

pronouncement and vocabulary of the language also. In English we pronounce arithmetic figure 1 as "one" in Manipuri we pronounce it "AMA" but in Bishnupriya they pronounce it "AKO". In English we pronounce arithmetic figure 2 as "two". In Manipuri we pronounce it "ANI", but in Bishnupriya they pronounce it as DUGO. Sir, there is quite a difference, both in pronunciation and in vocabulary of words, between Manipuri and Bishnupriya languages.

The Government of Manipur and different organisations of Manipur, Tripura and Assam have requested the Governments of Assam and Tripura to correct it and not to use Manipuri either as a prefix or as a suffix to Bishnupriya in order to identify the communities and their languages. Bishnupriyas inhabit mostly in Assam and Tripura and they are the descendants of the Indo-Aryan stock, and are quite distinct from the Tibeto-Burmans speaking the Manipuri scheduled language. They are distinct not only in language but also in appearance. The Bishnupriya language is quite similar to Assamese and Bengali. The problem of languages and castes is a serious and sentimental one and it could be taken care of while issuing orders in relation to them.

I now draw the attention of the Government of India to the fact that Bishnupriyas are socially, politically and linguistically quite distinct from the Manipuris. They are not Manipuris. They may be recognised/listed in the OBC lists as Bishnupriya Assamese or as Bishnupriya Bengalis after the name of the State in which they live or to which they belong because their language is either vulgar Assamese or vulgar Bengali. There is no justification to use "Manipuri" either as a prefix or as a suffix to the Bishnupriya for identifying community and language.

The Central Government must immediately give a directive to the Governments of Assam and Tripura to correct the wrong order for identification

of Bishnupriya—adding Manipuri, suffix to Bishnupriya in the list of OBCs and languages so that the sentimental issue of the Manipuris living in Assam and Tripura in particular and Manipur in general could be solved and cordial relationship could be developed between different communities in the North-East region.

Thank you Sir.

DISCUSSION ON WORKING OF MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

DR. Y. RADHAKRISHNA MURTHY (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I feel honoured for being asked to initiate the discussion on the working of the Ministry of Environment and Forests. This subject has no political overtones. Therefore, it would not be very exciting. But, at the same time, the subject is very important for the safety and well-being of the people of our country. Nature has been very kind and generous to us. It has endowed us with very rich environmental capital. But, unfortunately, we, as people of India, have not repaid it properly and probably are cruel to nature. Protection, preservation and prevention of degradation of environment is an important task and it is virtually connected with our survival and well-being. Both wealth and poverty in their own different ways are contributing to the steady and speedy degradation of environment. As experts name it, there is 'pollution of affluence and pollution of poverty'.

The task is stupendous and has wide and deep global ramifications. Therefore, global environment summits are being held and these issues are being discussed. The new economic policy has also helped to further deteriorate our environment. I will come to this point a little later.

The share of developed countries in global pollution is considerable and large. But, as observed by the last Summit, they are not prepared to scale down their share.

but they are insisting on an ingenious formula of sharing the limits with their neighbours and asking the third world countries to reduce their pollution level. I would request the Ministry of Environment and Forests to enlighten us on our reaction, our stand, our protest and our surrender at the latest Summit. The recent World Bank report under the caption 'The Cost of Inaction' has given some interesting and disturbing facts that ring alarm bells for us in India.

They took up 36 cities in our country. The report said that 40,000 deaths could be avoided and a huge cost of 10,446 million dollars could be avoided if we were to take adequate preventive measures on environment. We are almost in an environmental mess. The problem is multifactorial and involves various Ministries and Departments and there is need for awareness among people.

I am afraid, it is not the sole responsibility of the Ministry of environment and Forests. I would just like to bring to the notice of the House the diversity and enormity of the problem. There is the problem of gaseous emissions, polluted water, toxic effluents, soil erosion, forest degradation, noise pollution, food adulteration and residues of pesticides.

We have to first know the enormity of the problem. We have to see how things are going on, what our efforts are and whether they are fruitful or otherwise. To take only a few components of environment—it will be difficult for me to deal with all of them because there are a number of components—first, let us take air. The pollution of the air which we have to breathe 20 times every minute, is the worst that can happen. This is mainly caused by vehicles and industry. There are 25 million to 30 million vehicles on roads in India and in Delhi alone it is calculated that there are 25 lakh vehicles of different types. It has also been brought to the notice of the people of India as well as the House some time back that 40 per cent of the new cars that are being manufactured are said to be 'not conforming to the emission standard'

despite our advice to the manufactures with a time schedule and all that. Our petrol can emit carbondioxide, carbonmonoxide, oxides of nitrogen and suspended particles or matter. And our diesel can emit sulphurdioxide and suspended particles and matter in tonnes. It is well known that carbondioxide emission can cause global warming which can lead to green house effect causing Melted Polar Ice which in turn raises the ocean levels and results in submerging of some of the islands, the low-level islands, and also flood some of our coastal areas. The *Times of India* reported on 16th July that we had the hottest six months in the last 100 years and that the Delhi's temperature was the highest this year when compared to the last 50 years. This is mainly due to manmade pollution. This air pollution can also cause acid rains and it can cause health hazards like respiratory problems, asthma, allergies and particularly it can decrease our intelligence quotient. It can also increase the crime rate. It can increase the infant mortality rate and result in low birth weights and in still births. This link between environment and health is very often missed. The fluorocarbons from our modern gadgets like A.C.s, fridges, etc. can cause a dent in the ozone layer thereby letting ultraviolet rays from the sun which can cause skin and eye damage. Sir, let us see what we have planned and what we have done. We have the Acts. We have the rules and regulations framed. We have talked of what is called the Mass Rapid Transport System (MRTS) so that the number of vehicles can be reduced. Probably we also inaugurated one such scheme in Delhi as well as one year back. And we are insisting upon catalytic converters to be put into all our vehicles and we promised unleaded petrol to be supplied. We asked our refineries to have low sulphur diesel. We have constituted innumerable boards, committees and expert bodies. But the results are far from satisfactory. I will come to the details of it later on.

Sir, the contribution of the industry, whether big, medium or small, to the pollution is significant and in spite of

mandatory strict control measures by way of setting up of effluent plants and common effluent treatment plants, which are subsidised by the Government, the compliance is very poor and often deceptive. When our Committee visited there, we found that they tried to save the cost of power by switching of these plants whenever people are not working on them. It is said that Delhi's three thermal power plants alone emit 30,000 tonnes of SPM every day. That is the enormity of the problem. The allotment for industrial pollution control this year is Rs. 30 crores. Interestingly, we are taking these thirty crores of rupees as external loan. I would like to ask the Government why the polluters should not pay for the pollution they are creating. Why should we bring money from external borrowings and then invest it here for controlling the industrial pollution? While we are trying to privatise every sanitation facility in this country, we are trying to finance the industry for the pollution they are creating. It is stated that we have Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations in their hundreds. In an answer to Unstarred Question No. 2135 of 14.3.1997, the Ministry had stated that AAQM Stations were established, Emission Standards were prescribed, Emission Standards were notified and industries were directed to install necessary equipment. I want you to note the words "were established, prescribed, notified, directed". But to what extent these were implemented, is a million dollar question.

Coming to some of the technical details, the SPM's critical level as per the standards of WHO is 60 mcg. per cubic metre. But in 1995, Delhi's SPM level or the load is 410 micro gram per cubic metre, that is, nearly seven times the accepted level. The sulphur content in our diesel is one per cent as of today and we have set a target of bringing it down to 0.25% by 2000 A.D. That is wonderful. But the same in the West as of today is 0.05%. That is one-twentieth of what we are planning for 2000 A.D.

The Agenda-21 of the Rio Summit made certain recommendations six years ago to improve these conditions and to what extent and with what results they were implemented, the House has got a right to know. Then hazardous wastes management is part of the problem of the Department of Environment. At the first international conference and the Basal Convention in 1992, India made an ardent plea to the industrialised world in one sentence and that is, "Keep your own wastes with yourself". But what is happening is that the Greenpeace Organisation on environment had something to say on this, "Despite Delhi High Court's ban on wastes import on April, 1996, the amount of toxic wastes that is brought into the country from industrial nations, special OECD countries, and the toxic lead waste brought into India, is over 15,000 metric tonnes in the form of battery waste and all that. Despite our Department's naming this report as absurd—that is the word they used—it is widely believed that hazardous wastes dumping into India continues and making India a dumping yard for OECD countries". This data of import of lead-containing waste material is given by the Customs Department to the Greenpeace organisation.

Coming to noise pollution which plays havoc with our health, we are using gensets in thousands and millions because of shortage of power. We have commercial advertisements with mikes and music, religious and secular functions, marriages and deaths and our need to awaken our numerous gods at early hours, with blaring microphones. The medical opinion is that a level higher than 50 to 70 decibels of sound can cause insomnia, that is, sleeplessness, irritability, that is, what happens many a time in this House, psychic stress and so on. So, many of our cities have crossed these limits and probably it is the Police who have to monitor this.

Sir, so many organisations are connected with this environmental mess,

not just the Ministry alone, and how they co-ordinate is a very big problem.

Coming to the water, the Nature's bounty, we have our great rivers, but most of them are highly polluted. The larger and longer the river, the greater the pollution due to industrial effluent, chemical and fertilisers, domestic sewage, etc. etc. We consider our rivers very sacred, rightly so, but in the process of washing off our sins, we pollute them with our external and internal dirt. We dump human and animal carcasses into them without any sense of compunction. Superstitions surpass the scientific sense and the public safety. Let us take the example of the great Ganga. To clean the Ganga, because we have accepted राम तेरी गंगा मैली।

We have a big plan to clean the Ganga and that is called the Ganga Action Plan Phase I. There are two phases, and phase I is nearing completion now. Sir, we have spent Rs. 450 crores on this Phase I. We have spent 13 years of time and the original schedule was to complete it in five or six years. So, there was a lot of time overrun, cost overrun, etc., and all that. It is said that many people have built guest houses with this money borrowed from the World Bank. The whole plan was a muddle and it was a bungling. The contractors were eating away a considerable part of these expenses. Sir, this is not my accusation. I would like the House to refer to the Standing Committee Report. There is a big report on this particular matter, but I will just read two-three lines. "It is also observed one of the reasons for the delay was due to contractors not fulfilling their part of the contract. The Committee would like to know what action has been taken against the erring contractors and whether any liquidate damage is claimed against such contractors". This is the question put by the Standing Committee. Also, Sir, page 22 of the 53rd Report of the Standing Committee states, "The Committee fails to understand," this is another Report from the same Committee "as to why stringent actions

were not taken and notices issued earlier to initiate action again the local bodies which are discharging effluents into the rivers." That shows the callousness of the whole Department and the plan. "The Ministry has largely remained complacent by way of generating studies in various technical aspects of the Ganga Action Plan and issuing directions to the State Governments and this Committee is anguished at the dismal performance of the Ministry on this front and strongly expresses itself in favour of the Ministry laying a pro-active role" it is a very attractive term nowadays we have used it here also "rather than appointing committees and generating studies, recommendations and findings of which are implemented in a half-hearted manner." Sir, those are the two reports which I have quoted here.

Now, we have started the Ganga Action Plan Phase-II and it is to be started or just started. The allotment for this year is Rs. 165 crores. Out of which, Rs. 137 crores we are importing, that means, we are borrowing from external agencies. Similarly, there is Yamuna Action Plan and Gomti Action Plan—I am not going into the details because I don't have the time—I have the details, but don't have the time.

Then, there is another problem with the water, i.e. receding ground water level. Unable to use surface water sources due to financial and technical constraints, people are drawing more and more subsoil water from deep borewells and the ground water levels are going down, consequently affecting the vegetation. Attempts to replenish them with schemes, like watershed, etc., etc., don't match the need. Coming to the ocean, Sir, industrial effluents and urban domestic sewage are often let out in the sea polluting the coastal waters to the detriment of fish and other marine life. Proper management of marine environment to prevent degradation from man-made activities like pollution was recommended by the Earth Summit in 1992. A Project Directorate was

established at Chennai for the specific purpose and the House would like to know its activities so far. Here also I would like to refer to the 47th Report of the Standing Committee: "The Committee is anguished and alarmed..." these are the terms used by the Committee, "...over the magnitude of the marine pollution and inadequate steps to prevent as well as to control the same. The Committee finds it difficult to believe the data furnished to the fact that in case of Mumbai, which has been described as the commercial capital of the country, the sea beyond five kilometres is clean." It is difficult to believe that claim! So, they made out various reasons as to why they do not believe that. "The Committee expresses its unhappiness over the problem of marine pollution and would like the department to take urgent steps to deal with the same. The Committee should be apprised of the fresh assessments."

Sir, the growing slums, both in number as well as in volume, in every major city, are posing a great threat to environment but, unfortunately, this problem is not a problem of Environment Department or Ministry alone. This is a human problem and a human rights problem and connected with that, also an environmental problem. So many agencies, so many Ministries have to take action to see that slums are some how set right and they are given a proper rehabilitation.

The last I would deal is forest, a very interesting one. Forest cover has steadily come down areawise more alarmingly than our official statistics show. Ideally forest cover is said to be 33% of the land of the country but now it is only, official figures admit, 11% of thick forest and 8% open forest, whatever that may mean. Both put together comes to 19% and the causes are many: man's greed, department's softness and often callousness, ill-planned projects and, of course, our Veerappans. In every State we have Veerappans and every year the

country is losing 15 lakh hectares of forest cover and 1,200 crore tonnes of top soil because of forest loss. The per capita availability of forest in India is 0.08 hectares and the world's average is 0.8 hectares. That comes to one-tenth of the world's average. The Earth Summit at Rio in 1992 gave this startling fact that India's areas of degraded land are the largest in the world. We lose 3% of forest annually. Bio-diversity is our strength and India has 45,000 land species and 81,000 animal species and 7% of the world's flora and fauna. There was an international convention on bio-diversity. Many recommendations were made, many discussions were held and what is the effect and what is the follow up? The House has got the right to know.

The Supreme Court, in a historic judgment in December, 1995 details are there has given an order that further felling of trees along the length and breadth of the country should be stopped. This was raised in a Public Interest Litigation. During the course of hearing it has come to light that only 5% of timber trade is legal and 95% of the timber trade is based on smuggling. Sir, on forest also there is an interesting report by the Standing Committee.

Sir, when it comes to the poor people in forests, they go to forest to collect some firewood, gum and other forest materials. While giving the example of Gujrat, I would like to read from the Report of the Standing Committee: "These women have to pay 200 to 300 per cent more than what the paper mills pay for the same forest produce. These poor women go to forests to collect forest materials. The Advivas women who are at the best semi-literate and who tap gum are required to obtain licence. Another agony of these women is that they are required to sell their products to Government agencies at one-fourth of the market price. In that process when these women were operating illegally they were able to earn Rs. 25 per day. Now when they are operating legally they are able to

earn only Rs. 12 per day with longer working hours, with additional help of their children who have to leave school to give these women the necessary support".

Another aspect is with regard to preservation of forests. Here again I would like to read from the Report of the Standing Committee. "There is a large scale devastation of forests by fire. This aspect, the Committee feels, is being neglected due to a lack of modern fire fighting equipment, sufficient control and monitoring and Communication system to contain and prevent such fires." To contain and prevent such fires, the Ministry has purchased some helicopters and the story of these helicopters is also very interesting. again I am reading from the Report of the Standing Committee: "These helicopters were purchased at a very high cost, but they were not able to control fire in large areas on account of their capacity to carry small quantity of water. The Committee feels as to why the helicopters were inducted under this scheme if they are not found effective for forest fire fighting. The Committee would like to know whether any technical study was undertaken by the Ministry before the induction of these helicopters." I think nothing more is necessary to say in this regard.

Sir, another point is with regard to the wildlife. The preservation and protection of wildlife is also the responsibility of this Ministry. Yesterday the House had an elaborate discussion on this subject and the Chair had also expressed its anguish over the loss of Gir-lions, cheetas tigers etc. This loss is mostly due to poaching. They poach the tigers for their skin and hide, elephants for their tusk and lions for pleasure. This is not a sport of the poor people. This is a sport of the rich and the powerful. Here also I would like to read something from the Annual 97-98 Report of the Standing Committee. The Act of 1972 is there to prevent poaching and for protection of the wildlife. From 1972 this Act has not been updated. There has been a lot of

discussion on it. It has not been finalised yet. They have taken nearly 30 years but it has not been finalised. There is a proposal to ban all arms., say up to 15 or 20 kms. away from the reserve forests. Even that proposal was not accepted. Therefore, we see the sorry spectacle of courts' intervention in the matter of environment and protection and they clearly pointed out the failure of the Ministry of Environment and Forests. A classic case of the Supreme Court is, ordering the closure of 1000 industries in Delhi and 292 industries in Agra in 1993. All of us know and this House had an occasion to discuss on this for nearly two days. The High Court of Karnataka in August, 1997, directed the Government authorities to ensure that vehicles conform to the pollution control laws before the 2nd October of that year. The Supreme Court ordered closing down of polluting aquaculture farms which were within 500 meters of high tides of the sea to save vast fertile land mangroves and prevent sub-soil water pollution. The result of liberalisation of the Indian economy is export oriented economy. So, we are harping more and more on fishculture. So, all our fertile land has been converted into fish ponds and subsequently the salinity of a vast tract of land. Yesterday, I had an occasion to see a Star TV's report with title "Living on the edge." They have taken the Orissa coast. The report has shown a very beautiful item as to how vast tracts of land are subjected to salinity and not useful for further use.

Sir, animal welfare is a part of the Ministry and they are doing some wonderful work. Yesterday, I think, we had a discussion on family planning. Some hon. Member was complaining that family planning is not being implemented properly. I think, Mr. Ravi, from that side had raised this issue. For his satisfaction, I would like to say that under the Animal Birth Control Programme, more than 18,000 sterilizations were carried out on stray dogs in six metro cities. On stray dogs,

18,000 family planning operations were carried out. I think, it does not need any comment. We have umpteen laws, rules, etc. and we do not need some more. And, we are spending no small amount. Sir, this year's allotment for this Ministry is Rs. 704 crores. It means, it is more than 304 crores when compared to last year's allotment.

We have the Central Pollution Control Board and various State Pollution Control Boards. There are highly qualified, erudite and efficient people and some of them with high degree of commitment. I agree. But, Sir, these boards, specially the State boards, do not possess strong teeth but they are hesitant to use even those soft teeth very often. Consequently, the clouds of all embracing pollution embraces even the pollution control boards. We see a good number of individuals and groups of N.G.Os., environmentalists coming up in every State and among, them, they are well-versed in the subject, scholarly, often coming from academic institutions, and certainly having a greater commitment; and particularly, in some of the international conferences, they are playing a very important role and even organised parallel conferences as in Rio. They are trying to bring out a lot of awareness on the subject through media and pressure on the polluters as well as administrators. We have also a mention of these NGOs in our Standing Committee's Reports. I am not reading them. Unfortunately, for a few of these environmentalist it has become much of a fad and are counter-posing environment to development, as in the case of nuclear plants, large irrigation dams, etc. There is a place and a need for such patriotic, enthusiastic, selfless groups in the field of environmental conservation, and their contribution can be phenomenal, if they can balance these two important aspects of development and environment with the concept of what we call sustainable development. To conclude, I wanted to remind this Government a sentence in the National Agenda for Governance.

It promises to establish an appropriate legal framework for the protection of environment. It also promises to evolve a National Environment Policy to balance between development and ecology. These are the promises made in the National Agenda. Let us all hope that the promises made and expectations aroused may be translated into achievements.

SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI (Nominated): Sir, I rise to express my grave concern over the reports appearing in the media regarding the intention of the Government to dilute various statutory notifications, issued by the Government of India under the Environmental Protection Act. This is reportedly being done without going through the statutory procedure of inviting suggestions and objections. Environmental Action Groups have laboured for years for the notifications and impact assessment, and got CRZ passed. They should be strengthened instead of being dropped from various committees as is being done. Instead of elaborating on the need to protect our environment, to which the hon. Minister is committed and while reiterating that environmental degradation and social justice are two sides of the same coin. I wish to place certain suggestions or consideration of the hon. Minister. Please ask for a compliance report for all projects, cleared within the last five years. Surprisingly, these reports have never been made public. After various expert committees place conditions on this project on that, there is virtually no monitoring done, and even if it is done, there is either no will or no means to enforce the conditions. In private discussions with environmental groups, many project authorities literally thumb their noses at environmental concerns saying in effect, "Please do not teach us about *desh sewa*. Your work is just to impose these conditions." They proceed to violate every clause at the risk and cost of public. As things stand more often than not, officers wind up, defending their own fiefdoms rather than the

nation. When courts ask the MOEF to put in reports, these turn out to be virtual cover-up, intended to stymie court orders, rather than help it, and clean our air, water and soils. So deeply have business interests insinuated themselves into decision-making that when Supreme Court issued orders to stop ruining the coastline through aquaculture, the MOEF was used as a vehicle to pass new legislation, intended expressly to negate the Supreme Court orders. In order to give teeth to various NGOs working in this field, it is imperative that the truth lying hidden in the MOEF files of project violations, be made public. I am certain that these publicspirited NGOs can and will force State Governments and project proponents to bow to the will of victim communities through Courts. A concerted effort needs to be made to strengthen environmental groups; instead three very active members — Bitty Sehgal, Dinesh Mohan, who is Professor at IIT and an expert on highways, and Shri Shyam Chenani were dropped from the Expert Committee of Infrastructure and Miscellaneous Projects, clearly because of their opposition to projects, violating the CRZ regulations on Bombay and the Bombay-Pune expressway.

There are several reports about moves to dilute or, astonishingly, even to scrap the CRZ Notification. I understand that one of the arguments advanced is that dilutions are being carried out to implement slum rehabilitation schemes. This argument is not valid. I have been connected with several slum organizations in Mumbai. All these organizations are unanimous in their opposition to any dilutions in the CRZ Notification. These dilutions will only serve as an incentive for builders to displace the slum dwellers from their existing residences, and deprive the public, especially the poor, of their fast dwindling limited access to water fronts. We need to protect our coastal lines in developed areas like, Bombay and Madras and further densification of coastal sides must be stopped.

MISS MABEL REBELLO (Madhya Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, after a long wait I have been given this opportunity to speak in this august House. I am very grateful to you. Sir, the recorded forest cover in this country is 75 million hectares which is about 19.5 per cent of the total geographical area of our country, whereas the actual forest cover, I am told, is only 64 million hectares. This shows that our forest wealth is depleting, is dwindling due to over-grazing, over-exploitation, both commercial and domestic; encroachments; unsustainable practices like shifting agriculture; developmental activities like roads, building, irrigation, power projects, dams and what not. We all know that the most vulnerable section of our society, namely, the tribals and the landlesslabourers live in the forest. They actually make a living from the forest wealth. Sir, 25 per cent of the total forest of India is in Madhya Pradesh. I am happy to tell you that Madhya Pradesh is also home for the largest section of the tribal population. Almost 23 per cent of the population of Madhya Pradesh consists of tribals. They are mostly concentrated in 14 districts. Eighty per cent of the population of Madhya Pradesh stay in 14 districts of Madhya Pradesh. This shows that there is a close link between the tribals and the forest and it is so from times immemorial. The tribals and the forest exist happily, they live happily; they co-exist. Today, there is a feeling among the Tribal Department and the forest functionaries that it is the tribals who are destroying the forests. The Forest Department is trying to keep the tribals off the forest. I feel that we have wrongly diagnosed the problem. The problem is not that the tribals are destroying the forest. The tribal is not an enemy of the forest, he is a friend of the forest. We all know that tribals and forest depend on each other, they sustain each other. It is the timber mafia, and the forest contractors who are hand in glove with the bureaucrats and others who are actually destroying the forest. I think that the

forest Department should not hesitate to bring them to book. We have got very good, laudable, schemes and very good policies, but we must effectively implement these policies. It is here that the Forest Department should really take strong action and see that the forest machinery and the bureaucrats function well and effectively. Then only we will be able to save our forests. In fact, the Forest Department has recently, in the last few years, brought about a concept known as the Joint Forest Management where the estate holders, that is, the tribals, are a party to it. Actually, this is a wonderful concept. I am told that in almost ten States this Joint Forest Management has been very effective. They have converted almost four million hectares of land into thick forest. This is really laudable and good. But, I also know that the forest machinery and the bureaucrats do not appreciate it. They do not want the tribals to manage the forest. They are trying to even do away with the concept of Joint Forest Management. I would appeal to the hon. Minister to give more emphasis on inviting the tribals and those living in the vicinity of the forest to manage the forest, so that the tribals who make a living from the forest can get minor forest. They can make a living out of it.

Similarly, I would say that in the earlier days we had what is known as the village forest. That concept is almost dead and gone. We should bring this concept back. If we make the villagers and the tribals responsible for the forest, for the regeneration of the forest, they would love to do it and they will protect it. They will also get some minor forest. Their timber, fuel needs will be met. Even for pastures they can have grazing ground. All this they can have from the forest. They will manage it very well. Therefore, we should encourage this.

Sir, I come to Madhya Pradesh. I said that Madhya Pradesh has got 25 per cent of the national forest. But, look at the budgetary allotment, in the First Five

Year Plan, Madhya Pradesh got 16 per cent of the Forest Department's budgetary allocation. During the Eight Five Year Plan, Madhya Pradesh got a little less than five per cent. It is like a step-motherly treatment for Madhya Pradesh. I do not know why this is happening. I would request the Government and the hon. Minister present here to please give budgetary allocation to Madhya Pradesh in proportion to the forest they have. We have got 25 per cent forest and if the hon. Minister can allot us a little more than 25 per cent, that will encourage us and Madhya Pradesh will be able to sustain and maintain the forest they have. They will be able to regenerate and bring more land under forest cover. With your support we will soon have 30 per cent of the national cover. Similarly, as you know, Madhya Pradesh is a tiger State. Although the tiger population all over the world is dwindling, Madhya Pradesh still maintains a good number. There has been an increase in the tiger population over the years. The tiger population which was 900, instead of dwindling, has gone up to 925. So also is the case of panther. In the last decade, we had 1500 panthers. This decade, we are proud to tell you, we have 1750 panthers.

This shows that the people of Madhya Pradesh are looking after the forests. This shows that they are looking after the wild animals. The only thing is that the hon. Minister should be kind enough to give Madhya Pradesh its due. This is my request to the hon. Minister.

One more problem I would like to raise. As you know, Madhya Pradesh has got, what is known as, sal forest. This sal forest is now under threat because there is a disease known as sal borer disease. In six districts of Madhya Pradesh, i.e. Mandla, Bilaspur, Shahdol, Rajanand gaon, Sarguja and Balaghat, thesal forest has been affected by a beetle known as sal borer.

In fact, the Madhya Pradesh Government, in the year 1996-97,

destroyed 25 lakh beetles. In the year 1997-98, they have destroyed more than 1 crore 51 lakh beetles. In spite of this, as on date, 31 lakh sal trees are affected.

Sir, this sal borer disease has almost assumed a virulent form. The only solution for this problem is to cut down the affected trees. The Madhya Pradesh Government has proposed to the Government of India the cutting down of the affected trees. The Government of India was seized of the problem. They were in the process of granting the permission. In the meanwhile, some NGOs and some environment activists approached the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court is yet to give the permission. I would appeal to the Government. I would appeal to the Minister. The Government should place before the Supreme Court the real problem we are facing so that quickly they can give us the permission and the disease which is assuming an epidemic form can be contained.

Sir, I would appeal to you, the hon. Minister and all the Members here, to visit Madhya Pradesh and see for themselves as to what is happening to the sal forest. If we do not address this problem immediately, we will be losing this rich forest and the future generations would never forgive us.

Similarly, Sir, I would like to mention one or two things about Madhya Pradesh. There was a Constitution (Amendment) Bill of 1996. It was decided to confer ownership of the minor forest products on the Gram Sabhas. I am happy and proud to tell you that Madhya Pradesh is one of the States which has implemented this Amendment. Because of this, almost Rs. 100 crores has been given annually to the Madhya Pradesh Gram Sabhas. The proportion is this way: 50 per cent is given to the actual collectors of minor forest produce, 30 per cent is given to the Gram Sabhas so that they can improve the infrastructure of their own villages, and 20 per cent is given to the Gram Sabhas to regenerate forests. So, I

would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the commendable work done by us. I request him to support Madhya Pradesh and the Madhya Pradesh Forest Department.

I would like to draw your attention to another thing. You know the Jhabua District. Ten years ago, people were saying that Jhabua would become a desert. Today, I am very happy to tell you that the Jhabua District, instead of becoming a desert, has become a very good forest area. How did it happen? It has happened because of good implementation of watershed projects. There were some very good forest officers. There were some very good Collectors. They took a lot of interest. Today the groundwater level has gone up. The Bhils used to go to far-off places like Nagaland and the North-Eastern States in hot summer to eke out a living. Now they are able to stay back. They are able to cultivate the land. Jhabua was a place where there was a lot of migration. For almost eight months people used to be away from their homes. Now they are staying back. Not only are they self-sufficient in food. But I am happy to tell you that they grow so much of fodder that they are supplying it to the neighbouring districts of the State of Gujarat. So, Sir, if you give us financial support and encouragement, we in Madhya Pradesh will be able to do a lot.

One important thing that we have done in Jhabua and other places is that because of the watershed management we have formed what are known as "Self-Help Groups." The tribals are exploited by money-lenders. To wean them away from money-lenders, we have borrowed a concept advocated by Mamun Yunus in Bangladesh. We have formed what are known as "Self-Help Groups." All of them save something. Today I am happy to tell you that the women's groups of Jhabua have got something like Rs. 2 crores of bank balance. The NABARD and the Reserve Bank have given permission to nationalised banks to open

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bank accounts for the Self-Help Groups and to give them loans amounting to ten times the amount they have deposited in the bank. So, they are trying to become self-sufficient. They are trying to do away with money-lenders. They are giving confidence to each other. If you come and see what has happened in Jhabua, you will be happy to duplicate it elsewhere in the country.

I have spoken on "forest."

Coming to "environment" two previous speakers have spoken quite a bit on "environment." We all know the gigantic size of our population. Fast spreading industrialisation has caused gross violation of the environment in our country. We all know our land, our water and our air. All these are polluted. I need not mention about them.

We all know that water is the life-line of our nation, of any nation. We are most fortunate for we have been gifted with abundance of water and sunshine. A lot of water goes waste. There are disputes like what we are hearing these days about the Cauvery waters. We are fighting amongst ourselves. So, the nature takes its toll, and water is wasted. Instead of harnessing that water and producing more food for our teeming millions, we do not do it.

Similarly, what is happening to our rivers? Look at Tamil Nadu. What has happened to the land in Tamil Nadu. I think, in Arcot, because of the tanneries there, the entire land has been affected. I don't think that they will ever be able to grow anything there. They will not be able to grow anything for the next 50 years or 100 years. They will not be able to have potable water from that ground. They will have to bring water, they will have to transport water from somewhere else and look after themselves.

Big industries like those of pesticides, insecticides and distilleries and dyeing units are making a lot of money, but they never pay for damage caused by them to the environment. I do not know why in

our country we cannot make the polluters pay for their omission and commission? I think we must have very stringent laws. If they violate them, they should be punished very seriously. I think deterrent punishment is the only way to keep these fellows away from pollution. They have money. It is not that they do not have money. It is their greed, it is not their need that makes them not to install sufficient machinery to arrest pollution. Therefore, they should be punished.

Similarly, about air pollution, two speakers before me have mentioned what is happening in Delhi itself. I would just like to say a few things about air polluting chemicals which often cause cancer, respiratory problems, congenital defects, brain and nervous disorders. It has been said that air pollution kills one person every hour in Delhi which is the national capital. We should feel ashamed of it. The hon. Minister is sitting here. He should think about it. If he cannot do it himself, he has got the entire machinery at his disposal. He will be having almost Rs. 700 crores. He should apply his mind. He should also take the people into confidence and see what measures we should adopt to arrest this pollution.

Sir, it is estimated that 53,000 Indians die every year because of air pollution and 26 million are hospitalised. Air pollution has transformed our cities virtually into killing fields. What a shame! We, human beings are born to live and lead a fruitful and good life, whereas our environment makes us die every day and every minute. What a shame!

The Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) study says that these premature deaths cause the exchequer Rs. 4,500 crores a year, a massive amount. They say monetary loss due to sickness alone is Rs. 160 crores annually, a mind-boggling figure. The CSE found high levels of suspended particulate matter (SPM) laden with toxic chemicals, are responsible for these deaths.

Regarding noise pollution, I will not touch it because previous speakers have

spoken about it. But I would like to say a few words about plastic. Sir, the day before yesterday in *The Sunday Times*, there was an article which says that plastic waste is clogging in city's gutters, sewers and storm drains. It is lengthy article. But I would like to quote a few things. "PVC simply cannot be disposed of safely. And it just cannot be recycled beyond a point. When ragpickers burn PVC coated copper wire, for instance, the copper acts as a catalyst to produce some of the world's most lethal substance including dioxin." Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I think you have heard it. "It produces the world's most lethal substance including dioxin." I think in every city whenever people burn this plastic, we are all being killed slowly and steadily. "Dioxin cause, endocrine disruption which results in a whole range of human diseases, including impairment of the immune system, genetic defects, deformed reproductive organs, lowered sperm count and cancer." These are the things that are happening. When things are happening like that, I do not know why we are so silent and quiet.

Sir, in the year 1903, West Germany imposed what is known as environment duty. They levied it on all industrialists. Everybody jolly-well paid it. This practice is still in vogue. It has been very successful. It has been observed in the West that whenever strict pollution control measures were introduced industry reacted and they protested. In spite of that, they eventually went in for an appropriate technology. They developed it. They had recourse to it. They had used that technology. That is how they have brought the pollution within the specified limit. If they can do it, why can't we do it? Otherwise, we ape the West for nothing at all. For all other rubbish things, we ape the West, imitate the West. For good things, why don't we do it? I request the hon. Minister, I appeal to the hon. Minister, to find out suitable measures, prevail upon the industrialists and others and give them severe punishment where needed so that

pollution may be brought within reasonable limits. Thank you.

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, विश्व और राष्ट्र के सामाजिक जीवन में अनेक महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दे होते हैं, लेकिन पर्यावरण सब से महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दा है। हमें दुख है कि आज सारे विश्व का पर्यावरण दूषित हो रहा है। आज इस का कुप्रभाव जीव और निर्जीव दोनों पर पड़ रहा है और उन के अस्तित्व को खतरा पैदा हो गया है।

महोदय, हमारे राष्ट्र के निर्माताओं ने संविधान की रचना करते समय इस विषय की ओर ध्यान नहीं दिया था। मैं उस के कारणों में नहीं जाता, लेकिन मैं आभारी हूँ और धन्यवाद देता हूँ अपने देश के अन्य संविधान विशेषज्ञ सांसदों और यहां की संसद को कि उन्होंने संविधान के 42वें संशोधन के माध्यम से इस विषय को संविधान से जोड़ा और अब यह विषय हमारे संविधान के राज्यों के नीति-निर्देशक सिद्धांतों में 48(क) और (ज) जिन की हम बहुत चर्चा करते हैं और कहते हैं कि हम को अधिकार, मानवाधिकार और मौलिक अधिकार प्राप्त है जोकि हम को मिलना चाहिए, उनसे जुड़ गया है लेकिन हमारी जिम्मेदारियां क्या हैं, दायित्व क्या हैं, इस का संविधान में कोई प्रावधान नहीं था। उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, उसी 42वें संशोधन के माध्यम से संविधान में एक नई धारा 51(क) जोड़ी गयी और हमारे देश के नागरिकों की जिम्मेदारी ठहराई गयी। उस में एक जिम्मेदारी पर्यावरण को सुरक्षित रखने की भी है। महोदय, मुझे दुख के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि हमारे देश की सरकारों ने चाहे वह किसी भी दल की रही हों, न तो इन नीति-निर्देशक सिद्धांतों का क्रियान्वयन किया और न ही इस देश के नागरिकों ने अपनी जिम्मेदारी का निर्वहन किया फिर चाहे वह सांसद हों और चाहे विधायक हों। महोदय, मैं आंकड़े पेश नहीं करूंगा क्योंकि वह तो अखबारों में पढ़ने को मिलते हैं। हमारे सब से पहले वक्ता ने स्थाई सीमिति की आख्याएं और उन के आंकड़े भी प्रस्तुत किए थे। दो विद्वान पूर्व महिला सांसदों ने भी बहुत से तथ्य इस सदन के समुख रखे थे। पर्यावरण क्यों दूषित हो रहा है, क्योंकि जनसंख्या बढ़ रही है? महोदय, हमारे देश के लोगों का ध्यान जनसंख्या को रोकने पर नहीं है। किसी ने ठीक कहा है:

"साहिल के तमाशाई हर डूबने वाले पर, अफसोस तो करते हैं, इमदाद नहीं करते।"

महोदय, पर्यावरण नहीं बच पाएगा और हमारे अस्तित्व को भी खतरा पैदा हो जाएगा, अगर जनसंख्या नियंत्रित नहीं होगी। हमारे यहां एक तरफ धनी वर्ग के लोग अपनी सुख-सुविधाओं के लिए और दूसरी तरफ निर्धन अपने जीवन के अस्तित्व के लिए पर्यावरण को दूषित कर रहे हैं। मानव मूल्यों में गिरावट दिन-प्रति-दिन पर्यावरण को दूषित कर रही है। गैर-जिम्मेदाराना बर्ताव जिस की कि मैंने अभी चर्चा की, पर्यावरण को दूषित कर रहा है। हम ने प्रकृति से नाता तोड़ लिया है जिससे पर्यावरण दूषित हो रहा है। अभी यहां प्लास्टिक की चर्चा की गयी। पहले हमारे देश के रिटायर्ड ब्यूरोक्रेट्स, रिटायर्ड जजेज और बड़े धनी लोग बाजार को जाते थे तो एक कपड़े का छोटा थैला लेकर जाते थे और उस में सब्जी और दूसरा सारा सामान लाते थे। वह थैला भी दसियों वर्ष चलता था। और जब फट जाता था, गल जाता था तो मिट्टी में मिल जाता था। उसका पर्यावरण पर कोई दुष्प्रभाव नहीं होता था। अब हर व्यक्ति खाली हाथ जाता है और प्लास्टिक के थैले में हर सामान लेकर आता है। यह क्या उनको दिखाई नहीं देता? अब सिगरेट के पैकेट पर लिखा रहता है कि सिगरेट पीना स्वास्थ्य के लिए हानिकारक है, फिर भी यह जानकर लोग सिगरेट पी रहे हैं। जगाया तो उसको जा सकता है, जो वास्तव में सो रहा हो, लेकिन जिसने जानबूझकर अपनी आंखें बंद कर रखी हों, उसको कोई नहीं जगा सकता। इस देश के लोगों के जानबूझकर अपनी आंखें बंद कर रखी हैं। यह प्लास्टिक के थैले में सामान हम क्यों लेते हैं? क्या हम कपड़े का थैला नहीं ले जा सकते?

महोदय, पत्ते के दोनों और पत्तल होते थे, जिनमें लोग खाना खाते थे। बड़े-बड़े लोग दावतों में खाना खाने के बाद इन पत्तल, दोनों को फेंक देते थे, जो मिट्टी में मिल जाते थे क्योंकि पत्ता मिट्टी में मिल जाता है। उसका अस्तित्व समाप्त हो जाता है। इसका पर्यावरण पर कोई असर नहीं होता। आज प्लास्टिक के पत्तल और दोने आ गए हैं। उसका सब लोग उपयोग करते हैं। सब एक ही रास्ते पर चल रहे हैं और प्लास्टिक का इस्तेमाल कर रहे हैं। क्या हम उन पत्ते के दोने और पत्तल का इस्तेमाल नहीं कर सकते? मिट्टी की कुल्हड़ होते थे, आज भी हमारी संसद में दही मिट्टी के कुल्हड़ में हम खाते हैं।(व्यवधान).....

श्रीमती कमला सिन्हा (बिहार): अब प्लास्टिक के डिब्बे आ गए हैं।(व्यवधान).....

श्री जलालुद्दीन अंसारी (बिहार): आपके आने के बाद यह आए हैं।(व्यवधान).....

الأخضرى جلال الدين أنصاري :
كأنى كى بعد يرأسه من "مداخلت"

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम: अगर आ गए हैं, तो शर्म है और आज से हम सांसदों को यह कसम लेनी चाहिए कि हम प्लास्टिक के कुल्हड़ में दही नहीं खाएंगे क्योंकि हमें पर्यावरण ठीक रखना है वरना घड़ियाली आंसू क्यों बहाते हैं।(व्यवधान)..... मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि हम मिट्टी के कुल्हड़ में पानी क्यों नहीं पी सकते? कुल्हड़ में, पत्ते के दोने पत्तल में हम खाना क्यों नहीं खा सकते? कुल्हड़ टूटने के बाद वह मिट्टी में मिल जाता है, अस्तित्व-हीन हो जाता है और पर्यावरण पर इसका कोई दुष्प्रभाव नहीं पड़ता। क्या हम ऐसा नहीं कर सकते? हम ऐसा कर सकते हैं।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरे दल के कई लोग बोलने वाले हैं। मसाला मेरे पास बहुत है, लेकिन मुझे केवल 14 मिनट आवंटित हैं, इसलिए मैं अपनी बात जल्दी समाप्त करना चाहूंगा।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री मोहम्मद सलीम): सात मिनट आपका समय हो चुका है। आप संक्षेप में बोलें।

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम: सर, इसलिए मैं केवल सुझाव दूंगा।(व्यवधान)..... आप जानते हैं जलालुद्दीन अंसारी, मैं हूँ संघ प्रिय गौतम पंसारी, यानि जिसकी दुकान में सब चीज है।(व्यवधान).....

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं अधिक समय नहीं लूंगा। इस पर्यावरण को दूषित करने वाले हम लोग हैं। मानव मूल्यों में गिरावट आई है। मैं वेस्टर्न कोर्ट में रहता हूँ, जहां सांसद लोग रहते हैं। वहां पान खाते हैं, पीकदान थे, लेकिन अब दीवारों पर पान की पीक मारते हैं और दूसरे आने वाले सांसद को बजाय यह कहें कि यहां पीक मत मारो पान की या यहां सफाई रखो, वह खुद भी उसी पर पीक मारते हैं। यह मानव मूल्यों में गिरावट है। हम पर्यावरण को दूषित कर रहे हैं। क्या हम इसको अवायड नहीं कर सकते? कर सकते हैं, लेकिन खुद कर रहे हैं अबेट कर रहे हैं और पर्यावरण को दूषित कर रहे हैं।

मान्यवर, मैं छोटी-छोटी, लेकिन भारी बातें कहूंगा। यह कबीर की बात है, तू कहता कागज की लेखी और मैं कहता आंखों की देखी। मैं वही बात कहूंगा, जो वास्तविक है, जो व्यावहारिक जीवन में हो रही है। हम पर्यावरण को दूषित कर रहे हैं। इसके अलावा मान्यवर, साधनों का अभाव है और साधन का अभाव हर क्षेत्र में है। हमारी हर योजना असफल हो रही है चाहे वन की हो या नदी की हो। आज नदी के पेटे कम चौड़े हो गए हैं, नदियां उथली हो गई हैं, नदियों के किनारे मुँदें जलाए जाते हैं। और मुँदों की सारी राख और हड्डियां, नदी में बहा दी जाती है, कोई रोकने वाला नहीं है। सारा कूड़ा-कचरा नदियों में बहाया जाता है। किसी भी नदी का पानी अब पीने लायक नहीं रह गया है। बरसात का पानी बह जाता है, रूकता नहीं है, इसलिए पानी नीचे जाता नहीं है। पानी का धरातल बहुत नीचे चला गया है और पीने का पानी मिलता नहीं है। छोटे-छोटे नदी-नाले जो हैं, उनमें ये शूगर मिल वाले और दूसरी मिलों वाले कचरा और तरल पदार्थ बहाकर उनका रिसाव बंद कर देते हैं जिससे उसके पेट भर जाते हैं और वहां पानी मिलता नहीं है पीने के लिए। नल लगाए जाते हैं, लेकिन नल लगाने से पहले नाली बनानी चाहिए ताकि पानी भरे नहीं। यहां नल पहले बन जाते हैं लेकिन नाली नहीं बनाई जाती जिससे पानी रूककर पर्यावरण को दूषित करता है। दिल्ली की आबादी सन् 47 में 6 लाख थी, जो आज एक करोड़ है। उस समय हमको 25—30 साल आगे का विचार करके कि 25—30 साल बाद कितनी हमको गाड़ियां खरीदनी होंगी, कितनी सड़कें बनानी होंगी, कितना गारबेज होगा, इसका विचार करके योजनाएं बनानी चाहिए थी, लेकिन हमने योजनाएं इस प्रकार से नहीं बनाई इसीलिए आज न हम ट्रेफिक नियंत्रित कर पा रहे हैं और न ही पर्यावरण को दूषित होने से बचा पा रहे हैं। आज हम हवा को दूषित कर रहे हैं। हमारे भाई नीलोत्पल बसु बहुत अच्छे वक्ता हैं, बड़े ज्ञानी हैं लेकिन सुबह से शाम तक 5-6 पैकेट सिगरेट पीकर प्रदूषण को खराब कर देते हैं। क्या हम इसको रोक नहीं सकते? हम खुद ही पर्यावरण को दूषित कर रहे हैं, जान-बूझकर दूषित कर रहे हैं। माफ करना साहब, मैं तो सच बोलता हूँ, मैंने पार्लियामेंट में, संसद में सच बोलने की शपथ ली है। मैं आपसे निवेदन कर रहा था कि आज वायु में बहुत ज्यादा प्रदूषण हो रहा है। हवा प्रदूषित हो चुकी है, पानी प्रदूषित है और अब नॉयज प्रदूषण भी बढ़ रहा है। आज देश में जेनेरेटर का नया सिस्टम चल गया है, जिसकी कोई आवश्यकता नहीं। इससे हवा और काम दोनों खराब होते हैं। अगर हम रात

में बाजार बंद रखें, शायदियां दिन में करें तो मेरे विचार से जेनेरेटर की कोई जरूरत नहीं है। बाजार सुबह 6.00 बजे से शाम 6.00 बजे तक हों, रात को बाजार न खुलें तो जेनेरेटर की कोई आवश्यकता नहीं है और यह हम कर सकते हैं।

महोदय, अब मैं कुछ सुझाव देना चाहता हूँ। मैं तैयारी तो बहुत करके आया था लेकिन चूंकि समय कम है, इसलिए संक्षेप में अपने सुझाव रखना चाहता हूँ। सबसे पहले मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि इस समस्या की ओर व्यक्ति, व्यक्तियों के समूह और राष्ट्रीय आधार पर जागृति पैदा की जानी चाहिए। समस्या का दूरगामी समाधान होना चाहिए—एक पेड़ काटो, दो पेड़ लगाओ। पेड़ काट सकते हैं, लेकिन एक पेड़ काटने पर दो पेड़ लगाए जाने चाहिए और इस तरह से हम इसका दूरगामी समाधान कर सकते हैं। चुनौती को स्वीकार करने के लिए राष्ट्रीय ऋण नीति होनी चाहिए। योजना का ईमानदारी और द्रुतगामी हल मिशनरी भाव से होना चाहिए। जाति, धर्म, वंश और राजनीति से इस विषय को दूर रखा जाना चाहिए। ऐसा नहीं होना चाहिए कि बहुसंख्यक है तो वह परिवार नियोजन करेगा और अल्पसंख्यक है तो नहीं करेगा। परिवार नियोजन करेंगे तो सब करेंगे, जनसंख्या को रोकेंगे तो सब रोकेंगे, बीच में धर्म या जाति नहीं आनी चाहिए। इसे जाति, धर्म और वंश से दूर रखना चाहिए। पर्यावरण का व्यापक प्रचार और प्रसार होना चाहिए जैसे मिशनरी, आर्य समाजी प्रचार करते थे और यह प्रचार मीडिया के द्वारा भी होना चाहिए। स्वर्गीय संजय गांधी कैसे भी रहे हों, उन्होंने नौजवानों को तीन कामों में लगा दिया था—फावड़ा और तसला हाथ में ले लो, सड़क बनाओ और पेड़ उगाओ। इसी तरह से उन लोगों ने काम किए। आज हम संसदों को भी पेड़ लगाने चाहिए, काम करना चाहिए। आज स्कूलों के बच्चों के द्वारा प्लांटिंग होना चाहिए। वर्तमान में जो प्रदूषण निर्वर्णन बोर्ड बने हुए हैं, ये कागजी चीते हैं। इनके दफ्तर यहां शहरों में हैं और ये बोर्ड प्रदूषण के बारे में कुछ नहीं जानते। इनको व्यावहारिक रूप दिया जाना चाहिए। ऐसी वस्तुएं जो प्रदूषण को बढ़ाती हैं, हमें उनकी जांच-पड़ताल करनी चाहिए और प्राकृतिक वस्तुओं का इस्तेमाल करना चाहिए। जैसा मैंने कहा कि यह जो प्लास्टिक है, पॉलिथिन है, इसके थैले को गाय खा लेती है, गाय के पेट में वह गलता नहीं है, दूध पर उसका असर होता है और उसी दूध को हम पीते हैं, इसलिए हमारे स्वास्थ्य पर भी उसका असर पड़ता है। गाय तो मर ही जाती है, हम भी मर जाते हैं, उसका असर हम पर भी होता है। इसे

हम रोक्ते नहीं। हम इसी धैली में अपना कूड़ा डालकर फेंक देते हैं। इसे हमें रोक्ना चाहिए।

हमें पर्यावरण से दोस्ती करनी चाहिए। लोग कहेंगे कि कुल्हड में चाय पी रहा है और पते में खाना खा रहा है, इसलिए बैकवर्ड है, इस हीन भाव से हमें पीड़ित नहीं होना चाहिए, यह पिछड़ेपन का सूचक नहीं होना चाहिए। मैं यह सुझाव भी देना चाहता हूँ कि शिकार पर पाबंदी लगानी चाहिए, शिकार नहीं होना चाहिए। महोदय, प्राथमिक स्कूलों से लेकर यूनिवर्सिटी तक यह विषय पढ़ाया जाना चाहिए और पाठ्यक्रम में और पाठ्य-पुस्तकों में इसका समावेश होना चाहिए। इसका खूब प्रचार होना चाहिए। मेलों में, हाटों में इसका खूब प्रचार होना चाहिए। जैसा मैंने पहले कहा कि जनसंख्या पर नियंत्रण के लिए राज्य मुख्यालयों में अभियान चलाया जाना चाहिए। राजनीतिक दल अपने कार्यकर्ताओं के माध्यम से इस कार्य को कराएँ प्राथमिक इकाई से लेकर राष्ट्रीय इकाई तक। नेता लोग केवल भाषण करने के लिए नहीं हैं, उन्हें काम भी करना चाहिए और धार्मिक नेता जो प्रवचन करते हैं—मुल्ला, पांडित, पादरी, साधु, संन्यासी, कोई भी हों, इन्हें प्रेरित करते समय पर्यावरण का पाठ भी पढ़ाना चाहिए। इसलिए इसे धर्म से भी जोड़ना चाहिए। अंत में मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहूँगा कि हम जितने भी संसद सदस्य हैं, वे पर्यावरण के नाम पर दफ्तरों में कोई एक दिन तय कर लें और कोई एक स्थान तय कर लें और वह काम जिसका पर्यावरण पर अच्छा प्रभाव पड़े, वह हम करें।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, माननीय संसद गौतम जी का ओजस्वी भाषण सुनने के बाद मैं सोच रही हूँ कि क्या बोलूँ और क्या न बोलूँ। उन्होंने जहाँ खल किया है, मैं वहीं से अपनी बात शुरू करूँगी। यह ठीक है कि हमारे यहां पर्यावरण में दिनों-दिन बहुत ही गिरावट आती जा रही है और यह भी सत्य है कि मानव जब तक विकास की ओर बढ़ता रहेगा, पर्यावरण के ऊपर बोझ बढ़ता रहेगा और धरती, पानी, आकाश, हर किसी को हम प्रदूषित करते जाएंगे क्योंकि उसके बगैर यह संभव नहीं है। इसलिए यह दृढ़ बराबर चलता रहेगा। सवाल यह है कि मानव के विकास को हम किस दिशा में मोड़े।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, गौतम जी ने कहा कि इसे धर्म के साथ जोड़ना चाहिए। गौतम जी, हिंदू धर्म में तो यह बात है। शायद आपको मालूम नहीं है कि हमारे यहां जो शांति पाठ पढ़ा जाता है उसमें यह है—ओउम् शान्तिः पृथिवी शान्तिरायः शान्तिरोधयः शान्तिः वनस्पतयः शान्तिदेवी देवाः शान्तिः.....ओउम् शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः।

इसी के साथ हमारे यहां यह भी कहा गया है कि—

“ओउम् सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनः सर्वे सन्तु निरामयाः।

सर्वे भद्राणि पश्यन्तु मा कश्चिद् दुःखभाग्यवेत्॥

यानी सभी सुखी हों, वनस्पति भी अच्छी तरह से रहें, पेड़-पौधे सब सुख से रहें। हमारे यहां देहातों में आज भी आम और महुए का विवाह कराया जाता है। उसके पीछे भावना यह है कि आम और महुआ दोनों चीजें मानव जीवन के लिए बहुत आवश्यक हैं। पीपल के पेड़ में औरतें धागा बांधती हैं और अपने पति और बच्चों के लिए मंगल की कामना करती हैं। उसके पीछे भी यही मनोभावना है क्योंकि पीपल के पेड़ में कहा यह जाता है कि यह कार्बन डाइऑक्साइड ज्यादा लेकर ऑक्सीजन सबसे ज्यादा छोड़ता है।

[उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सनातन बिसि) पीठासीन हुए]

तो सदन में बातें तो बहुत कही गई होंगी, मैं थोड़ी देर से आई। यह ठीक है कि भारतवर्ष में फॉरेस्ट एक्ट बहुत पुराना है। 1865 में यह लागू हुआ था और 1878 में रिवाइज्ड हुआ और फिर आजादी के बाद नेशनल फॉरेस्ट पॉलिसी बनी और 1990 में कंसोलिडेटेड फॉरेस्ट एक्ट बना। आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में कुछ नए-नए कदम सुझाए, यह आईडेंटिफाई किया कि कौन से जंगल का इलाका है और यह जंगल के इलाके में क्या-क्या है और क्या-क्या करना चाहिए जिसमें फॉरेस्ट लैंड में शेयरिंग के बेसिस पर आसपास के गांवों के लोगों को, आदिवासी लोगों को उसके व्यवहार का अधिकार देने की बात हुई। यह सब बात तो हुई, यह भी बात सही है कि 33 परसेंट लैंड एरिया जंगल का होना चाहिए लेकिन भारतवर्ष में केवल 19% प्रतिशत ही है और जिस ढंग से डि-फ्रेडेशन आफ फॉरेस्ट हो रहा है लगता है कि आगे आने वाले दिनों में इसमें और गिरावट होने वाली है। जैसा मैंने पहले ही कहा, प्रकृति के साथ मानव का आपस का द्वंद है उसके कारण लोगों को जमीन चाहिए, खेतीबाड़ी भी चाहिए और जो वेस्ट लैंड एरिया है उसको भी डि-फ्रेड करते जाते हैं। हमारे देश में 149 ट्राइबल डिस्ट्रिक्ट आईडेंटिफाई किए गए हैं जिसमें करीब-करीब 65% परसेंट फॉरेस्ट कवर है और इन जिलों में ऐक्रेज 35 परसेंट फॉरेस्ट कवर है। लेकिन पूरे देश के पैमाने पर लेने के काफी कम मिलता है। मैं इस संबंध में यह भी कहना चाहूँगी कि महोदय, मैं बिहार से आती हूँ और हमारे बिहार प्रांत में छोटानागपुर का इलाका फॉरेस्ट कवर वाला इलाका है और उत्तरी बिहार हिमालय तराई का इलाका है। लेकिन जिस ढंग से वर्षों से डि-फ्रेडेशन

आफ फॉरेस्ट हुआ है कई कारणों में जिसमें एक तो औद्योगिक विकास के नाम पर हुए हैं, दूसरे और भी कई कारणों से हुए हैं। पोरशानी मालूम होती है कि आगे चलकर होगा क्या? उत्तरी बिहार के हिमालयन और तराई के इलाके के बाल्मीकि फॉरेस्ट हैं जिसको रिजर्व फॉरेस्ट में रखा गया है। यह इलाका साल, सकुवा, बैत, तेंदू पत्ता आदि-आदि चीजों से काफी समृद्ध है। फ्लोरा-फांना बहुत विख्यात है। बाल्मीकि वन से आप निकलकर जाए गंडक नदी के पार नेपाल है। ब्रिज को पार करके जाएं, नाव से जाएं तो उस पार नेपाल है। अब हमारे सारे जो तराई अंचल हैं अब उनको टैरेस्ट कहें, डाकु कहें, फिरीती वाले कहें, तो इनसे यह भर गया है। साधारण जीवन असुरक्षित हो गया है। सीधे वह लोग जंगल पार करके नेपाल चले जाते हैं जब पुलिस का उनके ऊपर एक्शन होने लगता है और फिर उस पार से इस पार चले आते हैं, कोई बाधा है ही नहीं और यहां तक कि बड़े-बड़े किस्म का डाका भी पड़ता है, रहजनी भी होती है, यानी कोई क्राईम ऐसा नहीं जो नहीं होता है। जो लोकल आदिवासी है—थारू दार्डबल, कहा जाता है कि भगवान बुद्ध भी थारू थे। तो थारू जाति के लोगों को सबसे ज्यादा कठिनाई का सामना करना पड़ता है, क्योंकि वे उस इलाके में रहते हैं। एक तो उत्तरी बिहार का डि-प्रेडेशन आफ फॉरेस्ट के कारण एक और कठिनाई हो रही है कि सारे उत्तरी बिहार में हिमालय से जो नदी आती है नेपाल से जिसको आप इंटरनेशनल रिवर्स कह सकते हैं। यह नदियां उत्तर बिहार को करीब-करीब हर वर्ष में वन्या से फलावित कर देती हैं। तकरीबन हर साल पूरे नार्थ बिहार में फलड आता है। इसको बचाने के उपाय हुए हैं जैसे कोसी नदी को बांधा गया है लेकिन कोसी नदी का बांध भी जो बनाया गया है, वह कामयाब नहीं हो सका है। उसका जो मैटेनेंस का काम है, वह ठीक ढंग से नहीं हो पाता है। नतीजा यह होता है कि हर साल वहां फलड आता है। अभी इस साल में भी वहां बाढ़ आयी हुई है। सैटल बिहार में बाँधी रेंज का काफी बड़ा हिस्सा सैटल बिहार होकर जाता है जिसमें पुराना मुंगेर जिला, बांका जिला, देवघर जिला, नालंदा, गया—यह सब है। इस सारे इलाके में इस कदर डिप्रेडेशन आफ फॉरेस्ट हुआ है और इस कदर इनफ्रेचमेंट हुआ है जिसकी कोई हद नहीं है। बाँधी रेंज में, इस एरिया में यह सारे डेसीड्यूअस फॉरेस्ट एरिया हैं। अब धर्म के नाम पर, जमीन के नाम पर, जर, गैर मजबूत आ जेरु और जमीन के नाम पर, गोबर भूमि के नाम पर क्या-क्या नहीं हुआ है। लोग नकली कागज बनाते जा रहे हैं। पर्वे बनवा लेना कोई कठिन नहीं है। एक दर्फ

जमीन बन जाए तो पर्वे भी बन जाते हैं। वहां बुरी हालत है। पिछले दिनों नालंदा और गया में एक तो सड़के नहीं थीं। बुद्धिस्ट सर्किट से इस अंचल में कुछ सड़कें बनी हैं। जापान के विभिन्न संगठनों के कारण—खास करके फूजी गुरुजी के कारण, जो इंटरनेशनल पोस मूवमेंट में थे—उनके कारण कुछ सड़कें बनी हैं लेकिन सड़क बनने के बावजूद जंगल की कटाई में, नवादा जिला भी इसमें आता है, जंगल की कटाई में कमी नहीं है। मुझे याद है कि जब तीस-चालीस साल पहले मैं इन इलाकों में जाती थी तो वहां जयप्रकाश जी का आश्रम था—शैखदौश आश्रम। वह घनघोर जंगल के बीच में था। आज जंगल के नाम पर कोई चीज वहां नहीं है। जब मैं उस इलाके में जाती हूँ तो देखकर लगता है कि हम लोगों ने क्या किया है, क्या कर रहे हैं, कहां ले जा रहे हैं? इसकी कोई चिंता नहीं है, कोई सोचता नहीं है, कोई पोरशानी किसी को नहीं है। वैट लैंड एरिया भी बिहार में बहुत साफ है। एक तो बहुत बड़ा भागलपुर जिले में है—कांवर लेक। मंत्री जी, मैं चाहूंगी कि इसको भी आप वैट एरिया का दर्जा दें। इसमें हर साल माइग्रेटरी बर्ड्स—लाखों की संख्या में साइबेरिया के, अन्य तरह-तरह की चिड़ियां आती हैं और चूँकि नेशनल वैट लैंड एरिया में इसकी गिनती नहीं है तो हजारों की संख्या में यह मारी जाती है, इस इलाके के लोग उनको मारते हैं, खाते हैं, बेचते हैं। उससे कुछ बचाव होना चाहिए और कांवर लेक को अगर आप वैट लैंड एरिया में दर्ज करें—जैसे आपने बाकी को किया है, जैसे भरतपुर बर्ड सैक्चुररी बनी है—ऐसा अगर आप करें तो निश्चित रूप से वहां कुछ पर्यटक भी आएंगे जिससे ग्रान्त को कुछ आर्थिक सुविधा भी मिल सकेगी। ... (व्यवधान) ... यह कांवर लेक भागलपुर जिले में है भागलपुर का सिल्क भी मशहूर है। दूसरा नार्थ बिहार में करीब-करीब हर जगह वैट लैंड एरिया होता है जिसको लोग लोकल लैंगुएज में जल्ला या चौर कहते हैं। हजारों एकड़ में यह फैला हुआ होता है। साल में नौ महीने दो तिहाई इलाका पानी में डूबा रहता है, इसलिए इनको भी प्रोटेक्शन की जरूरत है क्योंकि अमूमन आस-पास के लोगों की डिमांड होती है कि इसके ड्रेनेज की व्यवस्था करें ताकि हम इसमें खेती कर पाएं। अगर ड्रेनेज होगा—उस इलाके में भी बहुत सारे माइग्रेटिंग बर्ड्स जाते हैं तो बुरी हालत होगी। इसलिए मैं कहना चाहूंगी कि सैटल बिहार में मोकामा बड़इया टाल—जहां से आपके रेल मंत्री आते हैं, उनकी कॉन्स्टीट्यूएंसि में भी काफी बड़ा हिस्सा पड़ता है—उन्होंने तो संसद में आने के पहले मोकामा बड़इया टाल विकास योजना करके

एक संगठन भी शुरू किया था, पता नहीं वह संगठन कहाँ गया लेकिन उसमें लगभग 5 लाख हेक्टेयर जमीन है जो कि साल में नौ महीने डूबी रहती है। इस इलाके के विकास की भी जरूरत है।

सेन्ट्रल बिहार में जो कोइमूर रेंज है, दिस इज मिनरली रिच एरिया। लाइमस्टोन, फास्फेट ये सब हैं। कारखाने भी हैं, खादान भी खुले हैं और कारखाने तथा खादान खुलने के बाद कोई खादान सौ साल पुराना है और कोई असी साल पुराना है। इतना डिप्रेडेशन हुए हैं जिसका कोई हिसाब नहीं है। छोटा नागपुर में और संथाल परगना में आप चले जाएं तो पहाड़ की कतार खड़ी है लेकिन उसमें एक पेड़ नहीं है, एक पौधा नहीं है, बल्कि नंगे डिन्यूडिड हिलोक्स खड़े हैं। पलामू जिले में मैं जब शुरू-शुरू के दिनों में जाती थी तो वह जंगल भरे हुए हरे-हरे होते थे। आज उनकी भी यही हालत हो गई है। वन-सम्पदा से बिहार बिल्कुल मुक्त होता जा रहा है। यह बहुत ही बुरा होगा। छोटा-नागपुर दुर्भाग्य से या सौभाग्य से जो चाहे कह लीजिए कोल माइनिंग एरिया भी है। वहां पर सीसीएल और बीसीसीएल की कम्पनी हैं। बी० बी० एल एवं बीसीसीएल की जो कोयला खदान है वह 50 साल, 80 साल पुरानी है, वासरीज भी हैं। इन्होंने कोयला तो निकालना शुरू कर दिया। जब अंग्रेज कंपनी आई, ईस्ट इंडिया कंपनी यहां आई, उसने रेल गाड़ी चलाना शुरू किया तो सबसे पहले कोयला वहां से निकालना शुरू किया। वहां से कोयला बिना प्लान के निकालना शुरू किया गया। प्राइवेट मालिक थे और उन्होंने इतने डिप्रेडेशन आफ द होल एरिया को किया है कि आप अगर वहां पर जाएं तो आपको देखने से लगेगा कि हम कहाँ आ गए सुबह एक घंटे के अन्दर कपड़े या चेहरा कालिख से भर जाता है, सांस लेना मुश्किल होता है, लोग बीमार होकर मरते हैं, सारे इलाके में ऐसा लगता है कि जैसे धरती पर कोढ़ निकल आया है। अब कोल इंडिया की ओर से, पर्यावरण विभाग की ओर से यह कहा जा रहा है कि जो ओवर हैड बर्डीन निकालते हैं उसको भरकर उसके ऊपर प्लांटेशन करते हैं। कुछ होता भी है, पर कागजों पर खूब होता है। असलियत में कितना होता है मुझे मालूम नहीं है, कम से कम देखने से नहीं लगता है। इसके ऊपर भी अगर आप कुछ कर सकें तो ठीक होगा।

उस इलाके में जो ट्राइबल लोग हैं वह भी मजबूरन दूसरे लोगों का साथ देते हैं, पेड़ काटते रहते हैं, जंगल काटते रहते हैं क्योंकि उनकी भी जीना है। यह तो बहुत ही बुरी हालत है। हमारे यहां एक नेशनल टाइगर पार्क

है बेतला टाइगर प्रोजेक्ट। मैं बार-बार वहां जाती रहती हूं। वह भी डेसीड्यूस फॉरेस्ट में है। बेतला टाइगर प्रोजेक्ट की यह हालत है कि उसमें एक तो पशुओं के लिए पीने के पानी की कमी है। जून के महीने में जंगली हाथियों का झुंड वहां पर आता है। एक दफा मैं भी बेतला के इलाके में गई थी। जीप के आगे और पीछे दो हाथियों के झुंड आ गए। मुझे तो लगा कि बस अभी यहीं हो गया लेकिन संजोग है कि वह खुद-ब-खुद चले गए और हम निकल कर आ गए। यह बहुत पुरानी बात थी। आज तो हालत यह है कि कहीं कोई जा नहीं सकता है। एक तो एमसीसी टेरिस्ट लोगों का इतना बढ़ावा हो गया है और वहां पर व्यवस्था नाम की कोई चीज नहीं है। वहां पर न कोई ढंग की रहने की जगह है। न बिजली है, न पानी है, न सुरक्षा है, न सड़क है, कुछ भी नहीं है। बेतला का बुरा हाल है। बेतला में पशु-पक्षियों की पोंचिंग धड़ल्ले से हो रही है, पेड़ धड़ल्ले से काट रहे हैं, मुझे तो लगता है कि पेड़ काटने में जंगल विभाग के लोग भी शरीक होंगे। पता नहीं आपकी तरफ से इसमें कुछ हो पाएगा या नहीं? अगर कुछ हो सके तो कौजिए, नहीं तो फिर बहुत बुरा हाल होगा वहां पर।

एक दो बात और मैं आपके ध्यान में लाना चाहूंगी। स्वीट वाटर डालफिन्स हमारे देश में होता था। गंगा वाज आल मोस्ट ए रिजरवायर आफ स्वीट वाटर डालफिन्स। ये डालफिन्स अब करीब-करीब खत्म हो चुके हैं। इसके बारे में भी अगर आप कुछ कर पायें तो बहुत अच्छा होगा क्योंकि दुनिया में ये मीठे पानी में रहने वाले स्मालर डालफिन्स हैं जिसे लोकल लैंग्वेज में सौंस कहते हैं। उसको बचाना बहुत जरूरी है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं एक-दो बातें कह कर समाप्त करूंगी। बिहार में दामोदर नदी है। दाम + उदर, उसके पेट के नीचे कोयला है, खनिज पदार्थों से भर हुआ है लेकिन दामोदर को मनुष्य ने मार दिया। दामोदर नदी इस देश की शायद सबसे ज्यादा प्रदूषित नदी है। बाकी के बारे में मैंने सुना है, दमन गंगा वगैरह के बारे में मैंने सुना है, लेकिन शायद यह उससे ज्यादा प्रदूषित नदी है। चन्द्रपुरा थरमल प्लांट है, वासरीज है, फैक्ट्रियां हैं चारों तरफ, सारे के सारे निस्सरण, उसमें सीधे जाते हैं। धौब नदी और दामोदर नदी का जहां पर संगम स्थल है उसी जगह पर एक पुराना मंदिर है, छिन्नमस्ता का मंदिर है।

... अगर आप वहां पर जाएं जहां पर लोग स्नान करते थे, पूजन करते थे आज यदि कोई वहां पर स्नान करने

जाए तो जो वासरी से निकला हुआ पानी दामोदर नदी में जा रहा है, उममें हालात बराबर हो जाएंगे। यदि स्नान करके निकलें तो उसके कपड़े तो साफ होने चाहिए। यह हालात हो गई है "इज इट ए डेड रीवर नाक"। दामोदर को बचाने का अगर कोई उपाय हो सकता है तो अवश्य करना चाहिए।

इसी तरह से सुवर्ण रेखा नदी है। किसी जमाने में लोग नदी से कणों को धोकर उससे सोना निकालते थे। प्रदूषण के कारण आज उसकी भी वही हालत हो गई है। अंत में मैं कहना चाहती हूँ कि बिहार एक मिनरली रिच स्टेट है। सिंहभूम सिंहम जिले में एक जगह है जादूगोड़ा। यह जादूगोड़ा ही एकमात्र स्थान है जहां पर यूरैनियम की खदान है और यहां से यूरैनियम निकलता है। यहां एक यूरैनियम कम्पनी भी है। लेकिन इसका नतीजा क्या निकल रहा है? इसके आस-पास जो 30-40 आदिवासी गांव हैं उनके ऊपर इसका कुप्रभाव पड़ रहा है। वहां पर जो बच्चे पैदा होते हैं वे अपंग पैदा होते हैं, डिफोर्मड बच्चे पैदा होते हैं, डिज़िज्ड बच्चे पैदा होते हैं। वहां पर काम करने वाले लोग सात-आठ सल बाद खुद भी अपंग हो जाते हैं। उनके ऊपर यूरैनियम कैमिकल असर इस कदर हो रहा है जिसका कोई हिसाब नहीं है। एटोमिक एनर्जी कमीशन की ओर से वहां पर इन्क्वायरी टीम भेजी गई थी और वह टीम आज भी काम कर रही है लेकिन उसकी आज तक कोई रिपोर्ट नहीं आई है। हमें नहीं मालूम कि इन्क्वायरी कमेटी रिपोर्ट का क्या नतीजा निकला? उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय घंटी बजा रहे हैं और हाथ दिखा रहे हैं कि समाप्त करो। मैं केवल एक अंतिम बात कहकर समाप्त कर रही हूँ गौतम जी भी ने हाउस को बहुत फीलिंगली अपील किया है और कहा है कि बायो डिग्रेडेबल चीज का हमें इस्तेमाल करना चाहिए। महोदय, शायद आपको मालूम होगा कि दुनिया के सब देशों में प्लास्टिक और तरह-तरह की चीजों का इस्तेमाल होता था लेकिन यूरोप और अमेरिका में अब उसका रि-साइक्लिंग का प्रोसेस शुरू हुआ है। कोई भी डिग्रेडेबल चीज हो, उसमें अलग-अलग बीस आते हैं, बड़े-बड़े कंटेनर लोग उसमें डालते हैं, एक में टिन की चीज, एक में शीशे की चीज और एक में बोतल, पेपर्स अलग और प्लास्टिक की चीज अलग और उसकी रिसाइक्लिंग होती है ताकि वह सीधे धरती में न जाए और जन्म-जन्मांतर तक धरती को कलुषित न करता रहे। इसलिए हमारे यहां भी स्टिकली रिसाइक्लिंग का प्रोसेस आप शुरू करवाएं और उसके लिए कानून बनाएं और कानून बनाकर इस काम को शुरू करें तो शायद हम इस तरह की जो चीजें इस्तेमाल करने लगे हैं प्लास्टिक की

चीजें और बायो डिग्रेडेबल चीज नहीं है उसमें शायद कुछ कमी होगी और धरती को हम थोड़ी राहत दे पाएंगे। आपने मुझे समय दिया, इसके लिए बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES (Goa): Sir, it is irony of fate that we are discussing the Ministry of Environment and Forests sitting in Delhi, the tenth most polluted city in the world. It is said that every hour one person dies due to pollution in Delhi, 9,859 peoples die every year in Delhi, 10,647 persons die every year in Calcutta, 7,023 persons die every year in Mumbai and in Ahmedabad 3,006 persons die every year. In total, 51,779 people die primarily due to pollution. The pollution level in our country has increased by leaps and bounds. 26 million people are hospitalised every year due to pollution and percentage of pollution in our country has increased to 28% from 1991 to 1995. At the same time, this Parliament passes laws. We put more and more laws on the Statute Book. I remember speaking on the Motor Vehicles Act. We have reviewed the old Motor Vehicles Act, 1956 and we gave a new Motor Vehicles Act to this country in 1988.

One of the clauses which has been incorporated in the Act is to control the fuel emission by vehicles. It is stated in the clause that it will be enforced by the Government by a notification. We made a noise in this House to see that this clause should be enforced by the Government. But, there was no will on the part of the Government. So, again we say that 66 per cent premature deaths are due to pollution and the remaining 34 per cent are the natural deaths. This pollution is basically due to suspended particulate matters, SPM with toxic chemicals which are responsible for these deaths. I am not blaming this Government or that Government. I am blaming the system. I am blaming the policy makers of this country. I do not point a finger at the bureaucracy because all of us are equally responsible for the enforcement of this

Act. So, when the courts give any judgement in this regard, we do not like it because there are 'green judgement', there are 'green Benches' in the courts, etc. I am happy that there are some 'green Members of Parliament' also who are raising this issue and I am one of them. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, two years back the Supreme Court gave a judgement that factories and other pollutant industries should be shifted from Delhi. I think it was the duty of the Government, the Delhi Administration and the Government of India, who licensed these illegal units. Still they are continuing in trans-Yamuna area. There are reports in this regard. Yesterday only there was a report. I have a newspaper with me which says that factories continue to blacken the skies of Delhi. There are toxic industries in trans-Yamuna which are polluting lead and zinc and this goes into the atmosphere. This is the main cause, Sir. I blame the lethargic attitude of the Government, the enforcing authorities and the administration who are totally immune as to what type of atmosphere we are going to give to our future generations, to our young children and to our brothers and sisters. Sir, we are speaking of a Ministry which is a very gigantic Ministry. You have so many Departments, fora and Authorities with no result. You have an Environment Control Board. You have so many Authorities. I was going through all these details. It is very difficult to remember all of them. So, you have brought all this under red-tapism and as a result there is no response because you have so many people responsible; and, nobody is responsible. So, I would request the hon. Minister who is very young, dynamic and energetic to see that this Ministry is energised. He should see to it that dead wood is removed from this Ministry. He should bring forward a modern legislation. Sir, we are a signatory to so many Conventions. We go to Rio-de-Janeiro, we sign that Convention, we go to Montreal, we sign that Convention and we go to so many other places and sign various Con-

ventions. But it is very difficult for us to implement them because when we come to implementation, we depend on bureaucracy. We do not take those people into confidence who are working in the field. We do not take the NGOs into confidence. Every NGO which works for this country is suspected by the Government as if this is a foreign agent. They think as if they are funded either by CIA or KGB or Mossad or ISI, etc. I do not know why the Government has to be so much allergic to them. After all, they are not demanding anything from you. They are only pointing a finger at you. We have so many NGOs in my small State, Goa. It was called a beautiful and green State. It is not longer that because the private mining industry has totally destroyed it. Then the politicians came in for real estate. They have destroyed it completely. I have been raising this issue day in and day out. Sir, in Delhi there are three thermal power plants and every year they produce 10,000 units as if they are worth factories emitting 10,000 unit SPM. That is suspended pollutants in the atmosphere. So, the main polluter in the Delhi is the Government itself. Again, you have buses which are run by the Government. They are supposed to run on diesel. But, they do not run on diesel. The vehicles run on kerosene. You know, there is a big fraud and I raised this repeatedly in this House that you have no mechanism. You produce petrol and petroleum products in a factory and the Central Government brings it and gives it to the State administration. It is no like pharmaceuticals. When a pharmaceutical firm produces a drug and if something happens to a patient in a hospital, that company is responsible for it. Here, there is no responsibility. They purify petroleum products and make diesel, petrol, kerosene and give them to the consumer, the State Government and at that level it is mixed. It happens in my State also. I raised it in this House. Sir, five lakh letters kerosene is taken in excess by inflating population and where does this five lakh letters of kerosene go? It will go

into petrol and diesel. That is what we are inheriting to our younger generation for future. So, the main polluter in Delhi, I think will also apply to the rest of the country, that is, the Government. So many times we had raised it. Three thermal power plants in Delhi are spewing smoke with a lot of suspended material, and technology is available. I have said that in this House that you can put a converter and convert that smoke into dry ice. It is a cheap technology. It is being used in our country by certain industries. But, you know, there are no takers in this Government. So, why do you not see that every company installs this facility? Sir, 65% of the pollution in the Union Territory of Delhi is attributed through motor vehicles because we have the maximum number of three wheelers. We have the maximum number of taxis which are outdated and obsolete and there is no proper check and proper control on them, though the Motor Vehicles Act specifies that you have to have a fitness certificate. You take a taxi from airport and come into the city. All those taxis are rattling. Almost all parts of taxis will make noise except the horn. This is the price we are paying for protection of pollution in our country. What is true of Delhi is also true of other States. It is true of Mumbai, Calcutta, Chennai and other cities. I hope the Government will rise to the occasion. The Government will streamline the Ministry. The statute is there, law is there but only there is no will to implement it because these lobbies are very powerful. First of all, you give them illegal licences; they draw illegal power; they pilfer power and the hon. Minister says that 60% of power in Delhi is pilfered. It is a fact. And the revenue loss is Rs. 60 crores per month i.e., Rs. 2 crores per day. This is the price we pay for pollution because you get almost everything free here because you rob the Government and you rob the public. This is the problem with us. I think, the planners of the country are also to be blamed. We have woken up to protect our environment. The word environment

came in the statute of our country in the Fourth Five Year Plan. Only then, a provision was made that we have to do something to protect our environment. Before that we did not think anything about it. I do not think that the problem had cropped up then. We formed a National Council of Environment, Planning and Co-ordination in 1972. And in 1980, the Department of Environment was created under the Ministry of Science and Technology. In 1985, the then Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, who himself was a green supporter, made this Ministry from Forest into Forest and Environment. From that time on, we have seen, we have passed so many statutes but there is no response. If there was a responsibility, I do not think even the Government would have defied the judgment of the hon. Supreme Court of India which has given a judgment to shift these factories, almost all of them, from here. I do not blame them. They have to have a livelihood but the Government of India should have prepared a scheme to rehabilitate them. I do not say that they should be closed down. Some contingency plan should have been there on the part of the Government to take them out. Now, Sir, under the Ministry of Environment we speak of different schemes. We speak of biosphere reservations. The Government has reserved eight biospheres, and they will protect the genetic diversity in this country. The flora and fauna of this country, which are thousands and thousands, are slowly depleting. We are responsible for it. If you go to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, you will not find anyone of them. Most of them have been destroyed. The largest sawmill in Asia is situated in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. So, just to earn some money they have destroyed our environment. As a result of that, that place requires rain for nine months in a year, while it gets only for six months in a year. There are cyclones all the time in the Bay of Bengal. So, we have totally destroyed our environment. We have created imbalance, human-made imbalance,

in the environment. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he will have some gene banks in the country to protect the species of plants and animals. You have got embryo, banks, you have got sperm banks. So, in the same way would you have gene banks? Today we see dinosaurs only in Hollywood films. I think, our future generation will not see the animals, which we see now.

So, will the Government take some initiative in this regard? And, I think, there is an initiative from the World Bank and the World Health Organisation to see that rare species are preserved. They are funding a lot to this scheme. Various NGOs are also funding this scheme.

Now, I come to the wet land, which comes under this Ministry. There are 22 wet lands, which are under conserved area for development in this country. India is a signatory to the International Convention on Wet Land. Wet land has been designated for conversion at the international level. Are funds made available to see that these areas are still protected and proper care is taken either through social forestry or NGOs' involvement.

Now, I come to the mangrove. An area of 6740 sq. Kms. mangrove, which is about 7 per cent of the world's total mangrove, lies in India. I am happy that a part of Ratnagiri is in the constituency, which the hon. Minister represents in the Lok Sabha, and Goa is also covered under this. There are 15 mangrove reserved areas, which are to be developed. The Konkan Railway Corporation has destroyed mangroves when they took a track through mangroves. Thus, the ecological balance has been totally disturbed. That is why, I have been raising this point in this House for the last many years, that they have no regard to the environment of fragile ecology. When we talk of mangroves, we talk of fish pruning. All of us know as to what happened in Gujarat. There was a cyclone, Government will not take interest to protect this mangrove, but to mine salt from this salt

pan. The report says that if mangroves were there, the damage to people and to the State would not have been so much. What has been done after the last cyclone? So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he will see to it that these mangroves are replanted in those areas, especially in Gujarat because the ecological balance has totally been destroyed. And you face the wrath of nature by cyclones and by other disasters. The Government has to be alive to the situation. I think, a mangrove can be created in that area through social forestry. There were mangroves in Surat and other areas, which have totally been neglected by the Government.

I have raised it repeatedly that in Old Goa mangrove has been cut by greedy politicians. 56,000 sq. metres have been converted into real estate property. Mangrove was cut, and the reply from the Government was that it was a green paddy field. Now, I have mentioned that this is directly under the national statute. It is not the property of any State, it is a national property. We are a signatory to the International Convention. When we raise any issue in the Parliament, the Government of India is silent. Does that environment pocket belong only to the State of Goa? Does it not belong to the country? Does it not belong to India? Why is the Government of India not responsive? I had said last time, send a Parliamentary Committee. The mangroves in the vicinity of the bird sanctuary in Old Goa are totally destroyed.

Then again, illegally ship-building yards are coming up. I raised this question in the Parliament that a ship-building yard is coming up in Santacoola, Goa, which is within the jurisdiction of Marmagao Port Trust. It is a Central Government jurisdiction. They have cut the hill and dumped it in the river. It is a total violation of the coastal Regulation's Zone. The Ministry concerned with Shipping and Transport has replied that they have not taken the permission because

the jurisdiction of the major port trust extends up to 10 kms.

On the other side, there is one more controversy. Recently, one more industrial house has gone there at Kurka and started building a ship-repair yard. It is just adjacent to the Goa University. (*Interruption*). It is an important point that I am making.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): I want to have the sense of the House.

SHRI JOHN. F. FERNANDES: Sir, we have got five hours.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): I know you have got time, your party has got time. I just want to take the sense of the House because it is 6 o'clock.

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम: उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, पांच घंटे इसके लिए आवंटित हैं, तो मैं सम्झता हूँ कि अभी द्वाइ घंटे और बैठना है। तब भी यह विषय आज पूरा

होगा या नहीं, कुछ पता नहीं इसलिए आप आज सदन की बैठक स्थगित कर दें और कल इस पर चर्चा करें।

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Should I complete it or should I continue tomorrow?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): Do you want to complete it today?

SHRI JOHN. F. FERNANDES: If you will give me time, I won't mind. I can complete it tomorrow also if the Minister agrees.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): The House is adjourned till 11 o'clock tomorrow.

The House then adjourned at two minutes past six of the clock till eleven of the clock on Wednesday, the 22nd July, 1998.