

SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU (Pondicherry): Sir, I would like to know as to how many persons of Indian origin have been detained in the Pakistani jails. We are not having any information with regard to that. More than ninety people from Gujarat have been detained there. The Government of India should take steps to get them released. I would like to know whether the State Government of Gujarat is having any information with regard to the detention of those persons there. If they are in jail, the State Government of Gujarat should initiate steps to get all those persons released from jail.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU (Karnataka): Sir, I have risen to associate myself with the Special Mention raised by my friend, Prof. M. Sankaralingam. Sir, you might have seen recently, when some fishermen were released, there was a lot of jubilation not only in Chennai, but in the entire State, and also in other parts of south India. We have seen earlier also, when one jawan, detained in Pakistan illegally all these years, was released, there was so much rejoicement throughout the country. We have read in the newspaper that the people of Indian origin and some of the people who were there in the Army, were detained for no reasons, and they have been languishing in those jails for a longer period. I appeal through you, Sir, to the Government that this matter should be taken up at the top level and it should be brought to the notice of the Pakistani authorities. At the same time, international pressure should be brought to see that all these people are released and they return back to their native places.

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH (Assam): Sir, the hon. Member has raised a very serious and genuinely human problem, and I wish to associate myself with the sentiments that the Government of India should take all possible measures to ensure that all our people, who are detained in Pakistan jails are freed forthwith, and as a preliminary step, they should provide us with all the information about those Indians who are languishing in the Pakistani jails.

Discharge of untreated effluents by Factories located in Bangladesh into Mathabhanga and Churni Rivers

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA (West Bengal): Sir, thank you very much for permitting me to raise this Special Mention, concerning the river water pollution due to the discharge of untreated effluents from certain factories in Bangladesh. Sir, a large number of people in Nadia district,

adjacent to Bangladesh, have been demanding the redressal of a perennial problem of river water pollution on which millions of people subsist in a particular district. The news-item has also been published in *"The Statesman"* and other newspapers. But up till now, the Government has not taken any corrective action. I remember that long back, when Mr. Buta Singh was the Home Minister, this question was raised, and he was kind enough to take certain measures. But that could not persist to a conclusive resolution of this perennial problem. Now, it has assumed a menacing proportion. The factories located in Kutchia district beyond Gede a checkpost, mostly sugar factories, are releasing untreated effluents into the two rivers, the Mathabhanga and the Churni, which flow from Bangladesh to West Bengal, through Nadia district, and the free flow of poisonous effluents through the rivers is leading to a serious epidemic form of skin disease, which the poor people can hardly afford to treat, and the people are suffering from this disease in that region, the people who live by the side of the banks of the Mathabhanga and Churni rivers, and some towns like Krishna Nagar and Ranaghat, where lakhs of people live. Moreover, thousands of fishermen subsist on these rivers for fishing. Fishes are dying because the level of hydrocarbon, the level of nitrogen, the level of ammonia and the level of many other lethal chemicals is very, very high in these two rivers. So, the fishermen are being deprived of their livelihood. Thousand of fishermen have become jobless and they are finding it difficult to even arrange their meals. The water from these rivers cannot be used even for drinking. Even though the Government of West Bengal has taken some initiative to purify the river water in order to supply it to the villages for drinking purposes, that is not enough because even the Government of West Bengal has got a limited capacity. The people cannot drink water from these rivers, people cannot fish in these rivers and people cannot even eat the fish from these rivers. This is a very serious problem. What concerns me most is that, since these rivers are flowing from Bangladesh and factories are located in Bangladesh, some vested interests are operating in that district. They are trying to whip up communal passions and take undue advantage since Bangladesh is a country which is predominantly inhabited by Muslim population. I know it for certain that since elections to the State Assembly and to the 89 Municipal Corporations are in the offing, some ugly forces, some anti-human forces, some fundamentalist forces in that region are trying to take undue advantage of the situation. They are trying to whip up communal passions, rouse their

sentiments and disturb the law and order situation. That is also a very serious problem.

Sir, I appeal, through you, to the concerned ministries, mostly the Environment Ministry, the External Affairs Ministry, the Home Ministry and the Water Resources Ministry, to look into the matter very seriously and to see to it that this perennially recurring problem of water pollution could be resolved immediately without any loss of time. Otherwise, I apprehend that if these forces are allowed to move in this fashion, and if they are allowed to hatch a conspiracy like this, then, it may lead to a serious law and order problem in West Bengal. So; Sir, through you, I once again appeal to the Government of India to take adequate measures so that this perennial problem can be resolved at the earliest.

श्रीमती चन्द्रकला पांडेय (पश्चिमी बंगाल) : माननीय सभापति महोदय, अभी मनोज भट्टाचार्य जी ने बंगला देश की फैक्ट्रियों से बहकर आते हुए विषैले पदार्थों से बंगाल की दो नदियों, चुर्नी और मथाभंगा के जल प्रदूषण संबंधी जो मुद्दा उठाया है, मैं उसके साथ स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करते हुए तत्संबंधी मंत्रालयों के इंटीग्रेटेड प्रयास से जल्दी से जल्दी जल प्रदूषण की समस्या को दूर करने की आपसे अपील करती हूँ। धन्यवाद।

Murderous attack on a Senior Journalist in Delhi

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Government to the deteriorating law and order situation in Delhi. Sir, of late, the National Capital has acquired the dubious distinction of being the crime capital of India. Not a day passes without a ghastly murder, or a burglary, or a theft hitting the headlines of newspapers. People are killed indiscriminately. In Delhi, murder for gain has become the order of the day. The Delhi's neighbourhood is ruled by *goondas* and *rowdies*. Our police have become most ineffective in nabbing the culprits. They take months, sometimes years, in achieving a breakthrough. Even in straight cases also, they are unable to bring the culprits to book. This is a very serious matter. If such a situation continues, people will lose confidence in the police force.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI) in the Chair]

The case in point is the brutal attack by local *goondas* on one Mr. B.S. Nagaraju, a senior journalist with *the Indian Express*. This happened on 7th April, in broad day light in Sahibabad. In the unprovoked attack,