

like to know whether there is any proposal to amend Sections 80C and 80E of the Income Tax Act and whether the Government is proposing to have expenditure tax also.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : I have already requested my friend not to ask any more question. Anyway, the Budget will be presented on the 28th February.

High Powered Authority on Environmental Conservation

***32. SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK† :**
SHRI MANIK REDDY :

Will the Minister of **ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS** be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to constitute a high powered authority on environment to advise Government on a national conservation strategy in the country;

(b) if so, its composition and terms of reference; and

(c) the time by which it will start functioning ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) to (c). The details of an Environment Protection Authority, which, among other things, will advise the Government on National Conservation Strategy, are being worked out.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has not given a correct reply to my basic question. I had asked whether there was any proposal to constitute a high powered authority on environment to advise the Government on a national conservation strategy in the country, but the hon. Minister has given some different reply. So, I want to put a supplementary question to him. According to a study report of the World Health Organisation, Delhi is the third most polluted city in the world. If

the above study report is correct, then I want to know as to what steps the Government has taken to control pollution, especially in view of the fact that anti-pollution measures are undertaken here carelessly and attitude of neglect prevails in this connection and whether there is any proposal to constitute a high powered authority or a board for an effective monitoring of the work ?

SHRI Z.R. ANSARI : Sir, the hon. Member has said that I have not given a correct reply but if he looks into it he would find that my reply has been very clear. Under Section 3 (3) of the Environment Protection Act the Government is considering the proposal of constituting an authority which will also advise the Government on conservation strategy. Sir, the issue of pollution would also be under the above-mentioned authority. It is not true that the Government has not taken effective steps for controlling pollution. With your permission, I would like to submit before the House the details of the various steps taken, specially in regard to Delhi. Our difficulty is that the problem of environmental pollution cannot be solved very quickly. Wherever pollution is caused by smoke emitted from thermal power stations, we have, from time to time, taken up this case with the concerned authorities and have advised them to install their electrostatic precipitators properly and rectify their working. However, taking steps in this direction will consume some time. We got one thermal power station closed because of its excessive pollution. It would not be proper to get all of them closed because then questions would also be raised regarding the shortage of electricity. The second most important cause of pollution is the automobiles and vehicles. In this connection also we have taken appropriate steps at the manufacturing stage and in the matter of petrol supply. Effective steps have been taken to reduce sulphur and bad contents in the fuel. These are the steps we have taken and are taking to solve the pollution problem of Delhi.

SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK : According to a recent survey conducted by the Central Pollution Control Board, the primary cause of pollution in the urban areas is the domestic rubbish thrown out and the open dirty drains. If this is

true, then I want to know from the hon. Minister as to what steps have been taken by the Government in this connection ?

SHRI Z.R. ANSARI : So far as the question of water pollution is concerned, it is true that domestic waste is thrown into the rivers and that our sewerage system has become old and obsolete. The Delhi Administration is making full efforts to renovate the sewerage system and it has formulated several schemes for this purpose.

SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether a scheme to clean the river Yamuna, on the lines of the Ganga cleaning scheme, is under consideration ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : What is the question number ?

MR. SPEAKER : No, no. Shri V. Tulsiramji, it is a supplementary question.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, he is upset since evening.

MR. SPEAKER : You haven't offered him something to eat.

SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know whether there is any scheme for cleaning the pollution of the Yamuna water under consideration or not and if there is one, then when would the work start and when would it be completed and also from which place would the cleaning work start ? Thirdly, I want the hon. Minister to assure the House today that the cleaning of Yamuna pollution would be started from Mathura, the birth place of Lord Krishna.

SHRI Z.R. ANSARI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the scheme for cleaning the river Yamuna is also under our consideration and the States have also sent their proposals and schemes for it. We are looking into them. We want to clean the abode of every God but it is not possible to make all the places pollution free at once. If Gods and men both make combined efforts, then perhaps it may become possible.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a point of order. I want to know from the hon. Minister as to how many Gods are there and how many of them is he going to purify ?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No point of order.

[Translation]

MR. Z.R. ANSARI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in case I have injured the feelings of the hon. Member, I would like to apologise for that. My only intention was to say that India is a country of Gods, sages and ascetics. And as it is a land of Gods and ages we want to make every nook and corner of it pollution free. This is our intention. If there is anything wrong in it, then I take back my words.

MR. SPEAKER : Do not try to stretch every matter too far.

[English]

Extension of Bombay Computer Cheques Clearing System upto Kalyan Complex

*36. **SHRI S.G. GHOLAP :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to extend the jurisdiction of Computer Cheques Clearing System of Bombay upto Kalyan Complex; and

(b) if so, when it would be extended ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India has reported that in the General Body Meeting of the Bombay Bankers' Clearing House held on 17th November, 1986, a decision has been taken to extend the area of jurisdiction of the Bombay Bankers' Clearing House to Kalyan from 1st July, 1987. Reserve Bank of India has initiated steps for implementation of this decision.

SHRI S.G. GHOLAP : Sir, it is accepted that a decision has been taken to extend the area of jurisdiction of the