

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

*Wednesday, November, 12, 1986/Kartika
21, 1908 (Saka)*

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*English*]

Agreement with F. R. G. to augment
anti-pollution facilities

*121. DR. G. S. RAJHANS :
SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI
GUPTA :

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

(a) whether any agreement has been reached with the Federal Republic of Germany for augmenting the existing water and air pollution monitoring facilities in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the agreement; and

(c) the methods to be adopted to control water and air pollution ?

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT
AND FORESTS (SHRI BHAJAN LAL) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Agreement provides for import of sophisticated instruments and training of personnel to strengthen the capabilities of Pollution Control Boards.

(c) The methods include monitoring, persuasion, incentives and legal action.

DR. G. S. RAJHANS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply is incomplete. We want to know the complete details of the Agreement. Besides, we also want to know whether such agreements have been signed with other countries also and if so, the details thereof ?

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : Agreement with Federal Republic of Germany was signed in March, 1985. Under that Agreement, they supplied us instruments worth Rs. 162 lakhs. Besides, the personnel in the batches of 8 persons each go there for training for a period of six months. These 8 people include 4 scientists and 4 other personnel. The entire expenditure on their training is borne by that country. 20 officers also go for training for a period of 15 days. At the same time, one of their officers, who is an eminent expert will also come to India for three years. He is already here. They give us complete information and tell us how to control pollution. In addition to this, officers in small batches will go for training for a short period during the next five years, i.e. for sixty months so as to gain complete knowledge there.

The Hon. Member has also asked the names of the other countries with which such agreements have been signed. An agreement was signed with the countries of E. E. C., i.e., the European Economic Community in 1983. Similarly, an agreement was also signed with Britain in 1983 so that they could be helpful to us in controlling air pollution and could also give us the training programme. Since this problem is worldwide, U. S. A. and Norway have also shown interest in it. This is not a question of any single country. Thus, these are the countries with which we have signed agreements.

DR. G. S. RAJHANS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Minister might have read recently that there has been dangerous pollution in Rhine river as a result of which thousands of fish were killed. They could not control that.

Such pollution takes place daily between Patna and Bhagalpur. I would like to know whether we have signed agreements to control pollution with other countries of western Europe also ?

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : It is true that there are 14 such rivers in our country, the waters of which are polluted and it does affect the health of the people. Right now, we have started with Ganga and we are going to draw up a project after formally surveying all the rivers. You know, as and when funds are made available, we shall implement that project. It will require an amount of Rs. 3000 crores to clean all the rivers.

MR. SPEAKER : Are you satisfied now ?

SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI GUPTA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Minister has given a detailed reply and has also referred to a long-term plan, but is he aware that besides air pollution and water pollution, foodgrains are also being polluted due to excessive use of pesticides which is a health hazard ? Air pollution has reached such a level that mosquitoes have established monolithic empire right from the country's capital, Delhi, upto the towns and villages and virus borne diseases are spreading, the people are sick in every home. I would like to know as to what steps the Government are taking to check this pollution and are there some short-term schemes with the Government besides the long-term plan ? I would also like to know as to what work the Ganga Pollution Control Board has done to clean this river ?

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : What the Hon. Member has said is correct. There are no two opinions that pollution causes diseases and to check the spread of diseases in the foremost duty of the Government. That is why our late Prime Minister had laid great stress on it. Hon. Shri Rajiv Gandhi has also taken keen interest in it and has formulated programmes so that pollution could be controlled, but you know, it is a time consuming process; it is not a job to be done overnight. It is true that pollution is caused through air. The way the number of vehicles is increasing and the smoke is being emitted,

about 40 to 50 per cent pollution is caused by them. The vehicles which play on the roads, such as buses, trucks and other vehicles emit heavy smoke. If a silencer measuring 8 to 10 feet is attached to a vehicle of the same height, at least smoke will go upwards. We are thinking in terms of introducing battery-run vehicles so as to minimise pollution.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : I would like to know from the Hon. Minister as to which of the States of the Indian Union shall be covered under the agreement that has been signed and whether the name of Andhra Pradesh is also there ? If so, how much money have you earmarked for that State ?

Secondly, I would like to say that felling of trees also adds to pollution. I would like to know as to how much funds have been provided in the Seventh Five Year Plan for tree plantation in the country and what is Andhra Pradesh's share in it ?

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : This is a separate question. But so far as the question of tree plantation is concerned, the policy of the Central Government is very clear, that as long as we do not plant trees, the environment will not be clean. An amount of Rs. 1900 crores has been provided in the Seventh Plan for various such items which include rural development, wild life as also tree plantation.

[English]

Vienna conference of IAEA

*122. **SHRI ANAND SINGH :** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Conference of International Atomic Energy Agency was held in Vienna in the first/second week of October this year to discuss the potential dangers of nuclear radiation, resulting from accidents in nuclear power plants and reactors, etc.;

(b) if so, what were the main observations and suggestions mooted at the Conference to avoid recurrence of Chernobyl type of mishaps; and