

(b) State authorities have not agreed to give mains power supply due to meagre power generation at Leh.

(c) The exchange is planned for commissioning during 1986-87 subject to availability of Mains power supply.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL : Sir, in view of the sensitive nature of the area and the extreme climatic condition there, the people feel that automatic exchange must be set up very early because in the case of emergency the operators do not attend or respond to calls during the night although the exchanges are supposed to function for 24 hour. Before coming to the other question, I would like to know in the first instance what is the capacity of the proposed automatic exchange and what is the power requirement of the automatic exchange and whether the Department has explored the possibility of getting power from the Army.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, may I reserve...

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Are you taking some interest in Leh ?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : The capacity of the automatic exchange which is being installed at Leh is 300 lines and the power supply, the State Government promised us, would be made available when the hydel project comes into operation which would be very soon. In the meanwhile, we are in touch with Army authorities who run a captive power plant there to see if they can make available power supply from their power plant, and I can assure the hon. Member that the importance of Leh is very much recognised by our Department, we have a satellite earth station there which connects Leh with Delhi directly, and Leh with Srinagar, and I can assure the hon. Member that we would be able to decide on either of the two propositions very soon and that automatic exchange would be commissioned.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL : Sir, we are expecting to commission the Stakna hydel project this year. At the same time the power generating capacity of the present Diesel Engines this summer are expected to

be improved. Meanwhile, may I know from the hon. Minister whether the installation of machineries and other equipment everything will be done by the opening of road there ?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Yes, Sir. Installation etc. would be complete by the time the State Government provides the roads.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, let us hope that this exchange will be operative some time this year or early next year so that this exchange may have a functioning operation so far as North-East India and Eastern India are concerned. Will the hon. Minister see that the rotten telephone exchange in Calcutta is improved so that from Leh and Eastern India there is a proper connection ?

MR. SPEAKER : It is an unsportsmanship link up !

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : This is of Leh. I want to know whether the telephone system will function so far as north-east and eastern India are concerned. There is no answer, Sir.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is an unmanageable link up !

Shifting of industries located in crowded localities in Delhi

*230. PROF. K. K. TEWARY† :
SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI
GUPTA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any studies have been made about the industries which are located in crowded localities in Delhi and whose emissions of gas are harmful to the public;

(b) if so, the results of those studies; and

(c) the steps being taken to get the industries referred in part (a) above shifted to far off areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). A statement is given below.

Statement

(a) and (b). A quick survey conducted by the Industries Department of the Delhi Administration has revealed that there are 1476 industrial units which are causing environmental pollution. Of these 1202 industrial units have been found to be causing air pollution due to emission of gases.

(c) Exemption of capital gains arising from transfer of buildings or lands used for purposes of business from tax was extended to capital gains arising out of transfer of machinery and plant also in the General Budget for 1983-84 to encourage industries to shift from urban areas and also as a measure of decongesting the crowded cities and reducing pollution. Apart from the fiscal concessions the locational policy followed by Government does not generally permit setting up of new units and substantial expansions of the existing industrial undertakings in standard urban area limits and municipal cities. Individual industrial undertakings are expected to take advantage of the concessions/facilities offered for shifting their premises to their new locations.

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, unfortunately we have had the dubious distinction of having the worst industrial disaster in history in our country, that is, Bhopal. Bhopal was almost nearing equal to Nagasaki and Hiroshima. All the world over, this disaster was studied and analysed and industrial safety measures were strengthened and taken. I do not know whether much has been done in our country, but what the Minister has revealed in his reply is rather harrowing.

Sir, the hazardous industrial units which are polluting the environment keeping the people on a diet of poison, their number in Delhi alone in congested areas is 1476. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what steps have been taken particularly when on the very first Anniversary of the Bhopal outrage people in India were pondering over this. Gas leakage took place on the third of September. Shriram Foods and Fertilizers

factory in Najafgarh—that unit was in the notice of the Government...

MR. SPEAKER : Please put a question.

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : I am putting the question. A study had been ordered. Miss Neeta Bali, Commissioner of Delhi Administration had submitted a report on this unit that it should be closed down and eventually shifted. Even a British expert, Dr. Lader who was also brought in, submitted the same report. Then, Shri Manmohan Singh submitted the report...

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask the question. What are you doing ?

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : This is what happens when I start putting the question.

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask the question. I am telling you for your benefit.

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : If you shut me for ever in the House, I will go out of the House. You have listened to people for 10 minutes and 15 minutes.

MR. SPEAKER : If you do not put the question, you lose the importance of this matter.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : He is threatening, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : He can threaten me because he is my master. I don't mind that. The only thing is, I am asking him to put this important question.

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : There are several reports of committees appointed by the Government before this gas leakage took place. I would like to know from the Minister what happened to all these reports of the committees appointed by the Government.

Now comes the Air and Water Pollution Board. They gave certificate of excellence to this unit, Sriram Food and Fertilizers Unit before the disaster took place. And then, the Supreme Court Committee which has been set up also suggested that this unit had to be shifted from that place. In view of this, what steps is the Government taking ?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : The question is, do you agree with his speech ?

SHRI NARAYAN DUTT TIWARI : I think, my agreeing with the hon. Member lies in the complementary nature of our thoughts.

The hon. Member has mentioned that the whole matter is before the Supreme Court. Even in today's paper, you can find a reference to the order of the Supreme Court delivered yesterday in which they have relaxed certain conditions regarding the reopening of the chemical factory at the same premises subject to certain rigid conditions. The Supreme Court judgement will be studied as soon as it is received and seen by us. It was delivered yesterday and we have to get it today.

I can assure the hon. Member that as far as question of, shifting of the factory is concerned, I have already asked the Delhi Administration to go into depth of the matter. We have to comply with the Supreme Court judgement as far as it is relevant to the purpose of this matter. As far as shifting of the factory is concerned, the Delhi Administration has been advised to look into the matter immediately in accordance with the judgement of the Supreme Court.

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : A committee appointed by the Supreme Court had submitted its report. I am reading from that report :

"Complete elimination of risk to pollution at large obviously lies in the location of plant in an area without habitation."

The Supreme Court has not given any ruling or judgement against shifting of this unit. So, in view of the danger posed by this unit for the last several years and successive reports submitted by committees appointed by the Government, will the Government take immediate steps for the shifting of this unit and also review safety measures all over the country because there are thousands of units posing health hazards to the public at large ? In view of this, is there any Comprehensive policy before the Government on this issue ?

SHRI NARAYAN DUTT TIWARI : I have already assured the hon. Member that the Delhi Administration is being asked to look into the matter of shifting of this particular industry from Delhi. As far as safety measures are concerned, the President's speech itself has mentioned some of the measures that are proposed to be taken. There are many amendments which are on the anvil. The Factory Act, 1948 is proposed to be amended with a view to strengthening safety provisions in respect of hazardous processes, on-site disaster control plants and stiffer penalty. The Ministry of Surface Transport has been requested to formulate amendments to the Motor Vehicles Act to avoid risk of accidents during transport of hazardous substances. The Water Pollution Act, the Control of Pollution Act, 1974 and the Air Pollution Act, 1981, are proposed to be strengthened by providing powers closure of plants posing imminent danger for polluting air or water through stiffer penalty and by enabling private citizens to file complaints against offending industry.

The President has also mentioned the proposed enactment of the Hazardous Substances Control Bill.

Another general legislation is proposed for environmental protection. In this legislation, it is proposed that a provision should be made for the creation of a high-powered authority which coordinates activities of various Departments in this matter.

The Bill also is expected to propose environmental laboratories.

Regarding location policy, prior environmental clearance is already laid down in respect of 20 high pollution industries.

Most of these steps will lead to the implementation of the suggestions of the hon. Member.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI GUPTA : Hon. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has said a good thing that they are going to bring forward a comprehensive Bill to overcome the problems relating to environment. He has also started that a survey conducted by

the Industries Department of the Delhi Administration has revealed that there are 1476 industrial units which are causing environmental pollution out of which 1202 industrial units have been found to be causing air pollution due to emission of gasses. He has further stated that the Government have evolved a policy under which tax exemption would be granted to such units as shift from congested localities and more facilities would also be provided. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the number of industrial units which are likely to be benefited from these facilities and also the number of units which have shifted from congested localities and availed themselves of the facilities provided by the Government ?

SHRI NARAYAN DUTT TIWARI : Sir, the hon. Member is aware of the geographical location of Delhi. Delhi, which is the National Capital Region, is surrounded by Haryana and Uttar Pradesh and close to it is Rajasthan. As long as all the concerned State Governments do not have coordination, it is difficult to give the exact figures in respect of the industrial units which have shifted from Delhi to the neighbouring States. I have myself tried to know the complete figures. I do not have the relevant figures at the moment.

The industrial units located in the neighbouring areas, such as, NOIDA to Sahibadab, Gurgaon, Daruhera and Faridabad to Ballabgarh are all such industries which otherwise would have been set up in Delhi. The entrepreneurs of Delhi have developed these industries centres outside the capital and have set up their industries there:

[English]

SHRI SURESH KURUP : I can understand the cruel attitude of the private industrialists who violate this pollution laws. But there are a number of public enterprises fully controlled by Government, that too the Central Government, constantly violating these pollution laws. I myself have complained about an industry in my Constituency that is newsprint factory at Kottayam about the emissions it made to the nearby river. No action has been taken.

What I want to know from the hon. Minister is, what strict controls the Government will apply on these public enterprises about which large-scale allegations are there in regard to violation of pollution laws.

SHRI NARAYAN DUTT TIWARI : These laws should apply strictly to public sector undertakings also.

As far as that particular Kerala undertaking is concerned, I have been there and we have tried to satisfy anti-pollution requirements and we have installed all possible equipment. I would appreciate if the hon. Member writes to me about further mitigating the pollution.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, if the Supreme Court has not ordered the shifting of Shriram Factory due to some technical reasons, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether Government propose to remedy those technical reasons ?

SHRI NARAYAN DUTT TIWARI : Sir, as I have told just now, the Delhi Administration would consider shifting of this factory outside Delhi.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Energy Requirements in Rural Areas

*231. **SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU :** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) per capita energy requirements in rural areas;

(b) whether per capita requirement in rural areas in India is higher or lower in comparison to other developing nations in Commonwealth countries; and

(c) if it is lower, the steps taken by Government for increasing the same.?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) According to the