

## **LOK SABHA DEBATES**

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*Monday, April 23, 1990/Vaisakha 3, 1912  
(Saka)*

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*The Lok Sabha met at  
Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*English*]

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

**SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the normal courtesy which a Government shows to the House is that when new Ministers have been sworn in, they will be introduced alongwith the portfolios allotted for them. We should know as to who is dealing with which portfolio before we ask our questions.

**THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA):** Sir, we are awaiting President's Proclamation regarding portfolios. We will introduce them after the Question Hour is over. (*Interruptions*)

**MR. SPEAKER:** Now, let us start with the Question Hour.

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### **ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

#### **Expenditure on Pollution Control in Delhi**

\*554. **SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:**  
**SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:**

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to keep Delhi pollution-free, the Central Pollution Control Board is spending more money as compared to the amount spent on other cities in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI):**

(a) The Central Pollution Control Board, in addition to its overall coordinating role for the country, also functions as the State Pollution Control Board for the Union Territories, which includes Delhi. The role of the State Pollution Control Boards in their respective jurisdictions is to notify, monitor and enforce standards under the pollution control legislation. The execution of pollution control measures is the responsibility of the polluting units. The expenditure of the Pollution Control Boards is towards their regulatory responsibilities. It will not be possible to determine this expen-

diture separately for cities, including Delhi.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to remind the hon. Minister that while inaugurating the fifth Pollution Control Board at Anand Parbat in Delhi on the 20th of this month, she had stated in her speech delivered on the occasion, as reported by the UNI:

[English]

"Delhi is one of the three worst polluted cities in the world despite the fact that the Central Pollution Control Board was spending the maximum on the city to keep it pollution free."

[Translation]

When questions are asked in the House, the hon. Minister says that figures are not available with her whereas in her public speeches she furnished detailed information in respect of expenditure being incurred. The hon. Minister should furnish the factual information in the House also. We come here to seek information through questions. Therefore, I would like to know the basis of her speech.

[English]

**SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI:** I do not think, I have been reported correctly. When I said that Delhi is one of the third most polluted cities, it was based on the World Watch Review brought out. Secondly, I did not say that we are spending the maximum money here. What I said was that we have a large number of staff people here. We have approximately forty people attached to the Board for monitoring pollution standards in Delhi, which is, I think, higher than any other city.

As I said before, we are operating in the Union Territories and of all the Union Territo-

ries, Delhi has the highest number of people working for monitoring the pollution. I think, it depends mainly on the number of industries that have to be monitored. In Delhi State, there are 50-60 thousand small industries which need constant monitoring.

[Translation]

**SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, while making public speeches, hon. Minister should speak with responsibility.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Whatever she speaks here, only that is considered authentic.

**SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:** Sir, I appreciate your gesture. But Minister should reply with utmost responsibility. This type of statements may create panic in the country..... (Interruptions)

**MR. SPEAKER:** Please maintain order. Put your question.

**SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:** In the same speech, she stated further:

[English]

"Mrs. Gandhi said that in the next five years, fifty per cent of the population is likely to have cancer and 20 per cent of the new-born babies are likely to be mentally retarded."

[Translation]

This has been reported by the UNI and it has appeared in the newspapers throughout the country. Why did she say so? If at all this is the reality, has any thing been done to meet the situation?

**SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI:** Sometimes the newspapers tend to turn the facts slightly. What I said was not fifty per cent, but that a hundred per cent people run the risk of environmental induced diseases including cancer, dwarfism, mental retardation etc., a lot of which are caused by pollution. I also

said that a large number of people being taken to hospitals with diseases like cancer, mental retardation and a lot of other diseases, are victims of environmental pollution, whether it is lead poisoning, chromium poisoning, air and water pollution etc. As I said, the question was not fifty per cent of the people, but what I said was hundred per cent people.

[Translation]

**SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:** This is not true.

**MR. SPEAKER:** What she speaks here should only be treated as authentic.

**SHRICHHEDIPASWAN:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the total population of Delhi is about 80 lakhs. About 14 lakh vehicles move on the roads of Delhi. They emit 847 lakh pounds of smoke. Will everybody be required to carry oxygen box with him by the end of the century?

[English]

**SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI:** I do not know whether a time will come when we will have to use oxygen boxes. I understand that in some city in Japan, they have started using oxygen masks to a certain extent. I hope this question of air pollution will not go that far that we have to resort to Oxygen booths which also exist somewhere. The hon. Member is absolutely right that there are about 14 lakh vehicles in the city. At the moment a drive is being taken by the Ministry of Surface Transport to check pollution levels of vehicles because they are the major source of pollution in the cities.

[Translation]

**SHRI KALKA DAS:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, from the pollution point of view, Delhi is one of the three highest polluted cities of the world. Recently the hon. Minister visited the industrial area of Anand Parbat in my constituency and she issued specific instructions there. I would like to know from the hon.

Minister what steps are being taken to check pollution in the highly polluted areas like Anand Parbat, Connaught Place, walled city and the areas particularly where there are mines and crushers operate. Secondly, Cholera has broken out many times due to pollution in Rajokri area. Whenever there is a marriage ceremony in that area, crusher owners are requested to stop their operation so that the food is not polluted by the dust particles emitted from crushers. No attention has so far been paid towards it. I would like to know the steps being taken in regard to assurance given by the hon. Minister to check the dust pollution in the adjoining residential rural areas caused by crushers. I would like to know whether the Government will close the operation of these crushers till steps are taken to equip them with dust separation devices? Besides, what measures will be taken by the Government to check possible spread of cancer and cholera and other diseases due to this pollution?

[English]

**SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI:** Sir, I think there are about 46 crushers and they are all illegal. We have found this after I personally visited Anand Parbat. We have formed a Delhi Pollution Committee which will work in coordination with the Delhi Administration. Some of these crushers are going to be moved out and some of them have established dust separation devices. For the one in Rajokri, we are providing water for dust separation device. However, with specific reference to Anand Parbat, I would like to say that there the pollution is caused by small industries. Some of these small industries are established illegally. It is difficult for me to shift them up because the Pollution Control Board has only the regulatory role. So, we are establishing camps and teaching them as to how to de pollute the industry themselves.

[Translation]

**SHRI KALKA DAS:** It has been stated by the hon. Minister that 46 crushers are regularised but in practice more than 100

crushers are in operation. I would like to know as to why illegal crushers are not being stopped. The matter can not be evaded by merely saying that the Government is taking necessary action in this regard. I would like to know why licences are being issued to the so called illegal factories being run in Anand Parbat.

[English]

**SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI:** Actually these are mainly backyard activities.

Secondly, Sir, all the Rajokri dust.

**AN. HON. MEMBER:** You should prosecute them.

**SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI:** We can only prosecute them if they pollute the environment. We cannot remove them or do anything about them. The hon. Member can take up steps to remove illegal industries in his own constituency. We can only help him to de pollute his constituency.

[Translation]

**SHRI KALKA DAS:** I would like to know whether the Government propose to prosecute the owners of illegal factories?

**MR. SPEAKER:** I am not permitting you. Now Shri Ram Naik to put his question.

**SHRI RAM NAIK:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, just now the hon. Minister stated that motor vehicles create a lot of pollution and it is necessary to take strict action to check it. But strictness has increased so much that the number of matadors meant for ferrying MPs has been reduced from 6 to 3 as three of them have been impounded by the police on that ground. I would like to tell you that the vehicles of traffic police are creating much more pollution, they are emitting black smoke. Over-zealous policemen are not sparing even the vehicles meant for Members of Parliament. In such a situation, who will care for the rikshaw pullers? I would like to know whether any practical steps will be taken to control

pollution in regard to the vehicles. The vehicles were challaned and we were asked to get down. Will the Government look into the matter?

[English]

**SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI:** As you probably know by now, the first car to be inspected and challaned was of mine. It is a question of setting a moral tone. If the traffic pollution people get an MP's car inspected or the MPs' bus inspected, it sets a moral tone for doing it to smaller people, to more defenceless people. I do not think that you should object to doing something like that.

The second thing is this. The question is either we do a programme like this slowly and cause a problem to everybody in Delhi over a longer period of time or we get this operation over very quickly so that you and I can lead a safer life in the city.

[Translation]

**SHRI RAM NAIK:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I said that the emission level from Government vehicles is also quite high and they too are contributing in a large measure to the pollution problem. I am not against the pollution level testing of vehicles but Government vehicles like police vehicles should also be checked. Attention is required to be paid in this direction in order to curb pollution.

**SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI:** Police vehicles are also being checked.

**SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. This is the second time that you have permitted me to speak in spite of my repeated requests.

**SHRI BANWARILAL PUROHIT:** Previously, that was your maiden speech, now it is your maiden question.

**SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is obvious, that they are grossly under-equipped to monitor the pollution and also for implementing the recently

amended Motor Vehicles Act.

I would like to ask the Minister the following:

What steps she is taking to adequately equip all the concerned Departments, especially in the urban areas and whether she is proposing to put certain equipment on the OGL list or are you going to manufacture this equipment indigenously?

**SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI:** I agree completely that they are under-equipped. But unfortunately, this question does not come under my Ministry. It comes under the Ministry of Surface Transport. I can only ask them to do something. I think, they have 20 pieces of equipment which they are distributing to the best of their ability in Delhi itself. I am afraid, I cannot answer as to what equipment they have and where it is. All I know is that they are doing very best with what they have.

As far as under-equipment is concerned—I suppose they will buy more equipment, since it has now come to national attention that this is a very serious problem.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI TARIF SINGH:** Sir, there is heavy pollution in the areas near the Badarpur Thermal Power Station. The smoke and ash emitted by the power plant is polluting the air breathed by lakhs of local residents. When people hang their washed clothes to dry, the clothes are encrusted with ash. May I know from the hon. Minister if the Government would take steps soon to check the pollution being caused by the Badarpur Thermal Power Station?

[*English*]

**SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI:** Regarding Badarpur Power Plant, it has already come to my attention several months ago. We have already set in motion. I think, there are four units which we have already connected to de-pollution devices. There is

only one unit left which in itself is very strongly polluting. That one unit will be dealt with. It is already in the process of being done. It is being shut down today, in fact. (*Interruptions*)

**MR. SPEAKER:** Now next question.  
Mr. Faleiro.

(*Interruptions*)

**MR. SPEAKER:** I have gone to the next question.

(*Interruptions*)

#### Technological Parks

\*555. **SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO:**  
**SHRI KALP NATH RAI:**

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to State:

(a) whether Technological Parks were established in different regions of the country to supply latest information on science, technology, etc. to agriculturists, industrialists and others;

(b) the work done by each park during the last three years; and

(c) the total financial assistance given to the projects during the last three years?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON):** (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### STATEMENT

(a) to (c). Whereas no Technological Parks, per se, have been established so far in the country, proposals to set up Software Technology Parks and a Technology Park at Bangalore under the auspices of Depart-