

Timilpur of Kako Block, Rostmachak of Kurtha Block and Malhi patti of Arwal Block. The entire population of these villages consist of harijans and backward classes of weaker sections of the society. The Central Government and the State Governments were informed in writing one year in advance in this regard. But no measures were taken to save the above mentioned villages. Now the people who have become shelterless have not been rehabilitated as yet. If steps are not taken to save the above mentioned villages this year also, then rehabilitation of its 15,000 people will become a big problem for the Government. I demand from the Government that State Governments should be directed to take steps to check the erosion of the river so that the above mentioned villages can be saved.

[English]

(vii) **Need to reduce the delay in clearance of out-station cheques by banks**

SHRI R. ANNANAMBI (Pollachi) : It is rather surprising that even after 40 years of Independence, our country has not yet progressed in the Banking system. Very often clearing of cheques of out station banks is taking longer time resulting in heavy loss to the depositors and other regular customers. It is imperative that a quick clearance system be evolved to see that out-station cheques are cleared in a maximum of two to three days so that the regular depositors and customers can plan their dealings and other transactions. For instance, a cheque drawn on Madurai Branch of Indian Overseas Bank has taken seven days to get cleared and that amount was credited after ten days of its deposit in the New Delhi Branch. It is requested that an effective and quick prompt system be evolved to see that clearance of cheques is effected in the shortest time.

(viii) **Need for immediate constitution of Statutory Development Board for Vidarbha region of Maharashtra**

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT (Nagpur) : Vidarbha region in Maharashtra State is the most backward and under-developed area. People of Vidarbha region

have not got their due share in the development plans. Various Committees constituted by Government have also given the finding that there is tremendous backwardness, in this area. At the time of formation of Maharashtra and also merger of the Vidarbha region with the State, the fear which was prevailing in the minds of the people of likelihood of injustice was removed when assurance was given towards formation of Statutory Development Board under Article 371(2) of the Constitution of India. Under this Article, a special provision for the development of Maharashtra was made. In spite of assurances to the effect that the underdeveloped areas of the State would not suffer for want of attention in the matter of development, actually the area has not received a fair deal and the result is that the people in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra State continue to suffer and languish in the matter of development in the economic, social, educational and industrial fields.

I, therefore, urge the Central Government that it is now high time that Government takes immediate steps towards formation of the Statutory Development Board for Vidarbha region.

12.22 hrs.

**AIR (PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF POLLUTION) AMENDMENT BILL—Contd.**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now we take up further consideration of the Bill to amend the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

[Translation]

DR. G.S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I was saying yesterday that you have done a laudable job by removing the schedule from this Bill. Along with this, I was giving the example of refractory where silica, fire-bricks etc. are manufactured. The whole industry is divided into 4 or 5 parts and each of them is given on sub contract to separate contractors. So if silica mixing is done at one place, the brick-kiln work is undertaken

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somewhere else and despatch work is done in another place altogether. So it becomes difficult to take action in such cases. Whom can you name the owner and put him behind the bar? Hence, you have taken a proper step by removing the schedule from this Bill. Now onwards, any person or institution causing pollution will be taken to task.

I want to submit that in the recent past, people did not even know as to how cement industry, refractory industry or asbestos industry were causing pollution and how this pollution was causing serious diseases. When a worker reached the stage of retirement he was invariably afflicted with serious diseases like Cancer, T.B. Silicosis sbestos, etc and the factory owners never disclosed to the poor workers that these diseases were due to pollution. The poor workers were also not aware of the actual situation and believed that it was the act of fate and the result of their doings in their previous births. They felt helpless and died gradually. They did not get any medical treatment anywhere.

Recently I was in Canada. There was a powerful lobby of the industrialists. I observed there that one investigating journalist had written some despatches against the owner of the largest asbestos unit. Efforts were made to lure that journalist and inducements were promised to him in order to stop him from writing against them. But he did not given in. Ultimately all the asbestos industries were closed down in Canada on account of what was exposed in the Press. In our country it will not happen like this. But I will certainly request my journalist friends that in addition to exposing the politicians they should expose such industries also which are causing pollution in the country and the people should be made aware of it. I would also suggest that workers should be warned about pollution hazards in factories. Big boards bearing warnings like we find them written on cigarette packets viz. 'Smoking is injurious for health' should be hung at the gates of factories warning against various diseases which may afflict the workers working there. In this way workers will take precautionary measures to protect themselves while working in these factories. Besides, it should

also be mentioned as to what are the rights of the factory workers. The workers should know about their rights. You have provided in this Bill that any individual can file a case in such circumstances. But what can the worker do when he is not aware of his rights. Therefore, it should be prominently displayed that so and so disease can afflict persons working in such and such factories and these are the various rights under which one can initiate action against the concerned factory owner. Until he is apprised of his rights, he cannot take any measures to protect himself.

Further, it has been provided that anyone can move the court after giving a notice of 60 days to the Board. How many people can afford to go to the courts? If there is need to go to court for them, then Government should provide legal aid. If someone wants to take legal action against an industrialists responsible for pollution, then in such case, he must get full compensation for that. This is not the question of one particular industry but that of all the industries and pollution is increasing at a rapid pace.

As our hon. Prime Minister in his recent address at U.N. General Assembly said about environment that we should not allow Bhopal Gas Tragedy or Chernobyl disaster to occur again in this world. People died of pollution in Bhopal but they have not received any compensation so far. Everyday we read in the newspapers that out of court settlement is being made. We also read about arguements given by American Companies that it was a case of sabotage. It seems if the case would go on dragging for 5 to 7 years in this way and in the meantime the people would go on dying. On the contrary, in the pollution case of the Sandaz Pharmaceutical Company in West Germany, in which the effluence had polluted the Rhine river and which caused much damage in both West Germany and Switzerland, the company paid crores of dollars in compensation to both the countries. How similar cases are settled in such a short time in other countries but not in our country?

The word Bhopal evokes danger today. In the Foreign Press whenever there is a report on leakage of gas, it is invariably compared with Bhopal. It is sad that inspite

of the concern which it has expressed, the affected people of Bhopal have not received any tangible help so far. What are the reasons for it ?

In regard to air pollution in industries, it has been provided that if a certain limit is crossed then Government representatives or Inspectors will take action in respect of that factory. How will it be assessed that the limit has been exceeded ? There is no doubt that a measuring machine is installed there but these machines are not very effective. It is compulsory for industries to provide masks for workers wherever necessary. Not even one per cent of the workers are supplied with masks by the employers. The inspectors also may be bribed to give false certificates to the effect that there is no pollution or pollution does not exceed the limit. So what is foolproof system evolved by the Government to protect the workers from becoming the victims of pollution ? The poor worker is not at fault. He is becoming the victim because the richer are getting richer and there is no one to look after his interests.

DR. DATTA SAMANT (Bombay South Central) : You can only talk. This situation will not change.

DR. G.S. RAJHANS : We shall change it. I want to say that you will not be able to change it. With the path that you have adopted, it will not be possible to change it. We shall change it.... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

DR. DATTA SAMANT : There is not a single laboratory with the Government to check the gases. So, what is the use of saying that ?

DR. G.S. RAJHANS : I think there are quite a few laboratories.

DR. DATTA SAMANT : Not with the Government.

[*Translation*]

DR. G.S. RAJHANS : In this Bill it has been stated that the practice till now has been to take action only after receiving information about pollution in certain factory. But now it has been made compul-

sory to take permission before setting up an industry and to get it certified that the industry will not cause any pollution. I think this will not have good results.

Everyone knows what happens in the States. Pollution is there but the concerned authorities are paid under the table to certify that there is no pollution. In this situation you should ensure that there is no delay in setting up industry by taking the plea of pollution. Again, you very well know that pollution exists in the congested areas where factories have been set up. But here also it happens that when the authorities take action against some industry, stay order is obtained from any lower court. I have said earlier also that welfare measures should not be delayed due to any stay order. The people are threatened that if this industry is shifted from here, thousands of people will be rendered jobless and they will lose the source of their livelihood, so this industry should remain there no matter how much pollution it may cause. There is need to think over this aspect in a cool and calm atmosphere. Some way should be found to avoid court stay. If some factory owner obtains stay-order, the pollution will continue for many years to come. The Government should bring forward a Bill barring the courts from issuing stay orders in this respect. A Board consisting of some retired judges may be set up which may certify that a particular industry is causing pollution or something wrong is happening and there should be a provision barring that industry from approaching the court.

In the end, I will say that in the real sense this is a commendable Bill. But in my opinion a comprehensive Bill should be introduced which may cover all other aspects of environment also.

A new thing is emerging in foreign countries now. It was contemplated that airconditioner is helpful for us but since 1978 when oil crisis developed, people have started tampering with the airconditioner. The same air is circulated again and again and there is no fresh air. There is a lot of criticism on this score in the Western countries. Because this causes drowsiness, nausea and other ailments. The people of our country are not aware of it yet. When

[Dr. G.S. Rajhans]

they will learn about, this aspect, it will be too late. The Western countries are so much cautious about the pollution. Should we not learn a bit from them ?

It was argued that principles should be backed by demand and supply. You may pass an order that a particular factory causes pollution and one should not work there. But if workers are removed from that factory, a demand will be made to provide jobs to them and that we may not be able to do. Actually we should take strict measures to end pollution instead of closing down any factory in the name of pollution and not to issue licence to them on the plea that it will cause pollution. I am of the view that there is need to make it more comprehensive.

[English]

SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL (Erandol) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, in England this linear Act was brought as early as in 1956. Because of industrial development, industrial pollution was on the increase and due to smoke and other pollutants in the atmosphere in the year 1952, for some days there was smog all over the British island, all over the country of England.

It was a very bad coincidence that about 4000 people died during that spell. We have got fresh history of Bhopal tragedy. In 1984, thousands of innocent people had lost their lives and lakhs of people have been crippled in Bhopal tragedy. But it is not the industrial pollution alone that pollutes the air. It is also we human beings by breathing in a very large number pollute the air. Sir, earth is the apparently only planet where there are living beings and this is because we have got certain percentage of gases in the atmosphere which are conducive for life on earth and if this percentage is disturbed by imbalance created because of human activities, then there is going to be a very great chaos of big loss to human lives and species within the near future.

Since the dawn of civilisation, man has utilised nature for his use and for the use of society. He has got the forest for constructing houses, for obtaining timber and

for raising crops. He has also used waters for fishing. And by doing so, he started disturbing the ecological balance. But nature could convert that balance again into proper percentage for our good living conditions. But with the start of 19th Century, after the Industrial Revolution, this balance has started shifting and because of persistent use of energy and other industrial production, we have started disturbing the balance of carbon dioxide in the air and if this balance is continued to be disturbed for some more years, then scientists fear that because of the carbon dioxide balance has increased in the air, there will be shift in the rain-fall pattern and also in the temperature which will result in the shifting of species of animals and plants. For example, if you take the wheat crop, it requires sufficient cold atmosphere and if a little warm atmosphere which is created but because of more carbon dioxide in the Northern part of India the yield of wheat will be reduced. It is not this danger alone which the scientists fear. With the increase of combustion and increase of carbon di-oxide in the air all over the world, it will become a question of common survival or common extinction. We think of nuclear holocaust that may erupt because of the Third World War and people will lose their lives and mankind may extinguish.

But scientists also fear that because of imbalance created in nature, in percentage of atmospheric gases, by the turn of this century we may lose one-fifth of the animal and plant species which may be a greater loss after disappearance of dinosaur 65 million years ago. That is why we have to control the imbalance that has been created in the atmosphere because of air pollution.

Coming to the local conditions, in India, Sir, we have seen that this pollution is in the metropolitan cities and clean air has become a rare commodity in the congested cities. We find that the green belts and open grounds are allotted for construction by individuals and institutions through unscrupulous methods. For avoiding congestion, the Air Pollution Control Board should be empowered to cancel such allotments to individuals and institutions. This unscrupulous construction of buildings by

individuals and institutions creates further congestion in the cities. So, I would request the Minister to make provision to empower the Board and see that if such allotments are made, the Board is consulted by the Municipalities or other authorities before the allotment of such open grounds and green belts.

So also, because of the carbon monoxide gas emitted by the vehicles running on the roads, the defective engine vehicles should be stopped from operating in the cities. There should be a provision in the Bill so that more carbon monoxide will not be emitted in the air.

I would like to suggest that thermal power plants should not be located near the cities because the thermal power plants in addition to emitting a lot of coal dust, consume oxygen in the process of burning of coal and this is converted into  $\text{CO}_2$  and the rate of conversion is 12 tonnes of coal consume one tonne of air from the atmosphere. So, the thermal power plants should be located away from the cities. In India, right from the start of the 20th century our population is increasing rapidly and we will be four times more by the turn of this century, and every individual who is born breathes in 30 kg. of air per day and the oxygen is converted into carbon dioxide which, in turn, is re-converted into oxygen by the plants. But what is happening is, in the beginning of the 20th century, apparently 30 per cent of the forest cover was there. It may not remain even 10 per cent by the turn of the century. On the one hand more oxygen will be consumed by more number of people because of the increase in the population and there will be less plants available to convert the carbon dioxide into oxygen by the method of photosynthesis, and that will create imbalance.

The air polluting industries are refineries, foundries, cement plants asbestos plants and other chemical plants. About the cement plants and asbestos, my learned friend, Dr. Raj hans has told the House in detail. About refineries, when we come to Mathura Refinery, we find that even stones, the dead material, are not free from the effect of the sulphur dioxide that is being emitted from the Mathura Refinery and the

Taj Mahal, the world famous monument, is in danger ; even the birds of the Bharatpur sanctuary will be affected, and the acid rains that may fall after some years will also cause great damage to the human life in the surrounding areas.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, to stop or to reduce air pollution created by combustion of fossil fuels, solar energy should be utilised in the production of energy for industrial purposes and for vehicular traffic.

It is a better solution for we Indians because we have got great sun-shine and solar energy is free from pollution. It does not convert oxygen into Carbon-monoxide or Carbon-dioxide which pollutes the air. Therefore, I would like to suggest that in India we should encourage using more solar cookers for cooking on large scale. If we think scientifically, 40% of the cooking in India can be done by means of solar cooking which will save fuel wood, gas and kerosene and avoid combustion also which results in air pollution.

I was surprised to hear that Pakistan has participated in the Australian Car race wherein motor-cars run on solar energy were used. India could have participated in it had we invented that type of motor-car. But we are not putting a lot of efforts in the direction of solar energy. With good sun-shine available, we should be able to invent and manufacture motor-cars run on solar energy. It would reduce pollution in cities in general and pollution in the atmosphere all over the country, in particular.

Lastly, I would state that people in big industries and in industries which are potentially air pollutants, try to avoid pollution control measures for commercial economy. In such cases, the Government should think of starting such industries in the public sector, instead of giving permission to the private sector. So also, in some industry, if we make production on large scale, the rate of pollution is less. For example, in the paper industry, if the production is 90 tonnes per day, the pollution is 10%. But if it is 30 tonnes per day, the pollution is also 30%. In such major pollutant industries, we should think of production on large scale, instead of allow-

[Shri Vijay N. Patil]

ing them on mini scale or small scale. The pollution coming from the cement factory is injurious for human health as well as for crops. Therefore, small scale cement industry should not be allowed to spread all over the country. This should be our new policy and new thinking, when we are thinking to control air pollution.

Lastly, I would like to conclude that fuel economy and less fuel consumption is the best kind of maintaining clear air. That should also be tried and encouraged. With these words, I would like to support the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Bill.

[Translation]

\*SHRI P. PENCHALLIAH (Nellore) :  
Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I support the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Bill, 1987.

Sir, many legislations were made in the past to prevent air pollution. But none of them were implemented successfully. Now there is one more Bill which seeks to prevent and control air pollution. What is important is the effective implementation of the Act. I am sorry to say none of the Acts on prevention and control of the air pollution has been implemented with sincerity and purpose.

There were no rains in the country this year also. It resulted in an unprecedented drought throughout the country. There is acute famine everywhere. The main reason for this unprecedented situation is imbalance in ecology created mainly by destroying our forests and the intensity of pollution. All of us know very well that there is an intimate relationship between the environment and natural calamities like drought. We have failed to protect our forests in the past. The forests are in fact being wiped out. Deforestation is going on to this day in spite of the fact that there are several legislations to prevent it. Every one knows how beneficial these forests are to the mankind. These are the very forests which absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and in turn release oxygen into the atmos-

phere which is so vital for our survival. Similarly it is the forests which help us to have rains which provide us with water without which no one survives. They also preserve the fertility of the land. Kerala and Assam are the only States in the country which receive adequate rains. Cherapunji in Meghalaya still holds record for the maximum rainfall in the country. What is the reason for the heavy rainfall in these areas? It is because of the forests which thrive in these areas. Forests are well developed and preserved in these areas. Hence they get good rains every year. Such is the importance of forests. This Government is not taking adequate steps to protect the already depleting forests. No concern has been shown by the Government for preservation of our invaluable forests. Persons who wield a lot of influence are still allowed to destroy forests and make money. A poor man is dragged to the courts if he collects some fire wood. He will be harassed with innumerable cases filed against him even if he bends a small branch of a dead tree while the influential persons are not even touched though they destroy the entire forest. In Karnataka we have the quality Sandal wood trees. These forests are full of red sandal trees. This sandal wood is acquired illegally and exported to foreign countries by some unscrupulous persons. There is no one to take action against them. The need of the hour is to bring to book such unscrupulous elements however influential they might be and check deforestation. These unscrupulous elements are minting money at the cost of the nation. It is surprising to find this Government sitting mum and refusing to take action against such persons. At least now the Government must take steps to see that our forests are not destroyed by these influential elements.

Sir, there is no fresh air to breath, be it a city or a rural area. Everywhere the air is polluted. In fact the air pollution has reached its saturation point. Of course, one can easily come to the conclusion that there will be nothing but polluted air when every available tree is being destroyed mercilessly. At least now we must realise that there can be no fresh air without trees.

Though the pollution has reached its peak in our cities and towns, no effort was made by this Government either to prevent it or at least to control it.

Wood plays an important role in our day to day life. People in rural areas largely depend on forests for their fire wood even to this day. Wood is required for having construction of houses. Hence it is but natural that the trees and forests are destroyed in the process which ultimately leads to air pollution as well. The Government forests should be well developed and protected so that the requirements of wood do not lead to destruction of forests. We have not yet reached a stage where we can dispense with the use of wood in the construction of houses. Nor is there any cheap alternative to the firewood as a fuel is available in remote areas. Hence Government should plan such a way as to adequately meet these two demands of providing wood for the construction purposes and also as a fuel. If enough wood is grown to meet these demands I think the destruction of forests will come to an end. The cooking gas should be popularised and made available at cheaper rates in our rural areas so that the consumption of firewood is minimised. All these steps are quite necessary if we sincerely want that our forests are not destroyed.

Every year we celebrate 'Van Mahotsav'. On that particular day sapplings are planted by the VIPs every where. A lot of publicity is given to such functions. No one bothers about those sapplings the very next day. Such publicity stunts will not help in growing more trees. There should be a spontaneous response and awareness among all to grow more trees. Then only the movement to grow more trees would bear fruits. By planting a few sapplings on road sides on a particular day will not help us grow more forests. The number of trees destroyed are far more in number than we plant. Hence this imbalance has got to be checked at once.

Sir, we have been demanding from time to time quick clearance of Telugu Ganga. But the Central Government has been withholding clearance on the pretext that the proposed canal runs through the Reserved Forest Area, though there is no forest

whatsoever existing there. We have also promised to grow more forests, more than four times than the existing forest area. If the project is cleared we will get enough water to grow more and precious trees around Telugu Ganga. I hope, at least now the project will be cleared in view of the added advantage of forests. Telugu Ganga is a mighty canal running from Sri Sailam to Tamil Nadu. We will grow forests around this canal through its length. Unfortunately much of the precious time has been lost and I hope atleast now the Government would take steps to clear this project.

Let me come to water pollution now. Water pollution is in no way less than the air pollution. The waters in our wells, tanks and rivers continue to be polluted unabatedly. Government has not taken any steps to prevent this unprecedented water pollution. Industrial effluents are being released into these waters. These effluents are highly poisonous. At the Government is permitting the industries to release them into the neighbouring rivers and ponds. The same water is being used by millions for drinking and other domestic purposes. No wonder it is damaging the health of everyone who is using that water. Strange diseases which have no cure as yet are surfacing every day. Hence pollution has got to be checked forthwith.

Sir, our sewerage system is also far from satisfactory. The tunnels which carry dirty water run side by side to the tunnels or pumps carrying drinking water. Whenever there is leakage in either of the two, the drinking water gets mixed up with dirty water in many areas. This kind of pollution has also to be taken care of. Drinking water is too precious a thing to waste. It should not be allowed to be polluted by used water. The pipes which carry drinking water should not be laid by the side of drainage tunnels. These are some of the measures which require urgent attention of the Government.

There are some Control Boards set up to control the pollution of the river Ganga. It is just a small step in the right direction. Such Control Boards are necessary to check pollution in every river in the country. Not only Ganga, but every river in the country is

[Shri P. Penchalliah]

getting polluted very badly due to various factors. It is not enough if we control the pollution of Ganga neglecting other rivers. The water in other rivers will not be free from pollution if the river Ganges is cleaned. Hence I plead for the establishment of Pollution Control Boards for all the major rivers in the country. The water in every river has to be cleaned. Then only, the water in the country can be saved from pollution. It is needless to add that it contributes to the health of the nation.

Sir, the pollution caused by industries is no less significant. Due to our defective industrial policy, all the industries in the country are now concentrated only in towns and cities. Due to the concentration of industries, the air in urban areas has become very much polluted. Poisonous gases are being emitted by the industries into the atmosphere. In order to avoid the emission of poisonous gases into the atmosphere and thus save the health of millions of people living in the cities, the industries have to be decentralised. The industries both in the Public and private sectors should be set up far from the cities and towns. It will also help in contributing to the prosperity of rural areas. Latest devices have come up to check the industrial pollution. Instead of emitting, the poisonous gases into the air, they should be neutralised by releasing them underground through modern devices.

Sir, now the industrial effluents are being released into the rivers nearby which ultimately carry them to the sea. Those who travel by sea get affected by this pollution. Not only that. Fish and other marine beings which thrive in the to sea consume these poisonous substances. When such fish etc. are consumed by human beings those poisonous substances are transmitted to them. As a result, many of those who consume sea food are bound to get dreaded diseases. Hence steps should be taken to see that even our sea water is also protected well against the industrial pollution.

Sir, I conclude my speech thanking you for providing me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska) : Sir, I rise to support the Bill. Now, we are

very much concerned about the water and air pollution. A time has now come to balance development with environment. The poor people suffer from pollution and the water-borne diseases kill many persons especially the industrial workers who reside near-by the factories and housing colonies. We have the bitter experience of the victims of the gas leakage from the Union Carbide Factory killing about 2000 persons and maiming about 2 lakh people. So, the industrial safety of the personnel has to be provided and people have to be trained with modern technics of coping with any kind of disaster.

These industries should be established away from the towns. We are now very much concerned about the forests. In this House, we have passed many bills about the forests and how best we can protect cutting of trees. But, Sir, though the Bills have been passed and they have been converted into laws, yet, at the implementation stage, we find that still more trees are being cut. Government is giving huge amount for afforestation as well as social forestry.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You can continue later on.

13.00 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.*

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at three minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

DISCUSSION ON THE STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER RE : SITUATION IN SRI LANKA

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Don't you want to continue the discussion? Will you start? It seems you have dropped the idea.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI (Guwahati) : I think, I should start the speech.

AN HON. MEMBER : That is good.

[English]

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : Mr.