

17.05 hrs.

**WATER (PREVENTION AND CONTROL
OF POLLUTION) CESS (AMENDMENT)
BILL—Contd.**

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up further discussion on the Bill to amend the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977.

Shri Rajendra Kumar Sharma was on his feet. He may continue his speech.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA (Rampur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister has introduced this amendment Bill in order to strengthen the pollution control Board and to make it financially sound. Almost all the members have welcomed this Bill and have made a request to strengthen the board.

Sir, if you are really willing to know the seriousness of the problem of water and air pollution, you will be surprised to know the truth that neither the centre has ever tried to realise its seriousness nor the State Governments have ever paid any attention towards it.

17.07 hrs.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHA *In the Chair*]

Sir, after 44 years of the independence of the country the problem of pollution of water has reached an alarming position. According to the study, conducted on 29 rivers by National Environment Engineering and Research Institute water of 70 per cent rivers is polluted. The water of Ganges at Garhmukteshwar and that of Teesta at Jalpaigudi has been stated to be free from pollution. Barring these rivers the water of all rivers has got polluted.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, today everybody

knows the importance of rivers in our economic and social life. These rivers are not only means of irrigation but are also a source of drinking water. Lakhs of people take a dip in these sacred rivers on various holy occasions. Just 4 days back on the occasion Kartik Purnima these devotees had to face great difficulties to take a dip in these rivers. The rivers which used to be looked upon with great devotion and sacredness are emitting odour and bad smell to the extent that nobody can even stand near these rivers.

Sir, through you, I would like to request hon. Minister to make these Boards so powerful that water pollution and air-pollution is checked completely. This is the responsibility of the entire nation. Today, our all the systems are dead. You are talking about strengthening these Boards but you must understand that your officials are not taking this issue seriously. They are least bothered about it. Three years before the Supreme Courts judges had warned against it and instructed the officials in no uncertain term that the licence for setting up new industries in the Ganga-Valley should not be granted unless the board is assured about the discharge to effluents and waste material. But even after this long period of time the expected degree of change could not be brought about. The supreme Court's judges alleged that the officials, especially those of these boards were not sincere to their legal duties.

Sir, the municipalities and the municipal corporation can contribute a lot is preventing pollution but neither the State Boards nor the central board have any control over them.

I am greatly distressed to state that 90 per cent cities in Uttar Pradesh have no sewer lines or drainage system. All the polluted water and filth stagnate is open and putrefied there. If epidemics or diseases start spreading as a result of it, who will check them? The people have been living in such a miserable conditions. What have we done during 44 years of the independence. these are our achievement so far. Our boards talk

of the rural life, the people belonging to the downtrodden and backward class, the scheduled caste but we shout at the top of our voice here for our own political gain. But if we go to the rural area we will come to know the plight of these people. We find that water is stagnating in their Mohallas and colonies and they are becoming the victims of diseases every year. I would like to request the hon. Minister to pay special attention to this problem and make this Board more powerful and all the officials responsible for such things should be brought under the purview of laws so that healthy change may take place. Sir, I would like to request the hon. Minister to do something regarding the most important issue. This problem should be solved through Survey Boards or through any other source. So far a Review Courts are concerned, everybody knows about them. It takes several years in litigation but no-body is awarded punishment. Through you, I would like to suggest constitution of separate courts for this purpose. These courts should be given as much power as possible with a view to find way out to solve this problem.

Sir, the Supreme Court judges have also suggested inclusion of 'Natural Environment' in the educational curricula upto class X. There should be a mass movement throughout the country. What is pollution? Pollution is untouchable. Everybody should be made conscious of it and is not difficult to do so. An exhibition was organised a few days back. Many more efforts are being made in this direction but an awareness must be brought about among the common people about it. State and the Central Government should make more efforts in this direction and involve the other organisations working in this field to create an awareness among the people about it. Otherwise, how can we be able to get rid of this water and air-pollution? I do not see any clear picture. The Central Government has said that it would abolish those elements from diesel and petrol that cause cancer. But no work has so far been done in this direction. The Ministry must make some provision to check these things.

Sir, through the hon. Minister I would like to submit that thousands of cattle have come to cities. There are about 80,000 cattle in the Kanpur city. There is no arrangement for disposal of their excreta. This causes diseases. You must know about it. 15 lakh children die in our country due to water pollution. The two-fourth of the poor in our country die due to water pollution. Everything has been discussed in this House during last 44 years and everybody knows as to how the poor are leading their life. We have failed to provide medical facilities to the people. In the capital of India Delhi the deplorable condition of Yamuna is not secret.

The fish died due to water pollution in Gomati river in Lucknow. The situation has deteriorated. I would like to give some suggestions on which you can certainly take the decision. We had set up industries like chemical industry, sugar industry, leather industry and distillery, etc. 50-60 years back at such places which have now become densely populated areas, including Delhi. What is the justification of having Hindustan Insecticide Plant in Shakurbasti and D.C.M. Chemicals in densely populated areas? Bhopal like tragedy can recur at any time. There would be no way out at that time. Property worth billions of rupees can be raised by removing the plant from there. They can shift anywhere by purchasing the land in lakhs of rupees. Regarding its location, the hon. Minister should issue clear cut direction to the Department of Industries. The location of these industries should be decided in consultation with people's representatives. But it is not in practice. Board issues licences for the places which are considered convenient by it. There are certain industries for which no licences are required to be issued. There is no need of issuing licences for an electronic industry where merely assembling work is done. Some decisions are taken by the Central Government and State Governments. But some projects have been lying pending with the Pollution Board for a long time. The Jamunani project of Irrigation Department is under Naintal District, has been lying pending with the Ministry for the last seven years.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND
FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): Which
pollution board you are referring to?

SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA:
The decision will be taken by it and not
through it. The licence is not being issued to
them. Crores of rupees are to be spent by the
Irrigation Department. A lot of difficulty is
being experienced owing to constant price
rise and high price index. If you want to make
these boards more powerful through this
amendment then these boards must have
officials like our District Magistrate Shri T.
George Jap Josph. They should be put to
maximum work so that these problems could
be solved. With these words, I thank you for
the efforts being made by you.

SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR
(Durg): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the subject which
we are discussing today is very important for
the country from every point of view. Now-a-
days, there is adulteration in each and every
thing whether it is air, water or any eatable.
Thus, the Government has brought forward
a very useful amendment. To check the
pollution of water we have to increase the
tax so that more funds could be mobilised
and the situation could be improved. Every
thing has become expensive. The Govern-
ment should specify as to how much funds
would be mobilised the amount out of it
proposed to be spent on the salaries of
Government employees and on checking
the pollution separately. It is, of course,
necessary to delegate powers to the offi-
cials. But these should not be misused. The
hon. Minister should immediately take step
in this regard. The tax-payers are losing
their faith because they think, that the money
paid by them is being incurred on salaries
of the State Government employees or is being
misused.

Most of the rivers of our country have
become polluted. A newspaper is published
in Germany with the objective to check pol-
lution in rivers. If any factory is found respon-
sible for causing pollution then a newsitem
alongwith photo is published in the newspa-

per. After that stern punishment is given to
the owner of the industry and the newspaper
is awarded. To check the increasing pollu-
tion, Government should not only take steps
but should also take the help of other agen-
cies in this regard. We see that the number of
cities and industries are increasing. There is
a Shipra river in Durg from where I have
come. The effluents of all the factories in-
cluding Government steel factory are dis-
charged into this river. We have written to
this Ministry about two three months ago
and requested them to check it. It appears
that the Central Government is unable to
check it due to some reasons. We are not
getting the cooperation of the Pollution
Control Committee set up by the State
Government. It is a subject which comes
under Concurrent List. There are separate
Control Boards belonging to the State Gov-
ernment as well as Central Government. If
the State Government does not check it the
Central Government should come forward
and exercise its authority. The power are
given to...

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota): The
pollution has been there for the last 40 years
and not for the last one year.

SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR: A
number of factories are being opened every
day.

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: 11 factories
in total have been set up. The hon. Minister
has given permission for it. At present, not
even a single industry can be set up without
the permission of Shri Kalpnath
Rai... (Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR: If
you have patience you will understand. I
mean to say that...

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: It is not that
the pollution has been caused within a year.
The industries are being opened today with
the permission of hon. Minister of Environ-
ment.

SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR: A

number of iron rolling mills are being set up in Durg district because of Bhilai Steel Plant. There were 14 rolling mills in 1984 whereas the number has now increased to 150. About 6 more rolling mills have been added within a period of 6 months. Their effluent are also being discharged into the river. Six mills have been opened during the last 3-4 months. I don't want to blame anybody. It is a system. You have to look into the system. Whenever anything happens, you term it as an attack on BJP. If the former Government could not stop it, we condemn it. It is also the fault of the present Government, if it does not check it. I mean to say that should be checked by State Government or Central Government. For that purpose, the Bill has been brought forward. We should ponder over it. The Speaker who preceded me has said correctly, while referring to a particular river, that the pollution has increased. We know that the pollution is increasing because of opening of new mills. The present Government as well as previous Government are to be blamed for that. Whether it has been the Government of Congress or BJP, the pollution has increased. If the State Government can't control it, the Central Government should interfere in it and exercise its power under the Concurrent List. It should not misused its powers. It is also necessary to point out that the complaints sent by us have been looked into. But in the report, it has been said that there is no pollution. I am referring to Bhilai Steel Plant. How has that committee come to the conclusion that there was no pollution? It made such observations and completed its task. That is why I am saying that powers must not be misused. We should have a check on all the Pollution Control Boards set up by us. I would like to request the Central Government that the suggestions regarding controlling pollution, should be considered.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, today many factories have been set up under Bhilai Steel Plant of Madhya Pradesh and the pollution is increasing there. If iron plant is unable to control it, it can be checked by incurring expenditure. I have drawn, the attention of the hon. Minister towards it in the last ses-

sion. May be, he could not implement it for certain reasons. But I request the Government to implement it speedily and we support the Government fully on this issue. There is a provision to check water pollution but we should try to control air surface pollution also. Now-a-days the air has become polluted. It is due to more smoke in the air. To prevent it, all the modern equipments should be used. For example, I would like to quote the name of Bhilai Steel Plant. Many such factories are being opened in the public and private sectors. Smoke is emitted by these factories. A machine is installed to prevent the emission of smoke. Although, it involves some expenditure yet it is the imperative need of the hour. The pollution is increasing very fast in Delhi as well in other cities of the country. Since our hon. Minister is active and young, I think, he would pay attention towards it. There is less pollution in the central territories of the country. I hope that the hon. Minister would pay special attention towards it and conduct an enquiry into the matter, impartially so that no bungling may take place.

In the last, I want to request to provide necessary assistance to Government and private companies to check the water, surface and air pollutions. Wasteful expenditure should be avoided. Only necessary expenditure should be incurred. I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH (Sheohar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister as he is taking personal interest the keeping the environment free from pollution in his capacity as Minister incharge. Just now hon. Member Shri Joshiji challenged Shri Chandrakarji in such a loud voice that it created voice pollution in the House. I closed my ears and felt the need of controlling sound pollution in the House. We have to control the sound pollution in the House as well as in Delhi.

The trucks and buses make a noise in Delhi city by blowing horns. It is the problem in almost all the metropolitan cities. If you go to developed countries, you will not find this

[Sh. Hari Kishore Singh]

problem. If anybody blows a horn, it means that he is in some trouble. Thus, blowing of horns should also be banned here in India also. Secondly, Shri Chandrakarji has referred to environmental pollution. I do not know about other places but in Delhi, Calcutta, Madras and Bombay where traffic is under the control of State Government there is much environmental pollution. But in Delhi, Mr. Chairman, Sir, I don't know where do you reside in Delhi? But I am residing near Rajpath. Whenever a DTC bus passes we are reminded of Shri Tytler Sahab and start thinking to send an application to Shri Kamal Nathji requesting him to protect us from the pollution being caused by buses run by his Department. But Shri Tytler Sahab is perhaps going to privatise the Transport in Delhi in order to check pollution.

Hon. Chandulal Chandrakarji is an elder member. He has said that there is some bungling in controlling the pollution. I am reminded of a Minister of Congress (I) Government. When he went to his village he was asked as to what portfolio has been given to him. He said, "Do not worry, I have got a portfolio from which all other department will have to seek clearance". It all had appeared in the newspapers. I am not citing this from my own side. I hope that hon. Kamal Nath does not have such an opinion.

You will recall that there was a king in South India. He had a courtier, who was very corrupt. All the people complained against him to the king. He said, all right, we would deploy him at the sea shore. After some time, a report came that he was harassing the people. The king asked as to how was he harassing the people and how was he? The reply was that he was very happy and was counting the waves and he claimed that in case more than the specified number of waves rose with the passage of a ship it would have to pay tax as per orders of the king. Thus he was very happy. Earlier there was an inspector raj prevailing in industries and factories. Now one more officer has

been added. Consequently, factories and industries will have to bear more burden.

Mr. Chairman, Sir it is a complicated matter and particularly in developing countries, where all people want that there should be more and more industries in the country. The factories will be set up on the earth and they are sure to cause pollution. The developed countries do have the factories. We have to set up factories but at the same time we do not want any pollution. State Governments are unable to control the pollution. I don't want to criticise the State Governments. The people have no interest in this matter. We have to create awareness among the people. After the independence, during the fifth or sixth decade, people were not aware of the necessity of protecting the environment.

Industries were set up day in and day out in the fifth and sixth decade. Chandulalji said that industries were being set up. Joshiji does not know anything. Objections were raised. Every Government wants to set up industries. We also want to set up industries in our area. No need to think of pollution. It is a very controversial matter in all developing countries. It is indeed a very complicated question that if industries are developed, pollution problem will arise. I understand that this problem cannot be solved by the State Government. As such the Centre should pay special attention to it.

The Water Pollution Boards function under State Governments. The effluents discharged spread pollution in the rivers. A major scheme to clear river Ganga was launched and the former Prime Minister Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi took a lot of interest in it. The capital of our State is also located on the bank of river Ganga. There also a big scheme to clean the water of Ganga was launched and it is still in progress. Maximum efforts to clean Ganga were made at Kanpur and Haridwar but did this project show any results in Kanpur? Crores of rupees have been spent to clean Ganga. Will the Central Government order a probe into the project as to what work has been done to clean Ganga

and what are its results. Did anyone ever enquired about its progress, funds invested on it and its present position.

What are the future proposals in this regard. I understand that Ganga can become free from pollution only when the poverty of the people living on both of its banks is eradicated. I have been a student of Kashi University and I have myself seen how garbage is dropped in Ganga. Even today, garbage is being dropped in Ganga. The water is polluted in Kanpur also. Of course, water has become clean to some extent at Haridwar but filths can still be seen at Patna and other places. Do you have the details of the funds that have been incurred on this project for cleaning Ganga. I would request the hon. Minister to check the position in this regard.

The most important point is that the Boards set up under the State Governments for containing pollution remain totally neglected. For instance, if a Minister in a State is not allocated an important portfolio, he is given Tourism Department and he feels ignored. Similar is the case with these Boards which have been set up in the States to get rid of pollution in environment. As such the amendment that has been moved by the hon. Minister is a good one but at the same time, the hon. Members of parliament should be given representation at State or Central level in any capacity, either as adviser or in any other capacity in these boards. Their cooperation should be taken and presence ensured. The Government should make necessary provisions in this regard. With these words, I support this Amendment Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Bhogendra Jha:

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani): Mr. Chairman, Sir, On the very day this Bill was moved, I had said that it is difficult either to oppose or to support the Bill. Mr. Chairman, Sir so far as the Board is concerned, I had said...

SHRI KAMAL NATH: You have already spoken on this Bill.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: When this Bill was moved in this House I had said this. I had opposed it at the time of its introduction.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to request as to why we should spend money on the Board till such time the Bill is passed. The Government wants to enhance the rate of water tariff. But I say that even the existing tariff which was being levied hitherto should be stopped. After all, what has been its achievement? The hon. Minister should explain in brief about it so that the House as well as the country is apprised of the position.

I would like to point out that we are all in favour of industrialisation. We have taken some steps in this direction but a lot remains to be done. To solely blame the industrialists they are at fault is not fair and I fail to comprehend it.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already spoken on the motion for consideration. You cannot speak twice.

[Translation]

Your name figures in the list and you have already spoken.

Shri Sarat Chandra Pattanayak.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: I had spoken at the time of introduction.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, You have spoken at the consideration stage also.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: I will do as you wish, Sir, if you permit me to speak I will speak and if you refuse, I will not.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You cannot speak twice on the same Bill.

[English]

SHRI KAMAL NATH: I have no objection.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not a question of your objection. The rules do not permit. You cannot speak twice on the same subject.

SHRI SARAT CHANDRA PAT-TANAYAK (Belangir): Mr. Chairman, I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister for bringing this legislation in this House. However, there are certain areas which need the Government's attention on a priority basis. The hon. Minister has spoken about the conservation and economy in the use of water as one of the major objectives of the proposed Bill. But the objectives of Water Cess Act, 1977 is to augment the resources of Pollution Central Boards only. I would like to suggest that the objectives of the Cess Act, 1977 should be suitably worded to keep the need of the changes of times.

Though the proposed measures in the Bill will enable the Government to realise the sustainable use of water, there is no provision for social auditing of water use by the industries. The disincentives need a further detailed consideration. Instead of imposing stiff penalties, motivation of industries and public awareness about water pollution and waste are the alternatives to achieve economy in the use of water. The possibilities of pollution tax as prevalent in some foreign countries should be examined.

The evaluating and monitoring system in the Pollution Central Boards and the Central Government should be strengthened for getting a proper feedback to find out whether the desired results are achieved. There should be an independent Appellate authority to examine the disputed Cess cases.

The Government should examine whether a single comprehensive Act can be sufficient to tackle the problems. Also there should be some type of cess on air pollution activities. The schedule-I to the Water Cess Act 1977 has listed a few industries which

are covered under the Act. But I would like to know whether the list of industries are exclusive. There are more critically polluted industries which should be covered under the Act such as sugar, leather, paper and engineering industries. These industries should be covered under the Cess Act. Marine pollution and soil pollution activities should also be covered under the Cess Act.

Lastly, I would like to request the hon. Minister to let us know how many cases have been filed under the Cess Act, 1977 so that stiff disincentives can be provided under the Act.

My constituency, i.e. Bolangir in Orissa is a typical example of ecological degradation. Due to large chunks of degraded forest land and soil erosion that area is gradually turning into a desert. I would like to request the hon. Minister to initiate 'Integrated Wasteland Development Programme' in Bolangir as early as possible.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the pollution caused by a graphite factory by the side of the Langth river of Bolpara block of my constituency in Orissa. People are affected by the polluting water. The Government should take corrective steps in the matter early.

Lastly, the colour of the sand of that river looks like a black-filed and I cannot explain about the colour of water. Due to pollution caused by Graphite factory at Belpare of Bolongir? I have come from that area as my constituency, Bolangri is. I would like the hon. Minister to take such steps as are necessary.

I support the Bill.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore): I rise to support the intention behind this Bill.

At the outset I would like to remind the Minister Shri Kamal Nath. To day he is heading a very powerful Ministry and also a

very sensitive one. Sky is the limit for his powers today.

Sir, pollution control is of prime importance in modern society. Many advanced countries have made scientific studies on the adverse effects of pollution. And they have made a provision for separate funds. Actually some of the advanced countries are giving financial assistance to the underdeveloped countries to control the pollution.

There are various kinds of pollution today. we are more concerned about the pollution of water as also the pollution of air. Now we have State Pollution Control Boards. Almost these have transformed into like any other Departments and they have no power to effectively implement the provisions of the law. and it has become one more Department like any other dormant department. Now the Central Pollution control Board should be strengthened more. It should become a more effective body so that provisions can be made applicable in the entire country equally.

Sir, the provisions of this Bill seek to levy some more taxes. I do not think that levying of taxes alone would be the answer for effective control of the pollution. The Pollution control Boards must effectively take up this task. sometimes we find that the provisions of this Act are very often misused.

Now I quote an example where the provisions of this legislation has created an obstacle for setting up new industries. My friend Shri Oscar Fernandes is here. He knows that after 1972, for the first time the Government of India has thought of making some investment in the Karnataka State in the form of setting up a thermal power project at Nandipur in Udipi taluk and the Karnataka Pollution control Board has made detailed studies about the effects of pollution on account of setting up of this industry.

Sir, the Government is very well aware that Karnataka is reeling under shortage of power and the Government of Karnataka is giving all importance and encouragement

for the units which would generate more and more power. The Karnataka Board has already cleared the project and they have even undertaken to see that under their supervision the unit comes up and it would function properly. Now this project is pending with the Ministry of Environment headed by Shri Kamal Nath for clearance. I would like to make use of this opportunity to make an earnest request to the Minister on behalf of the people of Karnataka State to clear this project as early as possible. This is a project of Rs. 3,000 crores and this is a Russian-aided project. Unless we take up this project early, probably the project itself will lapse and they may think as to whether to give further aid or not. so my submission is this. Let not the provisions of the legislation be misused and become an obstacle for setting up new industries in the name of controlling the pollution. Now let us deal with the people who contribute to this pollution either of the water or of the air. Let us make these bodies more effective. Let us give them full support. But at the same time, the development of the society and the country will have to be borne in mind and such important projects should be cleared as early as possible. So I would again remind the hon. Minister that though he has got all the powers under the Sun, let him please think again and clear this project as early as possible.

Just by levying more and more taxes, we will not be in a position to control the pollution. We will have to think of other devices whereby the Department which is entrusted with the job of implementing the provisions of this legislation an really controlling the pollution, is strengthened. I hope, the Minister definitely would find funds from somewhere else rather than imposing more and more taxes and making the officials to create obstacles either in setting up of industries or in smooth running of industries.

With these words, I support the provisions of the Bill with the hope that the project will be cleared as early as possible.

SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI (Bengaluru): At the outset, I welcome this Bill

[Sh. Gopinath Gajapathi]

which *prima facie* seeks to augment the resources of the Central and State Pollution Control Boards and to maximise the use of water for reducing and controlling pollution. The funds available with these Boards have not been consistent with the increase in costs for meeting the overall commitments. Hence bringing this Bill into force becomes a necessity.

Two specified objectives in this Bill are commendable. Firstly, it encourages the adoption of the best available technical and practical solutions for preventing pollution at source. Secondly, it also aims at conserving natural resources particularly water.

The present provision of 70 per cent rebate where an individual or industrial unit has installed an effluent treatment plant, has led to its gross misuse. The distinct feature of this Bill is that it provides greater incentive to those who adopt prevention of pollution. Side by side the Bill proposes disincentives to those who do not conform to the prescribed standards. In future, the pollutants will have to pay cess at an enhanced rate which I dare say is perfectly justified and should be vigorously pursued.

Now I came to the various aspects inter-linked to this Bill. As rightly pointed out earlier by an hon. Member, so far as drinking water is concerned, perhaps, it is a fact that there is not a single city in our country which can assure supply of potable water for drinking purposes for 24 hours, even for drinking purposes.

Further, there are thousands of villages which are without the basic drinking water facilities. As also highlighted by another hon. Member, discharge of pollutants from the tanneries into the river Ganga is rendering the 'Clean Ganga Project' hopelessly ineffective. Rivers and streams are getting polluted by highly toxic agents ranging from metallic salts to complex synthetic chemicals, mercury and even corrosive acids. Once the water is polluted, it is unfit for drinking,

bathing or any other domestic use by man. Depending on the chemicals present in the effluent, it can produce food or chemical poisoning or even skin infection. Also, depending on the pathogenic bacteria, polluted water can produce diseases like diarrhoea, dysentery, tryphoid, gastroenteritis, etc. Similarly, gaseous air pollutants like the deadly carbon monoxide, methyl isocyanate, reminiscent of the Bhopal gas tragedy, cause defects in vision, headache, insomnia, mental instability, high blood pressure and giddiness in a large number of people.

That rapid industrialisation has brought about serious threat to the vast water resources, as was also pointed out by the hon. Member, is a view with which I tend to differ. I shall presently explain as to why the water resources are not so vast after all. Strangely, of the total quantity of the water on the globe, 97% is salty, filling the oceans and seas. Out of the rest three per cent, the major portion is out of reach, -either frozen up ice-caps, glaciers or buried deep underground. We depend on what is left in rivers, lakes and accessible aquifers to quench our thirst, wash away our wastes. This available water for our use comes to hardly 0.3 per cent. Unfortunately, even this precious little water is over-strained. Industrial wastes, sewage and agricultural run-off overload rivers and hydro-electric schemes such irreplaceable ground-water reserves dry. Global statistics disclose that 25,000 people die every day as a result of bad water management. Some two-thirds of the world's population is without clean water and, as a result, diarrhoea kills a staggering 4.6 million children under five years age every year.

Further, even during the Ninth Lok Sabha, I had high-lighted and stressed on the need to beautify and revive Asia's largest semi-sweet water lake, Chilka, as well as the famous Ansupa lake in Orissa State, from the unchecked algae and water hyacinth growth. The soil washing into these lakes is causing wholesale silting, resulting in faulty land use and also over-exploitation by fishermen. These lakes of beauty, apart from being ideal tourist spots, also harbour migra-

tory Siberian birds, during the severe winter season. It is our ardent wish that the indicated Canadian aid for Chilka lake and the Norwegian aid for Ansupa lake development will be negotiated and implemented expeditiously by the Central Government.

MR CHAIRMAN: You can continue

tomorrow. Lok Sabha now stand adjourn to meet tomorrow.

18.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, November 27, 1991/Agrahayana 6, 1913 (Saka)
