

18.04 hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA—  
*Contd.*

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha :

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the *Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Bill, 1988*, which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 1st September, 1988."

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BENAMI TRANSACTIONS  
(PROHIBITION) BILL

[English]

AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY GENERAL : Sir, I lay on the Table the *Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Bill, 1988*, as passed by Rajya Sabha.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now the House has to decide about the extension of time, upto what time they want to sit, whether they want to sit for half an hour or more ? In the list which I have got, there are still eight Members who want to speak.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. NAMGYAL) : I think, let us extend the time of the House by another one hour because there are a few more hon. Members who want to speak. If

the hon. Members cooperate with us by being brief, I think we can finish it by 6.30 P.M. Anyway let us extend the time of the House by one hour. The hon. Minister can reply tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Is it the sense of the House that the time of the House be extended by one hour ?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The time of the House is extended by one hour. Shri Sriballav Panigrahi. Be very brief.

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18.06 hrs.

WATER (PREVENTION AND POLLUTION) AMENDMENT BILL—*Contd.*

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deograh) : Sir, I support this Bill. The single biggest problem facing the entire world today is how to keep water clean or how to clean polluted water or how to monitor and isolate polluted water ? This is a very big problem not only in India but all over the world. I would read something from a report about India. Some study was made in India that about 80 per cent of a city's water supply finds its way back into the drainage system as domestic and industrial waste and hundreds of millions of litres of sillage are discharged into water bodies or nullahs without even being primarily treated. According to WHO estimates, about 80 per cent of third world diseases are transmitted by dirty water. In fact such is the level of contamination of water that if all the world's water were represented by one gallon the quantity of safe drinking water would be only two litres. Further, according to the National Environment Engineering Institute, 70 per cent of India's inland water is unfit for human consumption. This leads to a loss of 73 million working days every year, costing the national exchequer more than Rs. 600 crores per annum.

[Shri Sriballav Panigrahi]

Industrial pollution accounts for only 10 to 15 per cent of the total river pollution on an average. But it is quite deadly because highly toxic substance are dumped into the rivers. The task of treating the wastes before being discharged into the river is done by only a few whom we can count on our fingers tips. Such is the magnitude of the problem.

Of course, this Bill is just a step in the right direction. But is it sufficient? Considering the magnitude of the problem, it is not at all sufficient. We have to accelerate our activities, and we have to provide more funds for this purpose.

I need not underline the importance or spend much time speaking about the importance of drinking water. You know that in the capital city of India itself i.e. in Delhi itself there was a great tragedy. We are still not 100% free from it. Due to contamination in drinking water supply, cholera claimed so many valuable lives in the capital city of Delhi—what to speak of distant and remote areas.

With our programme of industrialization the number of industries is on the increase. This problem is going to become more serious. So, necessary steps have to be taken.

I would now refer to Orissa. There, the water of the Mahanadi is unfit for drinking. According to a study conducted jointly by the University College of Engineering, Burla and the Post-Graduate Department of Life Science, Sambalpur University, two paper mills in Cuttack and Sambalpur districts are mainly responsible for polluting that river. The news report says :

"Pollution in the Mahanadi, the largest river in Orissa, has rendered the water at most places in Cuttack and Sambalpur districts unfit for human consumption".

I welcome this Bill. This Bill is no doubt an improvement on the existing Act but the question is whether it is sufficient to meet the situation which is just alarming. Sometime earlier, in 1987, we were

amending the Air Pollution Act; now we are combining both the Boards, viz. those dealing with air pollution and water pollution. But what prevented Government at that time itself from coming before the House with similar amendments to this Act? Why this lapse? What I plead is that more seriousness should be attached to this problem, and that it calls for serious thinking and concerted efforts to check the prevention and regulation of pollution of water.

Again, the Boards that are set up in the states, in many cases, are mere excuses when independent University or academic bodies have such studies and publish such dastardly reports. The Boards, in some cases, are under the clutches of the industrialists who are mainly responsible for polluting the environment and polluting the water. The Boards let off such industrialists, on the plea that the pollution is within safe limit.

When the State Boards fail to do certain work assigned to them, the Central Board will step in, according to the provisions of the amending Bill; and the Central Board will have to undertake their work also, i.e. of the two Boards. Of course, they are being re-named, or are being combined. Steps will be taken, and there will be stiffer punishments.

In paragraph 3(vii) of the Statement of Object and Reasons of the Bill it is said :

'for increasing the financial resources of the Boards, it is proposed to empower them to raise monies by means of loans and debentures.'

What will they do with the money so collected? Are they commercial organisation? They are not commercial organisations. Are they well equipped? Anyway, I welcome this provision also, provided they spend such funds properly on different projects, to prevent and regulate water pollution.

Again I would draw the attention of the Government and say that it is time to create mass awareness in this regard. A mass movement has to be built up, to

create awareness among the people, including the youth and students. People's participation, particularly at university level of students, youth and even of non-governmental organisations has to be ensured and again sufficient funds have to be provided along technical people etc., if they really mean business. There should also be a time limit for this.

I know in my own constituency, in Brajraj Nagar and in Talcher there are public sector undertakings, fertilizers plants thermal plants, coal industry, and all of them add to the pollution of the river Brahmani; so much so, the water down below is just untouchable. It cannot be touched. To whom shall we appeal ?

Then we know the Birlas have got their Orient Paper Mills in Brajrajnagar which has been sufficiently published. Everybody knows that they have rendered the drinking water of the river Mahanadi unfit for human consumption. But they are going scot-free; on this plea and they are going on with their work. Public awareness should be created and the Government should take vigorous steps. The Boards should ensure this. What is happening is, it is slow poisoning. The pollution, water pollution, it is all a process of slow poisoning of the entire society and the entire civilization and in a sense they are committing a murder. They should be treated as murderers and a far stricter punishment is called for. The seriousness and the magnitude of the problem call for stiff punishment. A concerted effort will have to be made to provide technical guidance to the Boards and adequate monitoring support also should be given. As I told you, the problem is enormous, but we have made a modest beginning and we have to accelerate the pace.

Anyway, this Bill in a limited form is a step in the right direction. I request that the Government should realise the real danger and accordingly step up their activities.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Ram Bhagat Paswan.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN (Rosera) : Sir, I rise to support the water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Bill.

This amendment to the Bill is a very important one. Ganga and Yamuna are two sacred rivers of India. As far as the Ganga is concerned, its water has medicinal value. Taking a dip in the Ganga and drinking its water actually cures diseases. It is most unfortunate that today the Ganga has an 80 per cent pollution level. Now the water of the Ganga is not the same as before when it was used as medicine. These rivers cover a distance of 2000 kilometres and are among the sacred rivers of the world. This is because many big cities are situated on their banks. The pollution level has risen so much because, effluents from industries in these cities are being discharged into the Ganga. Corpses of human and cattle are thrown into the river. With the result that the water of this sacred river has become polluted. So the hon. Minister should formulate a special scheme for cleaning the Ganga.

Similarly, pollution in the Yamuna results in the outbreak of epidemic in Delhi every year. The epidemic strikes either in form of cholera, 'Kala Azar' or fever. Epidemics are on the increase because of air and water pollution. Therefore, the Government should formulate a special scheme for the prevention of air and water pollution. Besides, the problem of pollution is not limited to urban areas alone, it has spread to the rural areas as well. Ganga fall into the sea but rivers flowing in rural areas have a length of just 10-15 kilometers. Human waste in rural areas is discharged into these rivers.

People carry out their abolutions in the water and then the same river water is used for drinking. Consequently, rivers in rural areas have also become polluted. Even the rivers like Kamla, Kosi, Bagmati and Gandak in Bihar have become polluted. There was a time when the water of these rivers used to be clean. It was a popular belief that a dip in any of these rivers would cure diseases. People used to drink

[Shri Ram Bhagat Paswan]

this water but today that water tastes bitter. The water, being unfit for consumption, has become a carrier of diseases. In rural areas silting in rivers is also one of the reasons for water pollution. Though engineers have constructed dams on rivers to check floods but the unplanned way of construction have caused silting. Water should have been diverted through canals at various points so that the silt could evenly spread on the ground. But this was not done and as a result the rivers of North Bihar have become polluted. Hence, diseases like cancer, T.B. and fever are affecting rural areas also. These and other diseases are mainly caused by impure water and air. The pollution level today is 80 per cent. It is the responsibility of the Central and State Governments to ensure clean water supply and a pollution-free environment to the people. The Government should pay special attention to rural areas because in rural areas the houses are built in an unplanned way as a result of which people do not get fresh air. There is need to pay attention to Urban areas also. Necessary arrangements should be made for water supply in rural areas. The Government should also attend to the silting of rivers over there. Poor villages are the worst affected as far as pollution is concerned. People in these villages drink water which is unfit for human consumption. I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister to pay attention to rural areas. A special scheme should be formulated to preserve the purity of river Ganga.

With these words I express my support for this Bill and conclude my speech.

**SHRI SHANKAR LAL (Pali) :** Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, while expressing support for the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Bill introduced by the hon. Minister I want to give some suggestions for its effective implementation.

This is infact a national problem and no industry should be allowed to add to the pollution. My constituency is suffering a lot from this problem. I have been a Member of the Vidhan Sabha since 1972. At that time Pali had 300 factories but now the number has increased to more than

600. The State Boards that were set up at that time are ineffective today. It has been provided in clause-9 that the Central Board can give orders to the State Board if need be. The Government has taken the right step by giving this power to the Central Board. But I want to draw the hon. Minister's attention towards the diseases affecting people in cities and villages because of water pollution. Polio and cancer are some of the diseases. A report of the research section of universities says that the coming generation could become disease ridden due to water pollution. So this problem needs serious thought. Lands of farmers are rendered uncultivable as they are submerged in industrial effluents. The hon. Minister can get a survey done of the 500 irrigation wells which have been rendered useless. Does this Amendment provide for relief to farmers whose lands have become uncultivable due to industrial effluents. Alongwith the clauses for penalty and punishment there should be a clause which provides for payment of compensation by industrialists to the affected farmers. Small farmers cannot go to court for compensation. At the time of elections thousands of farmers in my constituency showed the extent of damage to their lands and the pollution of river water. What kind of relief are they going to get? There should definitely be criminal prosecution but payment of compensation is also a must. This will provide relief to people and also put an end to the spread of disease.

I would like to draw the hon. Minister's attention towards clause 1(3) which says :

[English]

“(3) It shall come into force, at once in the States of Himachal Pradesh, Manipur and Tripura and the Union Territories, and in any other State which adopts this Act under clause (1) of article 252 of the constitution read with clause (2) thereof on the date of such adoption.”

[Translation]

When this has been accepted as a national problem, I shall request the Government to enforce this Bill in every State.

The law shall come into force from the day this Bill is adopted. If this is done then it will be applicable to new factories and industrial units only. The industries which are already in operation and are guilty of pollution will say that the law does not have retrospective effect. They will say that the law does not apply to them because they were operating much before the date from which the law came into force. I shall conclude with the suggestion that the affected people should be given compensation and this law should also be enforced on the industries already in operation.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) : I support the Bill brought forward in the House. A very good provision has been made in this Bill that if the State Pollution Boards do not fulfil their duties assigned to them, then their powers will be exercised by the Central Water Pollution Control Board. This provision is good in this respect also that since 1978, when such provisions were enforced, till now, in a very few cases we have been able to go to the court and the cases filed in courts are still pending. I would also like to say that several big industrialists have set up their industries on the banks of the river Ganga and are throwing the debris of these industries into rivers. The State Pollution Board have initiated action against some of them and they have filed cases in the courts. Now the matter is pending before the courts and every body knows what the decisions of the courts will be. Therefore, we have to make some provisions in this Bill against such action. If any action is taken against the people or the industries who are spreading pollution, then the appeal against this action should be filed only in the High Court or any other court equivalent to it so that they may be punished. Unless and until they will be punished, this problem would not be solved.

Four institutions are responsible for creating water pollution. Firstly the big industries about which I have already mentioned. Unless penal provision is made in the I.P.C. it will not be checked. Secondly, like industries, it is the municipalities which are throwing their debris into the rivers due to which rivers are getting polluted. Thirdly cremations done at the

banks of the rivers are also causing pollution. So use of electric crematorium should be encouraged in order to check pollution of the river. Fourthly, our Public Undertakings should take a lead in this matter because they are also releasing their effluents into the rivers. The Central Government should take an initiative in this regard.

As our hon. lady colleague has said that unless the pollution including soil, pollution is checked at the emanating points of the rivers, our purpose will not be served. This will require a lot of money. The Central Government will have to come forward to raise this money. Central Government will have to make a provision of money for this. In addition to this, concentration of big industries in the peripheries of the cities should also be banned so that small industries may be spread over in villages. This is absolutely imperative.

With these words, I support the Bill.

[English]

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Balasore)  
Mr Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am very grateful to you that you have given me the opportunity to participate in the discussion of a very important amendment for which I convey my gratitude to you. Besides, I must congratulate the hon. Minister that he has got this piece of amendment, but I do not know how far he will incorporate our suggestions in this amendment. Sir, we all know that the environmental pollution and river water pollution is such that our late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi took a lot of interest in it. She was speaking repeatedly and creating awareness among us, among the people of this country telling that 'the survival of human life depended on the survival of plant and animal life'. From her time till now we are trying to clear the environment and also on her initiative this Ganga Action Plan was introduced and we are grateful that our present Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv ji, has taken all initiative to clean the water of Ganga. Not only that, he also assured the nation that in the long run the Government would try to clean other inter-State rivers like Jamuna and other big rivers.

[Shri Chintamani Jena]

Sir, in the Bill the hon. Minister has made a provision that the River Control Board would be there in all the States. But in this connection I would like to draw his attention to one thing. What about the other big inter-State rivers? For the Ganga Plan the Union Government is providing funds. That is all right. But what about other inter-State rivers?

I am just citing one example. Suppose one State has a River Control Board and it is rigidly executing the provisions in the law of that State but the border State does not execute the provisions in the Inter-State river, how can pollution be avoided? (*Interruptions*)

Besides industries polluting the river water with effluents, the sewerage of the municipalities in urban areas also is polluting the river water. In this connection, what is the thinking of the hon. Minister? How can the municipalities and Notified Area Committees and other organisations which are discharging their sewage into the river water be advised and helped to see that they are treating it before letting the untreated sewage into the river? How will the Government come to their rescue so that it may be treated? (*Interruptions*)

Sir, I come from rural area. In rural areas, there are no latrines and urinals. People in the rural areas are used to pass stools and urine in open area and that too near water tanks, river channels, river beds etc., so that they get water nearby. In this connection, I request that latrines may be provided in all the villages so that they may not pollute the area as well as the water.

With these words, I support the Bill.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI R.S. KHIRHAR (Sitamarhi)** : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, water and air are both essential for survival of human beings. Mankind can survive for sometime without food, they cannot survive without water and air. Therefore, Governments concern for pollution of water and air is commendable and welcome one. I support the

Bill brought forward in the House. Some of my hon. colleagues have given enough stress on the pollution of water in the rivers Ganga and Yamuna. In my State also, the steps are being taken to control the water pollution in the river Ganga at Bhagalpur, Patna and other big cities in Bihar. Measures are being taken to prevent the Ganga water from being polluted. I welcome these steps.

Just now, Shri Harish Rawatji invited our attention to two to three points with regard to pollution. He attributed that river waters are being polluted due to release of effluents and sewerage by the industrialists and the municipalities into rivers. According to him, soil erosion and the cremation at the banks of the rivers are also responsible for water pollution. I would like to add one more point to it, which causes water pollution and that is the water logging. Government should conduct survey about the areas where water logging takes place. In rainy season, water is stagnated in hundreds of acres of land and causes pollution in absence of proper outlet of this stagnated water. Some days ago our colleagues from Bihar have expressed their anguish over spread of Kala-Azar in Bihar. This disease has also spread in my area, northern border of Bihar. I would, therefore, like to request hon. Minister that alongwith other things Government should conduct survey about the areas where rain water is stagnated and money should be provided to pump out the water.

With these words, I support the Bill.

[*English*]

**SHRI D.P. JADEJA (Jamnagar)** : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Bill introduced by the hon. Minister and while doing so I would like to draw his attention to page 16 of the Bill, Clause 5 (7) where it says :

“A member of a Board shall not be eligible for re-nomination for more than two terms”.

I would request the hon. Minister to reconsider this point because the Pollution Boards are controlled by people who are

known for their integrity and good work which they have been doing and it is only this category of people who come into such Boards and if you get such people, you should not restrict them for being on the Board for two terms. Take the State of Gujarat. The Pollution Control Board in Gujarat has been doing an excellent job and we have excellent people heading the Boards also and specially now we have a retired General who is known for his integrity, honesty and hard work and he has brought effectiveness to this Board in the industrial world by his sheer enthusiasm and practical approach. There are more industries in Gujarat which have been served notices by this Board and which have been restricted from polluting the waters of the ocean as the rivers and tanks but all the same the approach that was made is such that today, many industrialists, even though they do not like the method in which the Board has been working, appreciate the way in which they are being made to implement the Pollution Control Act. The pollution which we see around today hygienic some years ago. It has to be a combination of the two. We cannot eradicate it from the urban areas and leave it for the rural areas and vice versa. It will have to be done by a gradual process which means that the new industries which come in have to bring in pollution control methods. But what about all the industries? You cannot ask them to change overnight their structure, to put in equipment, import them or even get them locally. It upsets their industries from running. But, all the same, if a time-limit, proper advice and proper subsidy are given, I am sure no industrialist would like to pollute the air or the water or the ground. I would like to draw the attention of the Government to this aspect that as far as the small-scale industries are concerned, they are ten times more worried because the harassment will be much more to them than the bigger because the approach of the bigger industry is going to be much bigger than that of the small-scale industry. We will have to look to the industrial development on the one side and also the industrialisation of the country and employment on the other.

My friend Shri N. Tombi Singh said something about religious places. In my

constituency I have Dwaraka, a place to which people come from all over the country, even from abroad and what has happened there? Next to the temple we have the Gomti river. The forests have been cut off. There is no river. It is the sea water that comes in. Still religious people go and have the bath in the sea water. Now sea water also stopped. That so called river has now stagnated and the religious-minded person has a dip in that water also. We have to pay our attention to these matters. Religious sentiment is not something which you can change overnight. It will have to be changed gradually and the process will take some time but these religious centres should be paid more attention.

[Translation]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL (Kopargaon): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have been seeking an opportunity to speak for the last 15 days. I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. If there is any drawback in the Bill, it will have to be amended. The hon. Minister has brought forward a very good Bill. I thank him for this and support the Bill. This has become an international problem and has assumed a serious proposition in the gulf countries as sea water is polluted due to oil, as a result of which fish and other sea animals are dying in large number. The ONGC has also several oil fields near seashore, which are also causing pollution. Government should pay its attention towards this. Similarly, burnt gases are also polluting the environment, therefore, the Government should think about this thing also. This should be checked so that air pollution may not exceed. The Government should provide infrastructure for religious rites. There was a saying in the past that if the dead body is thrown in the river Ganga his soul get 'Mukti'. In this process, the people polluted the river water. The World Bank has given loan for treatment of Sewerage water. I appreciate it. Everyone raise the issue of pollution caused by the factories run by Public Undertakings but we do not say anything about the pollution caused by the factories owned by the Private individuals. All of them keep quiet

[Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil]

due to political reasons. We should consider this issue by raising ourselves above party-politics. When there are uniform laws for all the industries, then why we are not enforcing them on Private Sector industries? The Chairman of Maharashtra Board identified eight thousand industries in Maharashtra but they have no expertise. I do not know how much expertise the Central Government have. Central Government do not have expertise even for distilleries. If the expertise is not provided, it will be very difficult to find a solution to this problem. The Nuclear Waste in America is dumped in different seas. Our country should have a clear cut policy in this regard otherwise if other countries go on throwing their garbage in our neighbourhood, it will create problems for us. The hon. Minister has told me in reply to a question that economic policy should be considered from the social point of view. The financial institutions should be directed to give more funds for pollution control. We should not give more value to money than environment. I would like to request the Government to instruct the financial institutions to take a social view and not to give more priority to money. The problem of pollution is acute in Gujarat and Maharashtra because more industries are there. The distilleries are in abundance in Maharashtra state and the water released by these distilleries spreads into the fields due to which pollutes the underground water which is a source of water found in wells and tubewells. The local people are forced to drink this contaminated water. This industrial waste destroys the crops also. The position is a very serious one. The industries discharge their effluents in the sea, due to which fishes die. The animals are also falling victims to it. I read in a newspaper that many goats died in Aurangabad. The Government will have to pay more attention towards these distilleries and particularly to its adverse effects in the villages. The Government has empowered State Advisory Boards to have monitoring. But the Government should close those industries which are not implementing the directions properly. These industries should not be allowed to run just to meet the demands of the commodities produced by this. The Government

should not devalue the lives of human beings. The Government should pay attention towards them. More importance should be given to the lives of human beings.

I support this Bill.

SHRI YOGESHWAR PRASAD YOGESH (Chatra) : Sir, I will not take more time of the House. This Bill has been brought to amend clauses 27 and 28 of Sections 63 and 64 of the Act. The Government is trying to remove the pollution of water. This is not the cleansing of water alone, rather it amounts to cleansing of the lungs of the people also. The hon. Minister deserves congratulation for this. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Government have taken the responsibility to make the river Ganga pollution free. The work is going well but it is not so in Patna. All the waste products of Medical College and Municipal Corporation are going into that water. In Bihar, the extent of water is maximum in Patna. I want to submit to the hon. Minister that the water of the Ganga is of great utility in our life. During the summers the water in the river recedes. It has come in my knowledge that to increase the water of Ganga the Water Resources Department proposes to sprinkle charcoal on the snow bound peaks of Himalayas so that the flow of water can be increased. The Government may be of this view but in my opinion this experiment can have serious consequences now as well as in the future. Actually, the Ganga enters the plains only after Lakshman Jhoola, but our Water Resources Department is polluting the Ganga through this experiment at the very source. This can result in the ecological imbalance in future and could pose serious problems. So according to me, this experiment is inhuman. This will pollute the entire Ganga.

A number of schemes for cleaning rivers is going on in our country. In this connection I would like to draw your attention to Damodar river which flows across a big area of coal belt. Many washeries are located on its banks. Consequently, the water which is used in these washeries for washing the coal flows directly into the Damodar river. The colour of the water has become black and it is so much polluted



that no one wants to bathe in it what to speak of using it for drinking purpose. The importance of the river has eroded, Nobody wants to even bathe in it because people are afraid of catching diseases from it. In spite of this, the water of Damodar is being supplied in the town areas and that water is used every where. Due to this, the people of those areas are suffering from terrible diseases like Jaundice and asthma. The water is polluting due to the industries. It is true that we cannot close down the industries but we can change the course of river by diverting its flow to other areas. I hope that you will pay attention to it Without taking more time, I support this Bill and with these words I thank you.

CH. LACHCHHI RAM (Jalaun) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you that in spite of lack of time, you have given me an opportunity to express my views on this Bill In my constituency, there is river Betwa on the bank of which, there are some important villages of Bundelkhand area. On the bank of that river there is Tapi power house in Chirgaon in Jhansi district. The ash of the power-house is discharged into the Betwa river. Already there is scarcity of water in our constituency and the number of wells are also very less. Many of the small villages consume the water of that river alone. The same water is also consumed by the cattle. The river water, has become so polluted due to discharge of ash into it that it is not fit for drinking purpose So the people of that area are facing lot of problem. Besides, the smoke emission from that power house also pollutes the entire atmosphere.

Sir, ours is a developing country. After Independence, our attention was drawn to this direction and we provided hand pumps in the areas where there were no wells in the villages or where there was drinking water problem or the water available was polluted. We made efforts to provide clean drinking water. Now the Government is taking steps to stop the pollution in rivers and the efforts are quite commendable. Most of the leather factories are in Kanpur city and the effluents from these factories are discharged directly into the river. The Government

is also making efforts to stop pollution of air by those factories. It is unfortunate that these factories are polluting the air in this city, where lakhs of people live to the maximum Therefore, efforts should be made to check the effects of pollution on the people. Either the factories should be set up elsewhere or the citizens should be rehabilitated elsewhere, so that there health is not affected.

The city from where our hon. Minister hails, there are some factories which produce lot of pollution. From Kanpur, when we come to Lucknow and see dirt and garbage, around we know that we are in Unnao. It is like being nearer the Church, farther from God. The place from where the hon. Minister hails is full of dirt and garbage which has accumulated over the years and one is unable to even pass through that place. So it is necessary to make arrangements to check the pollution.

With these word, I support the Bill and feel grateful to you for giving me time to speak.

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI (Simla) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I congratulate the hon Minister and welcome this Bill which has been presented here for adoption I would like to submit that in Himachal Pradesh from where I come, there are limestone quarries near Simla, Nahan and Solan which are creating lot of pollution. Due to them, there is also considerable soil erosion in the area. Special efforts should be made to stop it. Secondly, cement factories in Himachal Pradesh are also creating pollution. Consequently, the residents are suffering a lot. The cattle is perishing and people are facing a worse situation. No action has been taken on the cases of pollution registered against the factories which are being installed in Baddi, Nalagarh and Mahatpur in Solan district. The provision which has been made in this Bill to solve this problem is very good. The intention of our Government has always been to check the pollution and provide relief to the people. But the factory owners do not take appropriate measures to check the pollution. If this thing goes on unchecked the day is not far

[Shri K. D. Sultanpuri]

when our survival will be endangered. So I would request that you should take action in this matter immediately. Besides, in the hill areas of Himāchal Pradesh, a lot of soil erosion is taking place because of deforestation which is resulting in extensive damage. It has come to my knowledge that an officer has constructed a big hotel in Simla. The scheme of the building is such that about 20 trees have been encircled in it. These trees are 150 years old. I have raised this question in the main meeting also and I am raising it here also. I demand that strict action should be immediately taken against such persons. I would like to submit to the Central Government and the State Government that they should take immediately in such cases. With these words, I support the Bill.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Members for almost unanimous

support to this important measure. The problem of water pollution, air pollution, soil pollution and sound pollution is a problem which has to be attacked in a multi-pronged manner. Passing of certain legislation and providing for some stringent punishment is only one of those steps which ought to have been taken and it is that measure which strengthens the hands of the implementing agencies, providing them teeth to get the implementation done by the gross polluters.

The other things which have to be done are : creating a public awareness, strengthening the implementing agency and also the involvement of the people.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You can continue tomorrow.

19.00 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, September 2, 1988/ Bhadra 11, 1910 (Saka)*