

The second part of the question relates to what has been done in Ladakh. I would like to submit that in Ladakh we are trying to use photo-voltic technology and even other alternatives.

MR. SPEAKER : Next Question, Shri T. Basheer.

AN HON. MEMBER : You please give me an opportunity.

MR. SPEAKER : Let everyone in the House have a chance to say something.

“Pollution in Dal Lake, Kashmir”

*330. SHRI T. BASHEER : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Dal Lake in Kashmir, a major tourist attraction, both for inland as well as foreign tourists, is losing its attraction due to pollution and heavy silting; and

(b) if so, whether Government of India propose to undertake a suitable project for the purpose of maintaining the importance of this tourist spot ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. But the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir have a scheme for making the lake pollution free. Its components include :

Construction of stone pitched bund along periphery to check encroachment; construction of settling basin to arrest silt before it enters the lake; selective deeeding to control weed growth; removal of obstructions to improve water circulation; Soil conservation in the catchment area; and relocation of houseboats in proper order so as to connect these with a sewerage system.

SHRI T. BASHEER : I am backing the House from the Himalayan mountains to the Kashmir Valley.

In the statement the Hon. Minister stated that the State Government has submitted a scheme to the Central Government for its

approval. I would like to know whether the State Government have requested for any central assistance, if so the details. Along with that, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether there is any scheme with the Central Government to provide financial assistance if some State Governments come forward with schemes to prevent pollution in lakes and rivers in the country and if so, I would like to know the details from the Hon. Minister.

SHRI VIR SEN : The question relates to Dal lake and so I will confine to that only. The State Government of Jammu and Kashmir has requested for an assistance of Rs. 21 crores for pollution control in the Dal Lake whereas the budget of the Central Government for curbing air pollution is only Rs. 28 crores. So it is not possible for the Central Government to provide so much money.

The request has been received by the Ministry of Works and Housing which has passed it on to the Department of Environment. We have communicated to the Ministry of Works and Housing that it is not possible to provide so much assistance.

MR. SPEAKER : It is a case of musical chair.

SHRI T. BASHEER : Pollution has become the concern of the entire nation. The Operation Ganga scheme is welcomed and appreciated by the people of India. There are other rivers in India like the Yamuna, the Cavery, the Godavari and in Kerala the Periyar. I would like to know whether any comprehensive study is available with the Central Government on the pollution problem of rivers and lakes; if so, do the Government propose to formulate any scheme for protecting these lakes and rivers from pollution and other hazards ?

SHRI VIR SEN : The Government of India would like to take steps for pollution control in all lakes and rivers, but there are financial constraints. We will take up these measures in phases whenever funds are available.

SHRI D. N. REDDY : Kashmir has been famous for two things—lion of Kashmir and Dal Lake. The lion of Kashmir is no more. Are you going to allow the Dal Lake

to go the same way? Very recently the Prime Minister has taken up a gigantic project of purification of holy Ganga. Compared to that it is only a miniature project which has to be taken up immediately. Without Dal Lake tourism trade in Kashmir will be negligible. Will the Hon. Minister take immediate steps to purify the Dal Lake and make it more attractive?

SHRI VIR SEN : The State Government is taking steps in this direction. Certain steps have already been taken by the Government. It has spent Rs. 8.5 crores on this so far.

Physical Targets for Telecommunications

*333. **SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA :** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Department's spokesman has claimed that the physical target of telecommunications original plan of Rs. 12,000 crores would be maintained;

(b) if so, how this is sought to be done when the financial outlay has been cut down; and

(c) whether any cut in telecom. plan would affect the electronics industry programme to raise output to Rs. 10,000 crores by 1990?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) to (c). A Statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Statement

(a) The Department's Spokesman had stated that the original plan allocation for the Department of Telecommunications has been curtailed. However, efforts were being made to mobilise resources through other means so that large scale reduction in the Telecommunication plan does not become necessary.

(b) Alternative arrangements for mobilisation of resources are under consideration.

(c) Any cut in telecommunication plan would affect the Electronics industry programme as telecommunication forms nearly 40 per cent of the electronics plan.

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : I am glad that there is an assurance that though the Planning Commission had imposed a cut in the Plan allocations, the Government will explore other sources for raising the resources for the Telecommunications Department. I would like to know whether with the increasing adoption of electronics digital system in the telecommunication the demand for its components will grow. I would also like to know what plans are being made to manufacture the components here and whether it is a fact that the French Collaborator, Alkalton and Thampson, is insisting on a large percentage of components being imported from France.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Sir, we have given 3 letters of intent for manufacturing the digital equipment for this purpose.

As to the insistence of the company from France, I think we will take a decision in an appropriate manner. They may put forth their point of view and we will take a decision in the manner which is useful to us.

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Sir, the reply is not clear. I wanted to know whether the Government policy is to increase the percentage of components manufactured in India. Anyway, Since the telecommunication is becoming more and more electronic oriented and the Electronics Department is having a great say in the matter the result is that telecommunication engineers are having some kind of resentment. I would like to know whether there is any proposal either to transfer the telecommunications department to the Electronics Department or to evolve some method of coordination between the two.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : We have a plan to indigenise these components and the equipments in the country and take it to the level of 80 per cent. By the end of the next Plan we may be