

अलग है। कश्मीर में प्रकृति यह है कि हाई पावर ट्रांसमीटर्स भी अगर हम लगाएं तो पहाड़ी इलाका होने की वजह से उनकी रेंज उतनी ही है जितनी लो पावर ट्रांसमीटर्स की है। इसलिए कश्मीर में जरूरत है कि हम ज्यादा से ज्यादा ट्रांसमीटर्स लगाएं चाहे वे लो पावर ट्रांसमीटर्स ही हों, हाई पावर ट्रांसमीटर्स न हों, उसकी ज्यादा जरूरत है। लद्दाख में, डोडा डिस्ट्रिक्ट में, राजौरी-पुंछ में और जम्मू में उसकी ज्यादा जरूरत है। पंजाब में हाई पावर ट्रांसमीटर्स की जरूरत है। लेकिन इसके साथ ही खाली ट्रांसमीटर्स लगाना ही काफी नहीं है। पिछले 5-6 वर्षों में पूरा रेडियो यूनियन आया इलेक्ट्रॉनिक मीडिया में लेकिन बदकिस्मती से मुझे यह कहना पड़ रहा है कि वह रेडियो यूनियन दूरदर्शन को छूकर भी नहीं गया है। वह वही है, जहां 50 साल पहले था या 25 साल पहले था। उसकी प्रोग्रामिंग में, अट्रैक्शन में रती भर भी फर्क नहीं आया है जब कि जो नए-नए मीडियाज़ आए, उनकी रीच कहां से कहां पहुंच गई। बेशक दूरदर्शन की रीच 95 परसेंट, 97 परसेंट है लेकिन कोई आन भी नहीं करता है प्रोग्राम देखने के लिए।

मुझे उम्मीद है माननीय मंत्री जी न सिर्फ लो पावर ट्रांसमीटर्स और हाई पावर ट्रांसमीटर्स का विस्तार ज्यादा करेंगे बल्कि सबसे ज्यादा उसे इस कबिल बनाएंगे कि लोग टेलीविजन को आन भी करें।

श्री प्रमोद महाजन: सभापति महोदय, इससे तो सहमत होना मुश्किल है कि नए सुधार दूरदर्शन को छूकर नहीं गए हैं। पिछले वर्षों में दूरदर्शन में काफी अंतर आया है लेकिन निश्चित रूप से मैं मानता हूँ कि जैसे और प्राइवेट चैनल्स हैं, वे डिजिटल सिस्टम का उपयोग करते हैं, दूरदर्शन नहीं करता है और उसकी टेक्नोलॉजी थोड़ी सी पीछे है। मैं यह देखता हूँ कि हिंदुस्तान के जो भी प्राइवेट चैनल्स चलाए जाते हैं, वे दूरदर्शन के एक्स-इम्प्लान्ट योजन ही चलाते हैं। इसका अर्थ यह है कि जहां तक दूरदर्शन के कर्मचारियों की गुणवत्ता का संबंध है, उनके गुणों में कोई कमी नहीं है जिसके कारण वे अच्छे प्रोग्राम न दे सकें। उसके लिए जो तकनीकी सहायता और वित्तीय सहायता चाहिए, इसमें कमी आती है और इसके लिए प्रयास प्रसार भारती के द्वारा करना पड़ेगा लेकिन इस बात का जरूर प्रयास किया जाएगा कि केवल ट्रांसमिशन इंग्रेटेड नहीं है, not only quality of transmission, but quality of programmes जो सुझाव आपने दिए हैं, उन पर भी जरूर ध्यान दिया जाएगा।

Presence of Heavy Metal in Drinking Water in Delhi

*162. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA':

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a survey recently conducted by Central Ground Water Authority revealed heavy concentration of metals in ground water making it highly polluted and unfit for drinking;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what measures have been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOM PAL): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) No survey about presence of heavy metals in ground water has been conducted by the Central Ground Water Authority. However, the Central Ground Water Board in collaboration with the Central Pollution Control Board has conducted a study on the quality of ground water in Delhi. The results of the study has revealed presence of heavy metals like cadmium, chromium, lead and iron in excess of the prescribed standards in some locations. Block-wise details of the presence of heavy metals in NCT of Delhi is given in the Annexure. (See Appendix 185, Annexure No. 33)

(c) Action taken to mitigate the problem of ground water pollution include:

(1) Setting up of Central Ground Water Authority by Central Government for regulation and control of ground water management and development.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Krishna Kumar Birla.

(2) Preparation and circulation of an action plan by Central Ground Water Board to concerned agencies for implementation.

(3) Registration of ground water extracting tubewells/bore holes in NCT of Delhi by Central Ground Water Authority for streamlining the extraction of ground water.

(4) Launching of mass awareness and education programme on the significance of water economy, efficient utilisation, health, hygiene and sanitation.

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, not only Delhi's air, but its water is also highly polluted and has been found to be unfit for drinking purpose. Recently, a survey conducted by the Central Ground Water Authority reveals a high concentration of heavy metals in ground water. The water is highly contaminated with fluoride, nitrates and heavy metals like lead, chromium and cadmium which are very harmful for the human body and may even lead to dreaded diseases like meningitis. In some areas, concentration of heavy metals is even 100 per cent over the permissible limit. A study by the AIIMs conducted on 200 school children reveals a high content of lead in children. The Central Ground Water Authority report holds Delhi's unplanned disposal of effluents responsible for contamination of the ground water. In view of this my question is : (a) When did it come to the notice of the Government of India that the water was highly polluted; (b) The Minister has set up Central authorities for regulation of ground water management. What has been the outcome of it?

SHRI SOM PAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, so far as the pollution of ground water in Delhi and even in other parts of the country is concerned, the concern is shared by everyone including the Government, and an authority known as the Central Ground Water Authority has since been established under a notification, dated 14th January, 1997,

under section 3(3) of the Environment Protection Act, 1986. The Authority is chaired by the Chairman, Central Ground Water Board, and three members of the Central Ground Water Board and a Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, are its members. The Authority does not have its own machinery. It has asked the Central Ground Water Board to do these surveys and these surveys have been conducted. This Authority was created under the directions of the hon. Supreme Court, given in its order dated 10th December, 1996. The results obtained by the survey conducted by the Central Ground Water Board do come out with the finding that seven heavy metals are found in the underground water of Delhi, namely, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, nickel, iron and zinc. Fortunately, the presence of these heavy metals has been noticed, but as per the specifications and limits laid down by the W.H.O. and the Bureau of Indian Standards, only a few samples exceed the limit. But this is a warning signal and something has got to be done about it. The Government has initiated certain definite steps to tackle the problem. The probable causes of this pollution are natural hydro-geological conditions—there are certain rocks containing certain heavy metals and minerals which get mixed up in the underground water—improper disposal of sewage and industrial waste water, improper disposal of municipal and industrial solid waste, not harvesting of rain water for re-charge of ground water and the dilution which usually takes place not taking place and lack of awareness among the people about the issues concerning the quality of ground water. We have initiated a series of measures to tackle the problem in the short run as well as in the long run. The setting up of the Central Ground Water Authority is one such definite step. It has been asked to monitor these levels and also undertake pollution control measures.

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Sir, the Government, in its written reply,

has not made any mention of the effect of effluents on ground water.

My second question is (a) what steps are being proposed by the Government to ensure that effluent is treated properly before its disposal?; (b) has any foreign agency of any repute been consulted in the matter?; (c) what is the time limit set by the Government to take appropriate action so that water becomes suitable for human consumption?

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is not correct to say that the Government has not mentioned this as one of the sources of pollution. Untreated effluent has been mentioned. Just now, in my reply, I did mention it as one of the ...*(Interruption)*.

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Not in the written reply.

SHRI SOMPAL: But it has been compensated in my reply now. Secondly, as for the question relating to what steps have been initiated, not one but several steps have been initiated. It is a long list. I will mention a few of them. The Central Government has constituted the Central Ground Water Authority which I have just now said. Secondly, monitoring of ground water quality at 14,995 locations on a regular basis by the Central Ground Water Board is conducted and there are 22 major monitoring centres in the country, including Delhi. Then, the Central Ground Water Authority is registering drilling companies who are in the business of drilling for boring tube-wells. The Ground Water Authority is also notifying ground water polluted areas and over-exploited areas, for restricting the use of Ground Water. Then, public, mass, awareness programmes are being organised to make the public aware about the present ground water situation in respect of areas where the problem exists. Then, industries, mining companies, commercial establishments are being advised to regulate their ground water requirement to avoid over-extraction of water in vulnerable areas.

The Central Ground Water Authority has notified the Najafgarh block of Delhi, Municipal Corporation near Faridabad & Ballabgarh, Ludhiana city and Diu Union Territory for prohibition and restriction on construction of any new ground water extraction structure without prior permission of the Authority, marking of contaminated hand-pumps with red coloured paint, registration of ground water extracting tube-wells and announcing ground water re-charging to enable dilution of underground water to take place and reduce concentration of heavy metals, shifting of hazardous polluting units and also construction of fifteen sewerage treatment plants which is going on in Delhi. The present effluence of 500 million gallons a day will be totally taken care of with the completion of these fifteen water treatment plants.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rajnath Singh 'Surya'—absent. Shri Adhik Shirodkar.

SHRI ADHIK SHIRODKAR: Sir, the reply of the Minister mentions the excessive presence of heavy metals, like cadmium, chromium, lead and iron in ground water. Have the industries responsible for the presence of these heavy metals in ground water been identified? If so, has any action been taken against them under the existing laws? What is the identity of the industries so identified?

Secondly, along with these heavy metals, chemicals pesticides, DDT etc. are also present in ground water, and the presence of such chemicals adversely affect the health of the people who eat the vegetables grown on the soil containing these things. What steps are being taken to eliminate these hazards?

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have already stated that the units have been identified. May I inform the hon. Member and this august House, through you, Sir, that common treatment facilities are being set up in the industrial

*The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Krishna Kumar Birla.

estates, and all the industries which are found responsible for causing pollution, are being asked to move to the conforming areas from the non-conforming areas, and they are asked to make their effluence flow in such a manner that the same converge at one place and the water treatment plant takes care of it? The second source, which the hon. Member has mentioned, is the use of chemicals by way of fertilizers, insecticides, pesticides and other anthropogenics. It is becoming surely a menace, and it is assuming a proportion which is really alarming. We are aware of these things. The Ganga Action Plan and the Yamuna Action Plan, as a component of the Ganga Action Plan, is taking due care of these components too.

श्री लखमन सिंह: थैंक्यू सर। यह बड़ा भयानक मसला बनता जा रहा है अण्डर ग्राउण्ड वाटर का, पाल्युशन का। आज से 50 साल पहले या 40 साल पहले यह बिल्कुल मसला नहीं था क्योंकि उस वक्त इतना इंडस्ट्रियल एफ्लुएंट नहीं था। आज चारों तरफ जो बार्डर एरियाज हैं, जहां पर इन्टर स्टेट बोर्डर एरियाज हैं, जैसे कालका है, हिमाचल का बार्डर है, सारा ही अण्डर ग्राउण्ड वाटर पाल्युटिड हो गया है। जितना इंडस्ट्रियल एफ्लुएंट है वह सारे का सारा जमीन के अन्दर जा रहा है। स्टेट के और इन्टर स्टेट के पाल्युशन बोर्ड बने हुए हैं, लेकिन जो इन्टर स्टेट पाल्युशन बोर्ड है वह बिल्कुल इफेक्टिव नहीं है। अण्डर ग्राउण्ड वाटर को ठीक करने के लिए जो मैनेजमेंट है, जो इन्टर स्टेट पाल्युशन बोर्ड है उनको इफेक्टिव बनाने के लिए मंत्री जी क्या कोई इंडिपेंडेंट पावर्स देंगे? ताकि वह डायरेक्ट जाकर उस पर कार्रवाई कर सकें। अभी तो एक स्टेट दूसरी स्टेट को रिवेस्ट करती है परन्तु कोई सुनता नहीं है।

सर, मुझे कालका का पता है। हमारा सारा अण्डर ग्राउण्ड ड्रिंकिंग वाटर खराब हो गया है क्योंकि हिमाचल का जो एफ्लुएंट है परमाणु से ऊपर-नीचे सारा इंडस्ट्रियल पाल्युशन आ रहा है और वह चण्डीगढ़ तक फैलता जा रहा है। मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि अण्डर ग्राउण्ड वाटर को बचाने के लिए क्या आप इन्टर स्टेट पाल्युशन बोर्ड को इफेक्टिव और इंडिपेंडेंट बनायेंगे? जिससे कि जो अफेक्टिड पार्टीज हैं वह डायरेक्ट उसके पास जाकर कंप्लेंट कर सकें।

श्री सभापति: ठीक है, हो गया।

श्री लखमन सिंह: जो स्टेट वाटर को पाल्युटिड करने का जुर्म करती है, जो इंडस्ट्रीज वाटर को पाल्युटिड करती है तो लोग उनकी कम्प्लेंट डायरेक्ट इंटर स्टेट पाल्युशन बोर्ड से कर सकें। मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या मंत्री जी ऐसा करेंगे?

श्री सोमपाल: सभापति जी, माननीय सदस्य ने जिस क्षेत्र का वर्णन किया है, यह बात सही है कि हिमालय की तलहटी और तराई में भी यह प्रदूषण भूमिगत जल में पर्याप्त मात्रा में, बल्कि कहीं-कहीं सीमा से अधिक स्तर तक पहुंच चुका है। यह बहुत चिन्तनीय विषय है। इस संबंध में प्रायः राज्य सरकारों को उत्तरदायित्व दिया गया है। केन्द्र सरकार ने सभी राज्य सरकारों को इस संबंध में नया विधान और कानून बनाने के लिए कहा है। सभी राज्यों ने उसके ऊपर अपनी-अपनी प्रतिक्रिया व्यक्त की है और प्रसन्नता की बात है कि अधिकतर राज्य सरकारों ने इसके संबंध में सकारात्मक प्रतिक्रिया दी है। कुछ सरकारें कानून बनाने जा रही हैं, कुछ बनाने वाली हैं, कुछ उसका परीक्षण और समीक्षा कर रही हैं। सिर्फ एक राज्य ऐसा है बिहार जिसने कहा है कि आवश्यकता नहीं है और उसमें कुछ सही भी बात है। इस कारण से क्योंकि वहां वर्षा का जो जल है।

श्री लखमन सिंह: यह इन्टरस्टेट कानून की बात है और वह इंडिपेंडेंट हो जो डायरेक्ट तौर पर इण्डस्ट्रियलिस्ट को सजा दे सके। ... (व्यवधान) ...

श्री सोमपाल: मैं आपकी बात के ऊपर आ रहा हूँ और मैंने अभी अपना उत्तर समाप्त नहीं किया है। बिहार का यह कहना निरर्थक नहीं है क्योंकि वर्ष में इतना वर्षापात होता है साथ ही भूमिगत इतना जल है कि वहां पर आवश्यकता नहीं है। विभिन्न राज्यों की अलग-अलग टिप्पणियां हैं, विवरण में बहुत समय लग जायेगा। मैं इतना ही कहना चाहता हूँ कि केन्द्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड, सैन्ट्रल पोल्युशन कन्ट्रोल बोर्ड का यह अधिकार है और इन्वायरमेंट एक्ट के अंदर इस बात की व्यवस्था है कि यदि राज्य सरकारों द्वारा सही काम नहीं किया जाता तो केन्द्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड उसमें हस्तक्षेप कर सकता है। अतः राज्य सरकारें सही काम करें और केन्द्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड उसके ऊपर अपना ज्यादा नियंत्रण रखे, इसके लिए भी आवश्यक कदम उठाये जा रहे हैं और उठाये जाने आवश्यक हैं।

SHRI LACHHMAN SINGH: Sir, I seek your protection.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, please. Mr. Bratin Sengupta.

SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Sir, the Minister is talking about the Central Ground Water Board. In the beginning the Minister has stated that the Central Ground Water Board undertook a survey only when the Supreme Court gave a direction in last January. This is the sort of Government running in the National Capital Territory of the country. He has told us about a lot of measures which he has taken to monitor the quality of the ground water. Can he assure us that these measures, whatever he has stated in the House, will be sufficient to prevent further pollution of the ground water and to reduce the presence of the seven heavy metals in the ground water of Delhi?

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, all these measures are aimed at tackling this problem only. We do hope that in due course we will be able to tackle the problem.

SHRI R. MARGABANDU: Sir, the Madras High Court had constituted a Green Bench to deal with the effluent treatment and other things. Several judgements have been given by the Madras High Court to set up effluent treatment plants, but quite often they have not been complied with by the industrialists. As a matter of fact, in Vellur, there are lot of tanneries which release untreated water into the Palar river. Consequently, the entire Palar river has been polluted and lakhs of acres of land have been rendered saline and unfit for cultivation. In the entire area the water is unfit for drinking. The measures which the Minister has announced are for the future. Is there any programme with the Government to compensate for the lands which have been made saline and unfit for cultivation? I would like to know whether any steps have been taken by the Government to retrieve these lands which are saline and unfit for cultivation and to make them cultivable.

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, such incidents have been reported from Tamil Nadu too. Out of the 22 monitoring centres, two are stationed in Tamil Nadu at Manali and North Arcot. So far as rendering of fertile lands into saline, alkaline and being polluted making them unfit for agriculture is concerned, there are Central scheme and Centrally Sponsored Schemes, which are given to the State Governments by the Ministry of Agriculture of the Central Government, for reclamation of these lands. This problem is being taken care of under those schemes.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, it is a fact that if clean drinking water is provided to the people, the problem of health can be reduced by 50 per cent. In a pilot study conducted by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences for two years, in 90 per cent of the examined cases there was prevalence of amoeba bacteria causing eye and brain diseases. The Minister has said that only in a few samples, there was some pollution. I think this is not the correct information. Similarly,.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put a pointed question.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: My question is this. Is the Government taking care of the problem of amoeba bacteria which has been found in 90 per cent of the samples in a study conducted by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences?

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, my earlier remarks were confined to the presence of heavy metals when I said that they have been found below the limit as laid down by the Bureau of Indian Standards and the WHO. That was about the presence of heavy metals. So far as the other aspect, that this kind of presence of organisms which are responsible for creating many diseases in human beings, is concerned, it is already known to the Government of India. The remedy lies in providing clean drinking water to people which is a national programme which is

being carried on. The remedy lies in promotion of use of clean water by domestic means as well as by installing water treatment devices which are technically upgraded like water cleaners and water treatment devices within the houses. This problem is known to the Government of India. My earlier remark was only regarding heavy metals.

DR. L.M. SINGHVI: Sir, today is Human Rights Day. Sir, clean drinking water....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put a pointed question.

DR. L.M. SINGHVI: is the most fundamental human right. I hope the Minister would tell the House by when, in the country as a whole, and in the metropolises of this country, would the Government of India be able to supply clean water?

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is no doubt that water is the most critical requirement not only for humanity but also for all forms of life on the earth. This is a fundamental right. But this question cannot be solved by declaring it a fundamental right. This question can be solved by undertaking measures to provide clean water for drinking and other purposes to the whole population and for other purposes also like industrial use and agriculture use. The Government of India is giving in top priority in all its schemes and plans.

*163. [The questioners (Shri Yedlapati Venkat Rao and Dr. Y. Lakshmi Prasad) were absent. For answer, vide Col. 33 infra.]

Setting up of Biogas Plants

*164. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a wide gap between the existing potential and the achievement in setting up of the biogas plants;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the present ratio of existing potential and achievement; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to achieve the existing potential?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) About one-fifth of the estimated total potential for generation of biogas from animal waste has been tapped by establishing 27.13 lakh family type and 1810 community/institutional plants in the country under the National Project on Biogas Development. High initial investment, financial constraints, seasonal variation in gas production, open grazing practices and availability of alternate fuels are some of the reasons for the gap between potential and achievement.

(d) National Project on Biogas Development is proposed to be continued during the Ninth Plan period.

श्री परमेश्वर कुमार अग्रवाल: सभापति महोदय, 1981-82 में नेशनल प्रोजेक्ट आन बायोगैस डेवलपमेंट की स्थापना हुई थी और उस समय यह विचार किया गया था कि 1996-97 तक एक करोड़ हाउस होल्ड बायोगैस प्लांट लगायेगे। मेरे प्रश्न के उत्तर में बताया गया है कि उसमें इन्डोशियल इन्वेस्टमेंट, फाइनेंशियल कन्स्ट्रेंट, सीजनल वेरिएशन, ग्रेजिंग प्रैक्टिस और अल्टरनेट फ्यूलस आर सम आफ दि रीजंस फार दि गैस बिटवीन पोर्टेसियल एंड अचीवमेंट। मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि फाइनेंशियल कन्स्ट्रेंट को साल्व करने के लिए, इस समस्या का निदान करने के लिए क्या किया गया है और यह जो अल्टरनेट फ्यूल की बात कही गई है यह अल्टरनेट फ्यूल क्या है?

श्री राम नाईक: सभापति जी, यह जो पूरा पोर्टेसियल है, एक करोड़ 20 लाख यूनिट्स का है, यह इस पर निर्भर है जो देश में इस समय 26 करोड़ की कैपेटल पापुलेशन है। यदि योग्य पद्धति से फंड