

SIXTEENTH REPORT

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

(FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

(Presented to Lok Sabha on 24.11.2011)



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COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS
(2010-11)

Shri Anant Gangaram Geete—*Chairman*

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3. Shri Khiladi Lal Bairwa
4. Shri E.T. Mohammed Basheer
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SIXTEENTH 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 Sixteenth Report of the Committee to the House on action taken by the Government on the recommendations of the Committee on Petitions (15th Lok Sabha) in their Tenth Report on the representation received from Dr. Laxmikant Vajpayee, Ex-Minister, Uttar Pradesh and forwarded by Shri Rajendra Agrawal, MP, Lok Sabha regarding ill effect 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 Sixteenth Report at their sitting held on 21st October, 2011.

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

NEW DELHI;
21 October, 2011
29 Asvina, 1933 (Saka)

ANANT GANGARAM GEETE
Chairman,
Committee on Petitions.

REPORT

ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS
MADE BY THE COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS (FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA)
IN THEIR TENTH REPORT ON THE REPRESENTATION RECEIVED FROM
DR. LAXMIKANT VAJPAYEE, EX-MINISTER, UTTAR PRADESH AND
FORWARDED BY SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL, M.P. (LS) REGARDING
ILL EFFECT 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 (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) in their Tenth Report presented to Lok Sabha on 31.08.2010 had dealt with a representation regarding the ill effects of water and air pollution caused due to slaughter of animals in the Slaughter House (Kamela) run by the Meerut Nagar Nigam and related issues.

2. The Committee had made certain observations/recommendations in the matter and the Ministry of Environment and Forests were requested to furnish their Action Taken Replies thereon for consideration of the Committee.

3. Action Taken Replies have since been received from the Ministry of Environment and Forests *vide* their O.M. dated 04.05.2011 in respect of all the observations/recommendations contained in the aforesaid Report which have been detailed in the succeeding paragraphs.

4. In paragraph 49 of the Report, the Committee had observed as follows:—

“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.”

5. In their reply, the Ministry of Environment and Forests have stated as under:—

“The Slaughter House does not have modern facilities although it has established ETP units for treatment of its effluent that still needs to be further augmented with additional units.”

6. In paragraph 50 of the Report, the Committee had observed as follows:—

“As per Uttar Pradesh Municipal Corporation (UPMC) Act, 1959 the Municipal Corporation is responsible for the construction and maintenance of Slaughter House. It is duty bound to run the Slaughter House in compliance with the 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 those from 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.”

7. In their reply, the Ministry of Environment and Forests have stated as under:—

“The U.P. Board has accorded conditional consent for the existing Slaughter House and also issued NOC to the new technology based Slaughter House to be established at village Ghosipur. Further the State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) has accorded the Environmental Clearance for solid waste management scheme for Meerut to the U.P. Jal Nigam under the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006. The scheme includes development of sanitary landfill and composting at village Jalaluddinpur Gavdi, Kila Road, Meerut. This facility is planned for next 25 years for 600 Tonnes Per Day (TDP) of solid waste and its subsequent leachate. The U.P. Pollution Control Board’s Meerut office has been monitoring the progress regarding the development.

As per the last inspection on 23/09/2010, the upcoming project on the proposed site is yet to make a beginning. However, with the provision of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) treatment and disposal facility, the problem of solid waste handling is expected to be contained effectively in integrated manner on long term basis.”

8. In paragraph 51 of the Report, the Committee had observed/recommended as follows:—

“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, U.P. Pollution Control Board also inspected the Slaughter House from time to time and collected the water samples on 16 February, 2009 from three handpumps and a tubewell 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.”

9. In their reply, the Ministry of Environment and Forests have stated as under:—

“The U.P. Board, Meerut has been monitoring the ground water quality in the vicinity of the Slaughter House. The inspection done on 14/5/2010 included

three monitoring points which are tubewells inside Slaughter House premises, Kanch Ka Pul, Odian Nala Road, Umar Nagar, Meerut and Maszid kaif in Ashiyana Colony. Out of these, two ground water samples were found to be exceeding the permissible limits and the other was found within desirable limits. The analysis results indicated that the ground water contamination around the area does exist. During inspection on 11/8/2010 ground water samples were again taken from the points. The ground water quality has been found to be above the norms. The U.P. Board has directed the Municipal Commissioner, Nagar Nigam, Meerut *vide* letter dated 27/8/10 and dated 28/10/10 to take necessary steps and issue a public notice regarding the unsuitability of the water for drinking purpose.”

10. In paragraph 52 of the Report, the Committee had recommended as follows:—

“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 U.P. 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.”

11. In their reply, the Ministry of Environments and Forests have stated as under:—

“Pursuant to the U.P. Pollution Control Board’s directions dated 29/10/2009, the slaughter house installed Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) for control of water pollution. Further, the U.P. Board issued conditional consent from 07/06/10 to 31/12/10 to the Slaughter House under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 for slaughtering of 350 animals per day with direction to install additional ETP units by 08/09/10.

For establishment of modern Slaughter House at Village Ghosipur, the U.P. Board has granted NOC on 29/10/2009. The modern Slaughter House shall be equipped

with modern technology along with adequate waste disposal ancillary so as to contain solid wastes.”

12. In paragraph 53 of the Report, the Committee had observed/recommended as follows:—

“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 everyday. 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 been 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.”

13. In their reply, the Ministry of Environment and Forests have stated as under:—

“The U.P. Board has been monitoring the pollution control systems existing in the slaughter house at frequent intervals. This is being carried out with an objective to assess the efficiency of pollution control system and to monitor its operating parameters. This has been instrumental in further issuing directions regarding effective pollution control to the Municipal Corporation, Meerut from time to time. In this regard Regional office, U.P. Pollution Control Board, Meerut has conducted ETP inspection on 31/5/10, 19/6/10, 11/8/10. During the inspection, it has been found that the Municipal Corporation, Meerut has not been operating ETP properly and has failed to incorporate the required additions in the existing ETP. The U.P. Board, Meerut has also issued directions for operation of ETP to the Municipal Corporation, Meerut from time to time. However, ETP operation has not improved and the required additional units have not been established as has been found during last inspection on 11/8/2010. The results have shown that the effluent discharge from the Slaughter House has been exceeding the norms several times and deteriorating the water quality at discharge point.

Since the Municipal Corporation, Meerut has been violating the conditions of conditional water consent granted to it for the year 2010, the U.P. Board has issued notice under section 27(2) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended dated 28/10/10 before revoking the said consent. The process of establishing modern Slaughter House needs to be expedited further so as to eradicate the problem from further perspective in an effective manner. The U.P. Pollution Control Board has instructed the Municipal Commissioner, Municipal Corporation Meerut *vide* letter dated 28/5/10 to send the compliance report of various conditions stipulated in the NOC for establishing the new modern Slaughter House for slaughtering of 350 animals per day at Ghosipur village, Meerut and to submit the progress report of the project.

The issue of illegal furnaces was taken up with the U.P. State Pollution Control Board. The U.P. Board informed that committee comprising officials of district administration conducted survey in 2000 and found that total 544 No. of illegal bhatties (furnaces) were being operated by 64 owners. Out of these 544 bhatties, 430 Nos. of bhatties have been demolished during the period from 25.10.2009 to 31.10.2009 and the rest 114 bhatties, which were being managed by 14 owners and were operating with stay order issued by the District Courts have also got vacated.

The State Board further informed that the site was again inspected on 05.06.2010 by the officials of the State Board along with officials of Nagar Nigam, Meerut and found that 157 bhatties of 32 owners have been again established. Of these, 60 bhatties of 20 owners were not found operating during inspection for which it was recommended that the same may also be demolished. Further, 97 bhatties of 12 owners were found operating during the inspection of the said committee on 05.03.2010 having interim order from Hon'ble High Court, Allahabad.

The site was further inspected by the State Board Officers on 09.02.2011 and it has been found that only such bhatties are in operations, which have got stay order from the Hon'ble High Court, Allahabad in their favour.”

14. In paragraph 54 of the Report, the Committee had recommended as follows:—

“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.”

15. In their reply, the Ministry of Environment and Forests have stated as under:—

“The Slaughter House has installed effluent treatment plant (ETP) which consists of setting tanks (6 Nos.), diffused aeration tanks (2Nos.), chemical dosing tank, tube settler I & II, clarifier I & II and press filler.

The treated effluent contains total suspended solids 1960 & 2210 mg/l, BOD 3400 & 3600 mg/l and COD 7600 mg/l which are much higher than the prescribed standards.

The effluent from the treatment plant is discharged into nearby drain, which carries waste water. It can be seen the concentrations of total dissolved solids, BDO and CDO in drain water increased after the discharge of Slaughter House effluent.

The State Board has directed the Municipal Commissioner, Nagar Nigam, Meerut to take necessary steps and issue a public notice regarding the unsuitability of water for drinking purposes.

The existing Slaughter House should properly operate the effluent treatment plant and provide additional ETP units so as to meet the prescribed standards. The process of establishing modern Slaughter House at Ghosipur village needs to be expedited including the requisite facilities for effluent treatment and solid waste management.

In order to assess the ground water quality, ground water samples were collected from following sources for analysis:

- Tube well, Slaughter House premises
- Hand pump, Kanch Ka Pul, Odion Nala Road, Umar Nagar (Near Slaughter House)
- India Mark Hand Pump, Ashiyana Colony

The analysis result indicates contamination of ground water at two locations *i.e.* Slaughter House premises and Umar Nagar. The State Board has directed the Municipal Commissioner, Nagar Nigam, Meerut to take necessary steps and issue a public notice regarding the unsuitability of water for drinking purposes.

The existing Slaughter House should properly operate the effluent treatment plant and provide additional ETP units so as to meet the prescribed standards. The process of establishing modern Slaughter House at Ghosipur village needs to be expedited including the requisite facilities for effluent treatment and solid waste management.”

16. In paragraph 55 of the Report, the Committee had observed/recommended as follows:—

“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.”

17. In their reply, the Ministry of Environment and Forests have stated as under: —

“This para relates to the requirement of meat for the city population per day. The U.P. Pollution Control Board has granted NOC for construction of modern Slaughter House with slaughtering capacity of 350 animals per day.”

18. In paragraph 56 of the Report, the Committee had observed/recommended as follows:—

“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.”

19. In their reply, the Ministry of Environment and Forests have stated as under: —

“The CPCB has requested the Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India to provide information.”

20. In paragraph 57 of the Report, the Committee had observed/recommended as follows:—

“Supply of meat for consumption of residents of the city is a genuine requirement. This city 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 Ghosipur 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.”

21. In their reply, the Ministry of Environment and Forests have stated as under:—

“The CPCB *vide* its letter dated 17.03.2011 has requested the U.P. Pollution Control Board to provide latest progress report on the matter including

augmentation of Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP), monitoring of ETP effluent quality, recipient drain, ground water and establishing new Slaughter House.”

22. In paragraph 58 of the Report, the Committee had observed/recommended as follows:—

“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.”

23. In their reply, the Ministry of Environment and Forests have stated as under:—

“The CPCB is monitoring compliance through U.P. Pollution Control Board and the State Board is in turn coordinating with local agencies such as Meerut Municipal Corporation and District Administration for monitoring compliance.”

Observations/Recommendations

24. According to a representation submitted to the Committee, a Slaughter House, running under the control of the Municipal Corporation of Meerut is located at the densely populated Hapur road, Meerut. The people living within a radius of 5 to 6 Kms. from this Slaughter House are forced to lead a very difficult life. They are compelled to drink polluted water and to breathe in the suffocating and foul-smelling air. The provisions of the Central Water Act, 1974 and the Central Pollution Control Act, 1974 are being violated by this Slaughter House. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, provide 20% subsidy on the export of packed frozen meat, which is the sole reason behind the reckless slaughtering of animals. The Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board (UPPCB) had examined the potable water in the area and checked atmospheric air in the region and had found the same highly polluted. It has also been found that due to mass slaughtering of the animals, the number of milching animals has decreased causing severe reduction in the milk production. The UPPCB directed the Municipal Corporation to close the slaughter house under section 33A of the Central Water Act and declined to issue No Objection Certificate (NOC) to run the same on 30 December, 2008.

The petitioner alleged that the discharge sewage (Solid/Liquid) Waste flows into the Odean Canal—which passes through the urban area, it mingles with Kali river and thus pollutes the river. The slaughter of animals was in violation of Prevention of Cruelty to Animal Act notified by the Government of India. The animal bones brought from other Districts were also boiled here. The petitioner, therefore, had prayed that the Slaughter House should be closed down with immediate effect and the Government

should stop grant of subsidy for the export of meat product so that people of Meerut city are relieved of the ill effects of Water and Air pollution.

25. In this connection, the Committee were given to understand by the Ministry that as per Uttar Pradesh Municipal Corporation (UPMC) Act, 1959 the Municipal Corporation is responsible for the construction and maintenance of the Slaughter House. The Corporation is duty bound to run the Slaughter House in compliance with the pollution control norms. In compliance with its obligatory duties, the Corporation has to take appropriate steps to ensure that it is run in accordance with law. The Municipal Corporation is also the Licensing Authority for running a Slaughter House. No person can operate a private Slaughter House without obtaining licence 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 the ground water, ambient air, leachate quality and 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.

26. The matter was examined in detail by the Committee and they were constrained to observe in their 10th Report (15th Lok Sabha) that the Slaughter House run by the Meerut Municipal Corporation was 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 was brought to the notice of the Committee that nearly 5000-7000 animals were reportedly being slaughtered everyday. The blood of the slaughtered animals was discharged through the open drains and as a result thereof the ground water had been rendered unfit for human consumption. No satisfactory arrangement or mechanism had been put in place for the disposal of animal waste. Illegal furnaces were being operated for processing of bones to extract the fat and in the process, these furnaces emitted foul smell which not only made it difficult for the people of the adjoining areas to breathe but was 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 proved 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 also for violating the norms and conditions of the contract.

27. In view of the above, the Committee had specifically recommended that all the illegal furnaces should be demolished at the earliest and it should be ensured that such illegal furnaces were not allowed to be reconstructed and the guilty should not

go unpunished. The Committee had also recommended that the Ministry of Environment and Forests/Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in coordination with the State Government should immediately conduct a comprehensive and independent study to assess objectively the nature and extent of harm caused or likely to be caused because of the hazardous waste generated by the Slaughter House and foul smell of gases emitted by the illegal furnaces, on the inhabitants of the area. It was also desired that the findings of the study should also suggest remedial actions needed to be taken by the Authorities concerned to address the issue. The Committee had also recommended 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 a Slaughter House which had a dedicated capacity; before a licence was issued to them by the Authorities concerned. The Committee also expressed hope that as a result of these measures, the number of animals being slaughtered illegally would get reduced appreciably—which, in turn, would help in abatement of air and water pollution of the city.

28. The Committee note from the replies now furnished by the Government that, pursuant to the U.P. Pollution Control Board's directions dated 29 October, 2009, the Slaughter House installed Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) to control the water pollution. Further, the Board issued conditional consent from 7 June, 2010 to 31 December, 2010 to the Slaughter House under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 for slaughtering of 350 animals per day with the direction to install additional ETP Units by 8 September, 2010. The U.P. Board had also issued NOC to the new technology based Slaughter House to be established at Village Ghosipur. The State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) had accorded the Environmental Clearance for the solid waste management scheme for Meerut to the U.P. Jal Nigam under the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006. The scheme included the development of sanitary landfill and composting at village Jalaluddinpur Gavdi, Kila Road, Meerut. This facility was planned for the next 25 years for 600 Tonnes Per Day (TDP) of the solid waste and its subsequent leachate. The U.P. Pollution Control Board's Meerut office had been monitoring the progress regarding the development. The Committee are, however, concerned to note that as per the last inspection on 23 September, 2010, the upcoming project on the proposed site was yet to make a beginning. However, with the provision of the Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) treatment and disposal facility, the problem of the solid waste handling was expected to be contained effectively in an integrated manner on a long term basis. The Committee would, therefore, like to recommend to expedite the development of sanitary land fill and composting site within a fixed time-frame so that an immediate relief to the inhabitants of the area could be provided. The Committee would like to be apprised as to when this facility is expected to be ready.

29. The Committee further note that the U.P. Board has been monitoring the pollution control systems existing in the Slaughter House at frequent intervals. This is being carried out with an objective to assess the efficiency of pollution control system and monitor its operating parameters. This has been instrumental in further

issuing directions regarding effective pollution control to the Municipal Corporation, Meerut from time to time. In this regard Regional office, U.P. Pollution Control Board, Meerut has conducted ETP inspection on 31 May, 2010, 19 June, 2010, 11 August, 2010. The Committee are, however, shocked to note that during the inspection, it had been found that the Municipal Corporation, Meerut had not been operating Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) properly and has failed to incorporate the required additional ETP units in the existing ETP. The Committee further note that though U.P. Board, Meerut has issued directions for the operation of ETP to the Municipal Corporation, Meerut from time to time, still the ETP operation has not improved and the required additional units have also not been established—as has been found during last inspection on 11 August, 2010. The results had also shown that the effluent discharge from the Slaughter House had been found exceeding the norms several times and deteriorating the water quality at discharge point. The Committee, take serious note of the apathy of the Authorities concerned towards operating the existing ETP units properly so as to control the effluent discharge from the Slaughter House which is exceeding the norms several times and is deteriorating the water quality at the discharge point. The Committee feel this clearly shows their insensitive approach over a very serious issue. The Committee are also shocked to note that the Ministry/State Government have also not conducted any study to assess the adverse impact of hazardous waste generated by the Slaughter House. The Committee cannot but conclude that the Ministry/State Government have not taken their recommendation seriously. The Committee would, therefore, reiterate their recommendation made in their Original Report that Ministry of Environment and Forests/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 be caused to the inhabitants of the area. The findings of the study should also suggest remedial actions to be taken by the Authorities concerned to address the issue. The Committee also recommended that UP CB, Meerut should be directed to conduct inspection at fixed intervals and ensure that all ETP units are operational. The Committee would like to be apprised of the final and conclusive action taken in this regard within the next three months. The Committee would also like to be apprised of the latest position in regard to the functioning of additional ETPs which were to be installed by 8 September, 2010.

30. The Committee further note from the reply of the Ministry of Environment and Forests that the issue of illegal furnaces was taken up with the U.P. State Pollution Control Board. The U.P. Board informed that a committee comprising of officials of District Administration conducted a survey in 2000 and found that total 544 number of illegal bhatties (furnaces) were being operated by 64 owners. Out of these 544 bhatties, 430 Nos. of bhatties had been demolished during the period from 25 October, 2009 to 31 October, 2009 and the rest 114 bhatties, which were being managed by 14 owners and were operating with stay order issued by the District Courts had also been got vacated. The site was again inspected on 5 June, 2010 by the officials of the State Board along with officials of Nagar Nigam, Meerut and it was found that 157 bhatties of 32 owners had again been established. Of these, 60 bhatties of 20 owners were not found operating during inspection for which it was recommended that the same may also be demolished. Further, 97 bhatties of 12 owners were found operating

during the inspection of the said committee on 5 March, 2010 having interim order from Hon'ble High Court, Allahabad. The site was further inspected by the State Board Officers on 9 February, 2011 and it had been found that only such bhatties were in operations, which had got stay orders from the Hon'ble High Court, Allahabad in their favour.

31. The Committee note that during the survey conducted in 2000 by the Committee comprising of District Administration a total of 544 illegal furnaces were found, but out of these only 430 furnaces were demolished from 25 October, 2009 to 31 October, 2009 *i.e.* after almost 9 years. Surprisingly, when the site was again inspected after more than a period of 7 months, it was found that 157 bhattis of 32 owners had again been established by then. This only shows the casual approach of the officials of the State Board and Nagar Nigam, Meerut towards the whole issue. The Committee are of the firm view that if the Authorities concerned had taken the issue seriously and firmly and realized the gravity of health hazards these bhattis were causing to the people living in and around the area they would have succeeded in not only getting the stay vacated but also in demolishing all the illegal furnaces. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that the Ministry in co-ordination with the State Government should take an early action and get all the stays vacated so that not a single illegal Bhatti is allowed to function. The Committee also recommend to carry out inspections on monthly basis to keep a check on the re-establishment of illegal Bhattis. The Committee would like to be apprised of conclusive action taken in this regard within a period of three months.

32. The Committee are constrained to further note that no concrete action has been taken by the Ministry on their recommendation to review registration of all the Export Oriented Plants in order to check whether the procurement of meat is being made from some unauthorized sources and take suitable action against such meat exporters to reduce the illegal slaughtering of animals. In their action taken reply the Ministry have simply informed that, CPCB has requested the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Authority, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India to provide information. The Committee are unhappy with the casual approach of the Union Government/State Government in dealing with the whole issue. The Committee, therefore, strongly reiterate their recommendation that the Ministry should make sincere efforts in co-ordination with the State Government to review the registration of all Export Oriented Plants and if they are found procuring their raw materials from the unauthorized sources, the registration of all those exporters should be cancelled forthwith. They also reiterate that it should be made mandatory for all the meat exporters to either have their own Slaughter House or to carry out the slaughtering in a Slaughter House which has a dedicated capacity; before a license is issued to them by the Authorities concerned. The Committee would like to be apprised of conclusive action taken in this regard within a period of three months.

33. From the action taken replies furnished by the Ministry of Environment and Forests with regard to their other recommendations, the Committee note that certain actions have been taken which are as follows:—

- Since the Municipal Corporation, Meerut has been violating the

conditions of conditional water consent granted to it for the year 2010, the U.P. Board has issued notice under section 27(2) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1974 as amended dated 28 October, 2010 before revoking the said consent.

- The U.P. Pollution Control Board has instructed the Municipal Commissioner, Municipal Corporation Meerut *vide* letter dated 28 May, 2010 to send the compliance report of various conditions stipulated in the NOC for establishing the new modern Slaughter House for slaughtering of 350 animals per day at Ghosipur village, Meerut and to submit the progress report of the project.
- In order to assess the ground water quality, ground water samples were collected from following sources for analysis:
 - Tube well, Slaughter House premises
 - Hand pump Kanch Ka Pul, Odion Nala Road, Umar Nagar (Near Slaughter House)
 - India Mark Hand Pump, Ashiyana Colony
- The analysis result indicates contamination of ground water at two locations *i.e.* Slaughter House premises and Umar Nagar. The State Board has directed the Municipal Commissioner, Nagar Nigam, Meerut to take necessary steps and issue a public notice regarding the unsuitability of water for drinking purposes.

34. The Committee are shocked to observe from the replies furnished by the Ministry that no conclusive action at all has been taken by the Government/State Government to control the air and water pollution by way of either expediting construction of new Slaughter House at village Ghosipur, keeping check on excess slaughtering of animals, blacklisting of contractors for slaughtering animals beyond prescribed limit of 350 animals per day and proper functioning of ETP units to check and control pollution. The Committee are of the view that their recommendations have not at all been taken seriously. The Government/State Government have failed to evolve a satisfactory mechanism to stop or even control the increasing air and water pollution, which is adversely affecting the health of the people of the area. The Committee are, therefore, of the view that the MoEF/CPCB in co-ordination with the State Government should take concrete and conclusive remedial action to control the air and water pollution being caused by the Slaughter House. The Committee are also of the firm view that simply issuance of orders and directions to comply with the laid down norms/guidelines would not yield the desired results. The Authorities concerned should also conduct routine inspections and ensure that the prescribed norms/guidelines for controlling pollution are being strictly complied with. The Committee would, therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation that the MoEF/CPCB should ensure that the norms/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 taken to address the issue. At the same

time the Committee also, strongly recommend to expedite construction of the new Slaughter House at village Ghosipur within a strict time schedule. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken by the Ministry in this regard at the earliest and not later than three months of presentation of this Report to the House.

NEW DELHI;
21 *October*, 2011

29 *Asvina*, 1933 (*Saka*)

ANANT GANGARAM GEETE
Chairman,
Committee on Petitions.

ANNEXURE

MINUTES OF THE THIRTY-SEVENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS (FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA)

The Committee on Petitions met on Friday, 21 October, 2011 from 1430 hrs. to 1500 hrs. in Committee Room 'B', Ground Floor, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

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 Das gupta
7. Prof. Ram shankar
8. Shri Sarvey Sathyanarayana

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri P.K. Grover — *Additional Secretary*
2. Shri Shiv Kumar — *Director*
3. Shri Hulasi Ram — *Additional Director*
4. Smt. Jagriti Tewatia — *Under Secretary*

2. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the Members of the Committee. The Committee then considered and adopted without any modifications the following two draft Reports of the Committee:—

- (i) Draft Sixteenth Report on Action taken by the Government on the recommendations of the Committee on Petitions (15th Lok Sabha) contained in their Tenth Report on the representation received from Dr. Laxmikant Vajpayee regarding ill effect of water and air pollution caused due to slaughter of animals in Slaughter House (Kamela) run by Meerut Nagar Nigam and related issues.
- (ii) Draft Seventeenth Report on the representation received from Shri R.Y. Bankar, Mumbai regarding Uniform Caste Verification policy in Air India and related issues.

3. The Committee authorized the Chairman to finalize and present the Reports to the Hon'ble Speaker/House.

The Committee then adjourned.

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