified land in Ghosipur village, which is about eight to ten kilometers away from the city. They said that they are going ahead with a long-term plan of a modern slaughter house under public-private partnership for which we have already prepared the technical and financial bid documents; and they are about to be approved after approval of the Municipal Board and the Cabinet. They would release it in the newspapers and get the offers to have a completely modern plant to be set up over there to cater to the needs of the meat eating population. This will take about three years. While this will take three years, what has to be done in between are two things. The interim arrangement was that in this very place, Ghosipur, a small area can be demarcated and for three years it can be given on contract to somebody to run it with effluent treatment plant and rendering can be done at some plant elsewhere. The immediate measure was that till and this is done, even this would take about ten months, the slaughtering can continue at the existing place, but measures should be taken to control the pollution and especially the remains or anything that are there have to be taken away to a rendering plant which is available in Dasna.

Further, the fourth thing was about the bhattis, illegal furnances. That was a major cause of problem in Meerut because there were cauldrons out there and they boil fat and bones out there. When they boil fat and bones, it emits a very foul smell which spreads into an area of about three to four kilometres, and people are suffering from that foul smell. For that, the remains are coming from even outside Meerut. Action was taken by the District Magistrate of Meerut who is here along with his police force. Five hundred and forty-four such furnaces and bhattis were identified and in the month of October, after Dussehra, they were demolished. All 544 were demolished. Thereafter, about 90 of them have obtained a stay order from the Hon'ble High Court. On 9th of March, before coming here, we had another inspection done. We found that 36 of them are operating under the stay order, balance of a stay order but they are not operating. The Municipal Corporation has impleaded itself in the case and has moved for vacation of the stay.

This is how the things stand at the moment. This is the situation about the number of animals coming down in the State of UP and the milk production coming down in UP. I have mentioned in my reply about the action that has been taken with regard to milching animals. There is a mention about the synthetic milk and adulterated milk. There is no mention in the provisions about the synthetic milk. Action has been taken in various areas. This is what I wanted to submit.....”

32. Responding to a question of the Committee as to why these slaughter houses are being allowed to run, the witness, the Principal Secretary, State Government of Uttar Pradesh stated as under:—

“Sir, when the people eat meat then the same will come after slaughter from somewhere. Slaughter houses are at placed in Muradabad, Ghaziabad, Aligarh, Banaras, Allahabad, Lucknow, Kanpur. There is a slaughter house in every State and if they will not be in existence from where meat will be procured. Slaughtering is necessary and there is a rule that ill and pregnant animals should not be slaughtered. It will happen only when there is a regulated slaughter house. If we close the slaughter house without giving a thought, then there will be a slaughter house in every house and every street. We need to see that the slaughter house be run in a regulated manner and it is an essential responsibility of Municipal Corporation.....District Administration have destroyed 544 furnaces which were causing foul smelling It is a different matter that some persons have brought stay from the court. ... The Kamela can not be shifted in one day. We have given three points action plan to the Human Rights Commission. We said it is long term, we will set up modern plant at Goshipur Village in Public-Private Partnership with in three years. We have already initiated this and we will do it within three years. But what will happen for three years. For interim arrangement, Nagar Nigam have given contract on 11 September in Goshipur. It is a different matter that it has not been operationalised in right manner. Second interim is that if slaughtering has to be carried out any where then why not in slaughtering house. Effluent Treatment Plant need to be installed, it may be here or anywhere, it has to be decided by the Nagar Nigam. This is a

statement. Pollution control Board has taken action and taken sample on 16.02.09 and as per the report the same is not as per the norms, not as per the standards. It is creating pollution, this is undeniable. We are not denying the fact that the pollution created by the slaughter house should be avoided. We also have a policy to shift it at some other place. It will take some time and there should be some interim arrangement also.”

33. When the Committee asked as to how much time it would take to shift the slaughter house, the witness responded as under:—

“Yes sir. We have finalized the technical financial bid and are going to publish it in the newspapers. We will shift it to Ghosipur village within three years where there will be facility of effluent treatment, red ring, bone and blood handling, biogas manufacture etc.”

34. Responding to a question of the Committee that 5000 animals are being slaughtered as against the permissible limit of 300-350, then who is responsible for this, the witness from the State Government of UP submitted as under:—

“Sir, I would like to place one point that 350 and 1000 are being referred, this is the question of requirement of the city. I agree with the hon’ble member that this is the responsibility of Nagar Nigam.”

35. When the Committee observed that 5000 animals are being slaughter even after there is no permission, the witness, Principal Secretary from the State Government of UP responded as under:—

“Sir, we would like to say that the whole responsibility lies with Municipal Corporation and the Board of Corporation should take action regarding whether to operate it or not. We have even written at the last paragraph that we will regret because we have to dismiss the elected Board if they do not fulfil their responsibility. This is there land so who will stop them. Land belongs to Nagar Nigam, Mayor of the Nagar Nigam and Board of the Nagar Nigam have to stop because they are occupier of the land . Others will not stop them.”

The witness, the Municipal Commissioner, Meerut Nagar Nigam responded as under:—

“Those who are slaughtering and running the furnaces. As per section 437 of the Act of Nagar Nigam there is a provision to file challan in CJM Court. We have given notice for legal procedure but they have not closed it. Thereafter, they have been challaned before CJM court. There are 46 persons who have been challaned. That proceedings are going on. Also in the year 2008 under sections 227 and 228 cases were filed against them. Warrant was issued in June month and these cases are pending before special CJM Court. Despite adopting legal procedure, these activities were not stopped.”

The District Magistrate, Meerut added as under:—

“This land belongs to the Municipal Corporation. It is Municipal Corporation’s property. The Municipal Corporation had given it for slaughtering on lease to

a contractor. It is the obligatory duty of the Municipal Corporation, if the contract has not been given to a private party during that period the Municipal Corporation should be running this activity by themselves. As per laid norms, laid guidelines if the Municipal Corporation does not want to continue with this activity then the Government has authorized the Municipal Commissioner to run this activity. So, the Municipal Commissioner should be running this activity because that is the requirement. Meerut is a big city. Its population at present would be around Rs.16 lakh or so where the minority population is almost 50 percent. So, there are around 7.5 to 8 lakh people who consume meat and there are people from the majority community also who consume meat. They have a requirement and that requirement has to be met. I also would say that nothing should go on illegally. If they do not want to give it to a contractor, because this is their own land and within their land somebody else is doing an illegal activity then the Nagar Nigam should stop that activity and continue this activity by themselves.”

The District Magistrate also added as under:—

“But this is their own property. It is a private property. If they want some help from us, we can extend that help.”

36. When the Committee desired to know as to whether there is any resolution of the Municipal Board to run the slaughter house unauthorisedly or the elected representative of Board are supporting the same, the witness, the Principal Secretary, State Government of Uttar Pradesh stated as under:—

“Board has proposed to close it but as we have said that it is mandatory for the Board to comply with this obligatory duty. It is impossible that Board do not comply with this and say that they have closed the slaughter house. It is their duty under the Act.If they do not work as per Act ,then action could be taken against them.We have sent them two directions on behalf of State Government. The first was if it is not following the pollution control, it should be closed. The second direction was to make arrangements for meat while fulfilling the obligatory duty for the locals. Municipal Board ignored both the letters and did not take any action on them. If the Board ignore the directions of the Government then they become liable.

Sir, we are modernizing the plant. We will instal it in Ghosipur within three years. We have involved consultant to prepare tender documents, technical bid, financial bid. It is essential that firstly it should be passed by the Municipal Board and then we will get it approved in the Cabinet. Mayor has not even convened a meeting regarding the work of setting up of a modernized plant and its shifting. It is a kind of non-cooperation. We have also given them direction under 533 to call a meeting ... We have not written that it should be closed, we have written that if all directions are ignored then we will regret to consider it.....Sir I would like to place one point that is as per obligatory duty, not only the demand of the city is being met as said by the hon’ble member, about the number of animals; there are no exporting units. A lot of such units have come

up in the Meerut city. IPEA issue licence for meat exports. It is a suggestion to be considered and the Department is here to respond to it. From the UP Government when they give licence for meat export, they should give licence for slaughtering also. My suggestion is that it should be an integrated package. It should include slaughtering as well as meat processing as per modern technology following pollution control norms.....whosoever is given permission to export meat, they should be given permission for slaughter also. If he is not able to set up then he should have establish nearly linkage with a slaughter house. If both the conditions are not there and there is no mention of slaughtering then he is illegally slaughtering elsewhere....”

37. When the Committee observed that unauthorized slaughtering is being done for export causing revenue loss to the Government also, the witness from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry responded as under:—

“Sir.....there is a provision under the present law that when we allow export to take place we not only register the exporter but also there is a condition in the export policy that the meat should be sourced from slaughter houses which are registered with APEDA. So, there is already a condition. APEDA does a normal check before registering slaughter houses.”

The Principal Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh on this point responded as under:—

“As far as the export is concerned, as I have said APEDA will have to take the decision regarding whether they want to issue more licenses or cancel the present licenses after verification, if it is not coming proper slaughter house, they should take action in this regard. I would like to suggest the action plan. First is what action the APEDA will take in this regard. Now we have given action plan which is enclosed here and submitted before Human Rights Commission. If you permit then we will meet the demand of the city, not for anything else. Only for the requirement of city population we will direct the Nigam to make arrangements for running of the slaughter house. They should themselves run. This is your land...but instal effluent treatment plant. If they don't have the capacity to instal a waste rendering plant they should send it to Dasna, Ghaziabad Plant for processing. The waste will not go into the drains. It will not go to pits. This kind of direction should be given to Nagar Nigam and they should act like this. Either run themselves or on contract but they must ensure this. Besides this, how many animals need to be slaughtered keeping in view the population of the city? As you said, it is not clear how did the figure 350 come? It should be assessed.”

The witness further added as under:—

“To that extent permission may be granted but it should be time bound and be carried out in a way that a modern plant be installed within three years. After that no inside the city arrangements should be there. During the interim period, ETP should be installed. Rendering plant is not being installed because that needed investment, for one-two years nobody wants to invest because that

will not get repayment. The effluent plant is not so costly, the Nagar Nigam may also help in this. But no furnaces will be allowed to run because it gives foul smell.....”

The witness also added as under:—

“The furnaces will be completely closed. Once they have been demolished and those who have brought stay order, the stay order will be vacated and then the same will again be demolished. Major source of pollution is furnace, etc.”

38. When the Committee wanted to know from the Ministry of Commerce about who is responsible for taking action for unauthorized meat export, the witness from the Ministry of Commerce stated as under:—

“The first thing is that I would like to make a small correction to what I said earlier. I said that all slaughter houses have to be registered with the APEDA. It was wrong. It should be authorized either by the APEDA or by the local administration. I would like to make that correction.

I agree with the Chairman that if there is any violation taking place, neither the APEDA nor the Commerce Ministry has the manpower to check it on the field. It will not be possible for them to stop it. If we get any petition, the Commerce Ministry will be totally in favour of stoppage of such slaughter houses or such exporters who are sourcing their meat from unauthorized sources. We will be very happy to cancel their registration.”

There upon District Magistrate, Meerut city, Uttar Pradesh responded as under:—

“I do not agree with this. Administration has taken action in it and that too very sternly. I was the first District Magistrate who was standing there in slaughter house for three days. I have removed 544 furnaces by standing there myself. To say that administration is not cooperating is totally wrong. We have given full support to the Municipal Corporation and if they need any cooperation in the future we will extend to them. If due to some reasons situation of law and order arises in the country, it is our responsibility to assess the same. ... If the Nagar Nigam requires our support, we are always ready to extend the same.”

The witness further added as under:—

“We will extend our full support to them. As far as the property is concerned, it belongs to the Municipal Corporation so they have to assess whether to run the slaughter house there or not. It is an internal matter of Nagar Nigam. They must decide themselves and after that if they come to us for any kind of support we will definitely help them. It is our responsibility to provide police and magistrate and we will do the same.”

39. When the Committee observed that a meeting should be called and fresh efforts should be made and action should be taken against unauthorized slaughtering and the export of meat should be completely banned, the District Magistrate, Meerut stated as under:—

“I would like to emphasize on the fact that perhaps for the first time in Meerut it happened that we took the help of police force to demolish the furnaces.

Hon'ble member also belongs to Meerut and he must be aware of this. Three writs were filed in the court—two criminal side and one civil side. We have got cancelled the civil writ and two are left and we hope that they will be dismissed soon. The moment they are dismissed, action to demolish the remaining 36 furnaces will be taken. I would just like to say that the aim of the slaughter house is to meet the demand of meat. Any other alternative will be bad and other alternatives may be worse than this, it can not be better because the demand of meat can be met only through this. If we permit the people to slaughter animals at their houses the foul smell will spread in the entire city. I would like to say that to run slaughter house legally is the only option. For this, it is necessary to assess the demand of meat in the city and I would like to request the Ministry of Commerce which have given licence or others which are giving licence, it must be seen and ensured that from where the raw-meat will be brought to supply meat which they have committed and which they will export.

They should verify from where the meat comes from and only then license should be issued. Meerut is such city where, according to my knowledge, there are 9 licences of APEDA and for that a large number of animals are required. This is the one reason that slaughter house of Nagar Nigam is under pressure. If they can meet their requirement from other source which can be done legally, as the Principal Secretary has also said that instead of giving licences for only meat export, if licence is granted along with integrated and comprehensive slaughtering facility, then no pressure will be created on this type of slaughtering, they will do it with in their premises. Such facility is already available in one such unit in Meerut. Such facility is being installed in other unit. There are 07 other units where such facilities are not available. If they are also pressurized to create such facility, then this problem will be over, this is possible.....”

40. When the Committee desired to know whether there is any scheme to provide financial assistance by the Government for modernization of slaughter house, the witness, Principal Secretary from State Government of Uttar Pradesh replied as under:—

“Sir, there is a plan in Food Processing Ministry for modernization of slaughter houses. Under this plan, they provide assistance up to Rs.15 crore. Uttar Pradesh Government have forwarded four projects Meerut, Bareilly, Moradabad and Lucknow for financial assistance.”

41. When the Committee observed its concern about the mechanism to regulate the slaughtering, the witness, Principal Secretary, State Government of UP responded as under:—

“I only want to assure the Committee that we will abide by the directions of the august Committee with the request that the Committee may also give directions in this matter to the Municipal Board so that they also would follow their duties.”

42. Responding to a question about the effective measures being taken by the Government to give respite to the people of Meerut inhabited in and around the slaughter house, the Principal Secretary, State Government of UP in their written communication stated as under:—

“The major cause of air pollution is the existence of the furnaces. The furnaces have been demolished by a joint team comprising district/police administration and Municipal Corporation. As a result, the people of Meerut have felt considerable relief. So far as water pollution from the slaughter house is concerned, deep boring of the hand pumps has been employed. Moreover, a new tube well has been installed and a pipeline extending as far as 08 k.m. has been laid. The Municipal Commissioner has informed that an Effluent Treatment Plant has also been established.

UPPCB *vide* its letter dated 29-10-2009 has issued a conditional NOC to establish the modern slaughter house at village Ghosipur, Meerut with a slaughtering capacity of 350 animals per day.”

43. The Committee were also informed by the State Government of UP in writing that slaughtering capacity of slaughter house has been fixed as 350 animals per day. Veterinary doctors have been posted from time to time. These doctors perform post-mortem and ante-mortem of the animals. An ETP has been established by the contractor as per the directives of the then Municipal Health Officer and the Municipal Commissioner. The illegal furnaces have been demolished but some of them have been reconstructed by obtaining the stay order with *status-quo* from the Hon’ble High Court, Allahabad. Rest of the furnaces were earmarked on 05-06-2010 and are reported to have been demolished by the district administration on 07-06-2010.

44. According to the State Government of UP, the existing law is adequate but it appears appropriate to make it mandatory for the meat exporters to either have their own slaughter house or to carry out the slaughtering in such slaughter house which has dedicated capacity, before a license is issued to the meat-export units by the APEDA. This system will definitely bring down the number of illegally slaughtered animals appreciably.

45. In response to a question regarding establishment of a modern slaughter house at Ghosipur village, State Government of UP submitted in writing as under:—

“The land for the establishment of the modern slaughter house has been acquired in village Ghosipur but the possession of land has not been possible till now due to the protest of land-owners regarding the compensation of the land. The RFQ and RFP have been prepared for establishing the said modern slaughter house.

As regards the proposal of the Corporation submitted to the Government for sanctioning Rs. 3.20 crores for the construction of the slaughter house, the matter is under active consideration of the Government and the amount will soon be released.”

47. The Committee were informed by the State Government of UP *vide* their communications dated 03 July, 2010 and 17 July, 2010 received through the MoEF that an amount of Rs. 3.20 crore during the current financial year 2010-11 has been sanctioned/ released with certain terms and conditions for acquiring land at Gosipur village for establishment of Slaughter House. Fresh bids had also been invited as the applications received on 10 June, 2010 for construction of modern slaughter house were incomplete. These bids will be considered on 19 July, 2010.

Observations/Recommendations

48. **The Committee note from the submission of the petitioner, Dr. Laxmikant Vajpayee that a slaughter house located at densely populated Hapur road, Meerut is running under control of the Municipal Corporation of Meerut. According to the petitioner, the people living within a radius of 5 to 6 kilometre from this slaughter house, are forced to lead a hellish life. They are compelled to drink polluted water and to breathe suffocating and foul/smelling air. The provisions of the Central Water Act and the Central Pollution Control Act are being violated by this slaughter house. The petitioner has also claimed that the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India provide 20% subsidy on the export of frozen meat packing which is the sole reason behind the reckless slaughter of animals. The petitioner also claimed that Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board (UPPCB) had examined the potable water in the hand pumps of the area and also checked atmospheric air in the region and the same were found highly polluted. The petitioner has further stated that due to mass slaughtering of animals, the number of milching animals has decreased causing severe reduction in milk production. The UPPCB has directed the Municipal Corporation to close the slaughter house under section 33A of the Water Act and declined to issue No Objection Certificate (NOC) in this regard. The Municipal Commissioner was directed to close the slaughter house on 30 December, 2008. The petitioner has also alleged that the discharged sewage (solid/liquid) waste flows in the Odean canal which passes through the urban area, mingles with Kali river and thus pollutes the river. The animal bones brought from other districts are also boiled. The petitioner has claimed that the slaughter of animals is in violation of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act notified by the Government of India. The petitioner has, therefore, prayed that the slaughter house at Meerut should be closed down with immediate effect and the Government should stop grant of subsidy in the export of meat products and relief should be given to people of Meerut city from the ill-effects of water and air pollution.**

49. The Committee were informed that the slaughter house in question was established in 1956 after acquiring the land near Odean drain on the Hapur Road which was then on the outskirts of Meerut city. The slaughter House is being operated by the Municipal Corporation, Meerut. The purpose of establishing the slaughter house on the outskirts of the Meerut city was to shift it from the urban area and discharge the effluents through the Odean drain. Presently, the slaughter house has come amidst the dense population of the city. The slaughter house on account of being old, does not have modern facilities.

50. As per Uttar Pradesh Municipal Corporation (UPMC) Act, 1959 the Municipal Corporation is responsible for construction and maintenance of slaughter house. It is duty bound to run the slaughter house in compliance with pollution control norms. In compliance with its obligatory duties, it has to take appropriate steps to ensure that it is run in accordance with law. The Municipal Corporation is the licensing authority for running a slaughter house. No person can operate a private slaughter house without obtaining license from the Municipal Corporation. A No Objection Certificate has also to be obtained from UPPCB under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 for running the slaughter house. According to the Municipal Solid Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000, management of solid wastes (including from those slaughter houses) is also the responsibility of the municipal authorities. The UPPCB is supposed to monitor the compliance of the standards regarding ground water, ambient air, leachate quality and the compost quality including incineration standards as specified in Schedules II, III and IV of the Municipal Solid Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000, including such other conditions, as may be necessary.

51. It was brought to the notice of the Committee that inspection of the said slaughter house is carried by the Municipal Corporation, Meerut from time to time. The last inspection was done on 15 January, 2010. In addition, UP Pollution Control Board also inspected the slaughter house from time to time and collected the water samples on 16 February, 2009 from three hand pumps and a tube well installed in the vicinity of the slaughter house for testing the ground water pollution. After the analysis, the samples were not found to be in conformity with the specified standard.

52. The Committee were informed by the Ministry of Environment and Forests that UPPCB has not conducted any detailed study about the pollution caused to the environment and its ill-effects on the inhabitants of the area. There is no rendering plant facility in the slaughter house and the disposal of waste is not proper. No proper arrangement has also been made by the Nagar Nigam slaughter house for de-polluting the environment. In view of the water pollution, UPPCB had issued an order on 24 February, 2005 to the Municipal Corporation, Meerut to close down the slaughter house. In continuation of the above order, the State Government on 01 January, 2009 issued directions to the Municipal Corporation, Meerut that the illegally run slaughter house be closed immediately and no further contract be awarded until a no objection certificate is obtained from the UP Pollution Control Board. On 12 June, 2009, the State Government also issued directions to the Municipal Corporation, Meerut to ensure modernization of the slaughter house in compliance with the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The Corporation was further directed to ensure running of the slaughter house as an interim measure as per the requirement of the local population after obtaining the consent of the UPPCB. Since the Municipal Corporation did not take required steps to run the Slaughter House, the State Government on 21 August, 2009 directed the Corporation to make interim arrangement of meat for requirement of local population at the newly acquired site of the slaughter house at village Ghosipur. But according to the State Government, the Corporation is shirking from its responsibility under the Act and also not acting upon the State Government's directive.

53. The Committee are constrained to note that the slaughter house run by the Meerut Municipal Corporation is a major cause of water and air pollution in and around the area adjoining the slaughter house. While the permission had been given for slaughtering of 350 animals per day, it has been brought to the notice of the Committee that nearly 5000-7000 animals are reportedly being slaughtered every day. The blood of the slaughtered animals is discharged through open drains and the ground water has been rendered unfit for human consumption. No satisfactory arrangement or mechanism has been made/put in place for the disposal of animal waste. Illegal furnaces are being operated for processing of bones to extract fat and in the process, these furnaces emit foul smell which not only makes it difficult for the people of the adjoining area to breathe but is also adversely affecting their health in general. Water samples collected from the hand pumps and a tube well installed in the vicinity of the slaughter house for testing the ground water pollution amply proves the point as the same were not found in conformity with the specified norms. Since the slaughter house was causing pollution, the State Pollution Control Board directed the Corporation to close down the slaughter house. The State Government also directed the Corporation to close the slaughter house immediately until a no objection certificate is obtained from the State Pollution Control Board. The Municipal Corporation Board on 30 December 2008 also decided to cancel the contract of the slaughter house after blacklisting the contractor for slaughtering the animals over the prescribed number and for violating the norms and conditions of the contract. However, the Committee are anguished to note that the slaughter house and the illegal furnaces are still operating which, the Committee feel, cannot be without the connivance of certain officials of the Government. Although a large number of illegal furnaces have reportedly been destroyed by the local Administration and legal cases have also filed against those indulging in operation of illegal furnaces, still some people have approached the High Court and obtained stay order. The Committee feel that any such unit which causes any kind of pollution to the environment or those who fail to comply with the directions/guidelines in this regard should be closed down unless they take effective measures to address the issue. The Committee would like the MoEF/CPCB to coordinate with the State Government and other concerned authorities to get the stay order of the Court vacated so that all the illegal furnaces are demolished at the earliest. It should also be ensured that such illegal furnaces are not reconstructed and the guilty persons go unpunished. The existing mechanism including CPCB/SPCB should be strengthened to enable them to effectively monitor the activities of such units at regular intervals to prevent them to cause any kind of environmental pollution.

54. The Committee regret to note that the issue of water and air pollution which is adversely affecting the health of the people of the area, has not received the attention it deserves from the Government. It appears that all the concerned authorities lack the willingness to take any effective action in the matter. No sincere and coordinated effort has been made either by MoEF/CPCB or SPCB to conduct any study to assess the adverse impact of the waste generated from the slaughter house and foul smell/gases emitted from operation of illegal furnaces used for boiling of animal bones on the surroundings/underground water and inhabitants of the area. The Committee are anguished to note that in spite of the fact that the

slaughter house is being run by the Meerut Municipal Corporation for the last more than 50 years, the authorities concerned have yet to conduct any kind of study/research to assess the adverse impact of the hazardous waste generated by the slaughter house and foul smell of gases emitted by illegal furnaces on the inhabitants of the area. This clearly shows their insensitive approach on the issue. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the MoEF/CPCB in coordination with State Government should immediately conduct a comprehensive and independent study to assess objectively the nature and extent of harm caused or likely to cause to the inhabitants of the area as a result thereof. The findings of the study should also suggest remedial actions to be taken by the authorities concerned to address the issue.

55. Although permission for slaughtering of maximum 350 animals per day has been granted, no rationality for working out this figure has been adduced. Needless to say, over the years the population of the city has overgrown. With the rise of population, the demand of the meat consuming people may have also grown proportionately over the years and therefore, slaughtering of 350 animals per day may not be adequate enough to meet the genuine demand of the growing population of the city. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the present requirement of meat per day of the population of the city needs to be assessed rationally so that the slaughter house is accordingly permitted to slaughter the animals to meet the genuine demand of the local population.

56. The Committee are anguished to note that slaughtering of animals is being done in a completely unregulated and uncontrolled manner. There appears to be no check on the number of animals being brought to the city for the purpose of slaughtering. The authorities concerned seem to have completely abdicated their responsibility in managing the affairs of the slaughter house either for the purpose of providing hygienic meat to the local population or to meet the requirement of export-oriented units. This not only entails a substantial loss of revenue to the Government but also implies that there is absolutely no check on the quality of meat being supplied either to the local population or to the various export-oriented units. During the course of evidence, the Ministry of Commerce & Industry informed the Committee that APEDA (Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority) give licence for slaughtering of animals for meat processing plants for export purposes. It appears that these licences are being issued without much verifying /ascertaining the source(s) from where the requirement of raw material for these units will be met from. Since a large scale of unauthorized slaughtering of animals far in excess of the requirement of the local population, is reportedly being done in the slaughter house, there is strong possibility that meat is being supplied or diverted to these export-oriented plants in and around the city. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the authorities concerned should immediately review registration of all the export-oriented plants and if they are found procuring their raw materials from unauthorized sources, the registration of all those exporters should be cancelled forthwith. It should also be made mandatory for all the meat exporters to either have their own slaughter house or to carry out the slaughtering in such slaughter house which has dedicated capacity, before a licence is issued to

them by the authorities concerned. The Committee hope that as a result of these measures, the number of animals being slaughtered illegally will get reduced appreciably which, in turn, is bound to help in abatement of air and water pollution of the city.

57. Supply of meat for consumption of residents of the city is a genuine requirement. This duty requires the Corporation to run the slaughter house efficiently, following the pollution control standards. The Committee are happy to note that a modern slaughter house is being established at village Ghosipur on the outskirts of Meerut. The slaughter house would be based on PPP mode to be set up on a land measuring 5.26 Ha. An amount of Rs. 3.20 crore has also been sanctioned/ released by the State Government for acquiring land at Goshipur village for the purpose. The Committee expect the MoEF/CPCB to coordinate with and impress upon the State Government and all other concerned authorities to expedite the establishment of slaughter house within a stipulated time. Till the new modern slaughter house at Ghosipur is set up and is made functional, interim arrangements in conformity with the standards set by the CPCB/UPPCB should be made to meet the requirement of the local population.

58. The Committee are of the considered opinion that the MoEF/CPCB, being the nodal agencies, cannot absolve themselves of their responsibility on the issue. Both the Ministry/CPCB and State Pollution Control Board have an effective role to play to oversee that the prescribed norms of pollution are strictly complied with. It would not be just enough for MoEF/CPCB to notify the laws/guidelines for their compliance by the concerned authorities or the units. They need to ensure that these laws/guidelines are implemented in letter and spirit and if there is any lacunae in the mechanism, the same need to be rectified and immediate remedial/corrective measures are taken to address the issue.

The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken by the Ministry in this regard at the earliest.

NEW DELHI;
26 August, 2010
04 Bhadra, 1932 (Saka)

ANANT GANGARAM GEETE,
Chairman,
Committee on Petitions.

MINUTES OF TENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS
(FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA)

The Committee on Petitions sat on Thursday, the 11th March, 2010 from 1500 hrs. to 1650 hrs. in Committee Room 139, First Floor, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi to take oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying), Ministry of Commerce & Industry (Department of Commerce) and the concerned State Government officials of Maharashtra/Uttar Pradesh.

PRESENT

Shri Anant Gangaram Geete — *Chairman*

MEMBERS

2. Shri Rajendra Agrawal
3. Shri Khiladi Lal Bairwa
4. Shri E.T. Mohammed Basheer
5. Shri N.S.V. Chitthan
6. Shri Gurudas Dasgupta
7. Shri Jagdambika Pal
8. Prof. Ram Shankar
9. Shri Rakesh Singh
10. Dr. Sanjay Sinh
11. Shri Joseph Toppo

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri N.K. Sapra — *Additional Secretary*
2. Shri Ashok Sarin — *Joint Secretary*
3. Shri V.R. Ramesh — *Director*
4. Shri Hulasi Ram — *Deputy Secretary*

WITNESSES

Ministry of Environment and Forests

1. Shri R.H. Khwaja — *Special Secretary*
2. Shri Rajneesh Dube — *Joint Secretary*
3. Shri Rajiv Gauba — *Joint Secretary*
4. Dr. Nalini Bhat — *Advisor*
5. Dr. S.P. Gautam — *Chairman (CPCB)*
6. Dr. R.M. Kharab — *Chairman, Animal Welfare*

Ministry of Agriculture

1. Shri Rudhra Gangadharan — Secretary, ADF
2. Ms. S. Rawla — Joint Secretary

Ministry of Commerce & Industry

1. Shri Dinesh Sharma — Joint Secretary
2. Shri Amitabh Jain — Additional DGFT
3. Shri A.S.Rawat — GM, APEDA
4. Shri Tarun Bajaj — DGM, APEDA

Officials of the State Government of Uttar Pradesh

1. Shri Alok Ranjan — Principal Secretary
2. Shri Surya Prakash Mishra — Special Secretary
3. Shri C.S. Bhatt — Member Secretary
4. Shri Bhuvnesh Kumar — Collector, Meerut
5. Shri Sanjay Krishna — Municipal Commissioner, Nagar Nigam, Meerut
6. Dr. Rudra Pratap — Director, Animal Husbandry, UP
7. Shri R.C. Choudhary — Regional Officer, Pollution Control Board, Meerut

*The Ministry of Environment & Forests, Agriculture, Commerce & Industry
and State Government of Uttar Pradesh*

The Chairman welcomed the representatives of the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Agriculture, Commerce & Industry and the concerned State Government officials of Uttar Pradesh. The Chairman, then drew their attention to Direction 55(1) of the Directions by the Speaker regarding confidentiality of the proceedings.

The Chairman, thereafter, referred to the representation received from Dr. Laxmikant Vajpayee, Meerut, UP and forwarded by Shri Rajendra Agrawal, MP, Lok Sabha, regarding pollution caused due to slaughter of animals in slaughter house (Kamela) run by Meerut Nagar Nigam. The concerned Secretaries of the Ministries and state officials explained that they have acquired a land measuring 5,260 hectare in village Ghosipur on the outskirts of the city and got registered it in revenue records in the name of Municipal Corporation to construct a modern slaughter house which would be completed within three years. At present the slaughtering can be continued at the existing place by following the pollution control norms prescribed strictly. The remains to be taken away to a rendering plant which is available in Dasna. Further, the

Committee desired that the private slaughter houses and illegal furnaces running in the area may be stopped/demolished immediately.

3. A copy of the verbatim proceedings of the sitting of the Committee was kept on record.

The witnesses then withdrew.

The Committee then adjourned.

MINUTES OF THE TWENTIETH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS
(FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA)

The Committee on Petitions sat on Thursday, 26th August, 2010 from 1500 hrs. to 1545 hrs. in Chairman's Room No.014, Ground Floor, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Rajendra Agrawal — *Chairman*

MEMBERS

2. Shri Khiladi Lal Bairwa
3. Shri Devendra Nagpal
4. Shri Jagdambika Pal
5. Prof. Ram Shankar
6. Shri Rakesh Singh
7. Dr. Sanjay Sinh
8. Shri Joseph Toppo

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri N.K. Sapra — *Additional Secretary*
2. Shri V.R. Ramesh — *Joint Secretary*
3. Shri U.B.S. Negi — *Additional Director*
4. Shri Hulasi Ram — *Deputy Secretary*
5. Smt. Jagriti Tewatia — *Under Secretary*

2. In the absence of the Chairman, the Committee chose Shri Rajendra Agrawal to act as Chairman for the sitting under Rule 258(3) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

3. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the Members of the Committee and then the Committee considered and adopted the Tenth, Eleventh and Twelfth Reports with minor corrections.

4. The Committee also authorized the Chairman to finalize and present the Reports to the House.

5. The Committee, thereafter, decided to undertake an on-the-spot study visit to Kochi, Munnar, Bengaluru and Mumbai during September, 2010 to hold informal discussion with officials of Central/State Governments in connection with some of the representations undertaken by the Committee for examinations.

The Committee then adjourned.