

इसलिए मान्यवर, मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार से मांग करता हूँ कि सरकार कानपुर की जो बी.आई.सी. मिल है, जो सबसे पुरानी मिल है, मैं समझता हूँ कि अहमदाबाद, मुंबई और गुजरात की जो मिलें हैं वे इन के बाद की बनी हुई हैं, रिप्यूटेड मिल हैं, इन मिलों को सरकार बंद न करे बल्कि सरकार इस पर सहानुभूति पूर्वक विचार करके, गंभीरतापूर्वक विचार करके इन मिलों के पुनरुद्धार के लिए हर संभव प्रयास करे ताकि इन मिलों का जो कीर्तिमान रहा है, उसका उत्पादन रहा है, वह उत्पादन पुनः शुरू हो सके। बहुत बहुत धन्यवाद।

**चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह यादव (नामनिर्देशित):** अधिष्ठाता महोदय, ईश दत्त जी ने जो समस्या आपके सामने रखी है, मैं उसका समर्थन करते हुए यह कहना चाहूंगा कि मैं कानपुर का रहने वाला हूँ। कानपुर सारे देश में सूती कपड़े, ऊनी कप और चमड़ा उद्योग के लिए प्रसिद्ध है। लेकिन आज स्थिति यह हो गई है कि वहां की सूती मिलें बंद हो रही हैं अब आगे रह गया मुंबई और सूरत। कानपुर में इसके कारण मजदूर और इंजीनियर सब बेकार हो रहे हैं, भुखमरी का शिकार हो रहे हैं। ऐसी स्थिति में मैं चाहूंगा, आपसे मांग करूंगा, सरकार से मांग करूंगा कि एल्विन मिल और लाल इमली मिल को बंद न किया जाए और मैं इनको सही तरीके से चलाने की मांग करता हूँ।

**डा. (श्रीमती) उर्मिला चिमानभाई पटेल (गुजरात):** महोदय, मैं अपने आप को इससे जोड़ते हुए कहना चाहूंगी कि गुजरात टेक्सटाइल मिल्स वगैरह का जो सेंटर था अहमदाबाद जिसको मैनचेस्टर माना जाता था, आज वहां पर यह टेक्सटाइल उद्योग पूरी तरह खत्म हो रहा है। वहां पर करीब 65 मिलें बंद हैं और उनके कम्पनसेशन या रिटायरमेंट जैसे जरूरी इश्यू ध्यान में ही नहीं लिए गए हैं। कई मिलों को बी.आई.एफ.आर. ने एक्सेप्ट किया है लेकिन वहां भी जो प्रावधान होना चाहिए वह नहीं हुआ है। खुद गुजरात गवर्नमेंट ने अपने तरीके से सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट को को प्रोपोजल भेजा है कि जो हमारी एक्स्ट्रा लैंड है उसको बेचकर हम मजदूरों को कम्पनसेशन देंगे। इसके बारे में भी अभी कोई स्टेप नहीं लिया गया है। यह बड़ी कमनसीबी की बात है कि अभी भी ये मिलें बंद हैं। जो नेशनल टेक्सटाइल कमीशन की ओर से एन.टी.सी. मिलें चल रही थीं वे भी आज बंद हो रही हैं। करीब 10-12 मिलें बंद होने के ऊपर पड़ी हैं। इन सब के बारे में सरकार को देखना चाहिए। यह सवाल अकेले कोई इंडस्ट्रियलिस्ट्स का नहीं है। यह सवाल इंडस्ट्री का है। देश में उत्पादन होता था लोग

यूज करते थे। सामान्य आदमी की जरूरियात है और हम एक्सपोर्ट भी कर सकते थे। ये सब बंद होकर एक बड़ा उद्योग खत्म हो रहा है तथा लोग, मजदूर काम के बिना भूखे मर रहे हैं। एंटी सोशल एक्टिविटीज का काज बन रहे हैं। इनके बारे में भी सरकार को अपना ध्यान केन्द्रित करना चाहिए।

#### DISCUSSION ON WORKING OF MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS—(contd.)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): Now, we will take up further discussion on the working of the Ministry of Environment and Forests. Mr. Fernandes, will continue. Mr. Fernandes, your party has still 41 minutes and there are four more speakers from your party.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES (GOA): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much. I will be very considerate to my colleagues. Yesterday, I think I have already taken 17 minutes. Now, I will take only 5 minutes more. As you have rightly mentioned, there are four more speakers from my party.

Yeasterday, I was talking on mangroves. I gave good suggestions to the hon. Minister as to how the mangroves in this country are to be preserved and protected because we have seen that how these species are getting extinct in this country and how they should be preserved in the gene

bank. Yesterday, I was speaking about the destruction of mangroves in my own State which has been declared as one of the protected States under the Mangroves Protection Act. Yesterday, I gave two or three examples about the mangroves of Old Goa, the place of ancient temples and churches. It is within the vicinity of the bird sanctuary. About 56,000 sq. metres of mangroves land there was destroyed, converted and given was to the real estate touts. I raised this matter in this House and I demanded that a Parliamentary Committee should be sent there to investigate the matter. I have

also mentioned as to how the mangrove on the coastal reef of Zuari have been destroyed and as to how ship-building yards are being allowed there. A ship building yard is coming up at Santacoala which is within the jurisdiction of Mor-mugao Port Trust. In reply to a question, the Ministry of Surface Transport did say, no permission was taken by that person. Who has done this? It has been done in connivance with corrupt politicians because this is a land of the Government. Any land encroached near the sea belonged to the State Government. But it does not mean that it is the sole property of the State Government. It is a national wealth. Yesterday, I mentioned that at 'Kakra' again a ship-repairing plant is coming up right in the sea. Sir, I want the hon. Minister to go into the details and see how these incidents of violation and destruction of environment are contained. I do not know whether any statutory law will be brought forth before Parliament. I think already there are enough laws to deal with such violations. Recently there were rulings from the hon. Supreme Court vis-a-vis protection of the environment. In the light of the direction given by the Government to CM, CRZ, Coastal Regulation Zone, this violation can be checked. If they don't take permission from the Ministry of Environment and Forests, if they don't take clearance from this Ministry, nothing can be done. When we represent to the Central Government or bring to the notice of the Central Government, on behalf of people from various States, about violations, nothing is moving. It appears that the industrial, lobby is so powerful that they get away with everything even with the laws passed by this Parliament. I want the hon. Minister to go through this and see that action is taken on the allegations I have made and that the land is restored back to its original position and that the mangroves are put back in those areas and the ecological balance is maintained. That is the breeding ground for fish, for spawning fish. Most of the people, a majority

of them, 99 per cent of the people, have fish as their diet. And if you allow this to go on unabated, a day will come when fish will be a rare commodity in that area. The former Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, had rightly brought in the Coastal Regulation Zones. There are directives issued. These directions have been upheld by various rulings of courts, High Courts and the Supreme Court. I regret that they are not in the form of a statute. They are in the form of official memoranda, may be under Article 73 of the Constitution. Many issues were raised. A hotel has come up right on the bank of the river Mandovi at Meramar Beach. 153 trees are cut; again, there is a construction within the CRZ line at Meramar only. The CRZ regulation says that if there is a road existing within 200 metres of the high tide, construction may be permitted towards the land side and not the river side. Now, just to subvert this provision under the law, the contractors in connivance with the Government,

build new roads along the coast. The regulation came into force in 1982. In 1990, they built new roads on the coastal line. They go on constructing and go on destroying the green paddy fields which is not permitted. All the paddy fields in Goa are protected. We have the land-to-the-tiller Act. When the land is not cultivated by a tenant, it vests with the Government and the Government has to transfer it to another tenant. Here, what happens is, the tenant is coerced through gangs and some notorious sons of politicians who are involved. The tenants are coerced and their signatures are obtained saying that the lands do not belong to them. They again go to the Government authority and say that it is a barren land and nothing grows there for years together, at least for 50-60 years. Then you can see the crop there! These are being converted, tilled up and sold as real-estate property. I think it is totally against the CRZ regulation. The CRZ regulation says that no green vegetation should be removed because that will give rise to depletion of our zone, that will

give rise to the green-house effect. We have seen that the whole South Indian Peninsula is under the effect of El Nino. I think they are the cause for it. So, I hope the hon. Minister will see that some mechanism is inculcated in the statute where you have your owti special courts or you have special authorities. You have the Pollution Control Board. It is only a board like any other corporate board. It is not functioning. It does not have teeth. Why don't you give it some judicial power? Make it a quasi-judicial body and give it the powers of a quasi-judicial body. Come before Parliament. I think that if they have teeth, people can approach these statutory authorities rather than running to the courts all the time.

Despite decisions from courts, the Government has not done anything to alleviate the sufferings of the people, those people who are concerned about the environment. Coming to forests, India has 752.3 lakh hectares of forest land; 401.1 lakh hectares are reserved; 215.1 lakh hectares of land are protected. It is said that we have 19.45 per cent forest land. But if you go by the satellite imaging, I think it is less than 18 per cent. So we are trying to deceive ourselves. I do not know where we really are. I had given many suggestions in the past that we have to involve the people in social forestry. You cannot depend only on the forest guards, on the bureaucracy. So, unless you involve the people of this country, unless you involve the downtrodden people, the OBCs in social forestry, it would be of no avail. I had suggested last time that when we build a road, we build a bypass. You see a lot of encroachments there because all the slum dwellers come and encroach on the land on the road side. As a result, we have to have a bypass to the bypass again because that again is encroached upon by the illegal construction. So, what I had suggested last time was that fifty metres land on either side of the highways should be frozen by the Government. This is what is done in other countries. The Government need not acquire that

land and that should be earmarked in the OPD as social forestry and the OBCs people can do social forestry. They can have the cultivation of fruit-bearing trees, they can have mangroves and the usufruct should go to them because most of these people are landless people. They only need some land to survive. Almost 60 per cent people of this country are below the poverty line. We have a scheme called "Food for Work". I would like to know whether the Forest Ministry will take the initiative and see to it that this land is given to those poor people who can survive on social forestry. Again, I am told. Sir, that any forest land in the country cannot be converted by the State Government and there is a provision in the Forest Conservation Act of 1980 that if any land is sought to be converted, then they have to take the concurrence of the Central Government. Now, two years back, the hon. Supreme Court had given a decision and I know even some construction in the forest land in Kulu and Manali was sought to be removed by the then Minister. But if you go to Goa and if you happen to visit Betim—I think the Minister crosses that area very often when he visits his constituency—forest land has been cleared at Betim just above the gurdwara. Green lush forest land has been destroyed and one multinational company is building a condominium house. This is being done. Of course, the present people in power blame those people who have done something in the past. But the licences are given by these people and this is done only for some consideration. It is said that a son of a notorious person is involved in it. How is the Government of India permitting these people to just cut down forest and allow this construction in the forest areas despite the laws of the land, despite the ruling of the hon. Supreme Court? I hope the hon. Minister will look into this matter and reply to me whether the State Government has taken any permission which is required under the statute because the Forest Conservation Act is very clear. Anytime, you want

to clear any forests, you have to take the consent and concurrence of the Central Government. That is only applicable for the State projects. More so, this is a private project. So, unless the Government takes initiative and straighten the delinquent administration in the States, I don't think we will see a better future on the environment front. I have spoken of the Central Pollution Control Board. Now, I come to the mining sector. We have a plenty of mines in Goa. They came down from the Portuguese. The Portuguese permitted them. This is open cast mining and it is in the private hands. It continues to be in the private hands. To my utter disgust, the whole area\* is polluted. People have to die of sil icosis because there is an air pollution. Under the environment directives, it is not permitted. The rivers are polluted. The marine life is dead. All the pollutants go in the drinking water of the well. I have said that though they get some foreign exchange in turn, it is the policy of the Government of India that we should not destroy the forest reserves in this country. By exporting it we should get the technology and see that we ourselves make finished products and the Government of India has permitted them by giving them tax exemption. As a result, they save Rs. 150 crores per year by way of this exemption. They get a few dollars from abroad but nothing is put in the system. So, I request the hon. Minister to review the whole thing. Now, going back to the coal fields, we have so many thermal power plants in the country. The Indian coal is of poor quality because it is drift coal. It has 40 per cent of fly ash. And this coal is sought to be transported from the coalfields to the power plants. Wherever there are power plants, in the surrounding urban areas, they have the problem of fly ash. Wherever there is a problem of fly ash, they have the problem of radiation because it contains some amount of radiation which is harmful, and of course, it also goes into the air because fly ash tends to fly very easily. So, I have suggested to the other Minis-

try that the Ministry of Environment should also get itself involved in this scheme to see that these power plants are stationed at the coalfield area itself. You produce power, you should transmit it by wire. Rather than you transport the coal by train or by truck, whichever way, that is going to be very expensive, and the same fly ash can be put back in the coalfields. I think that is one of the suggestions that I would like to make to the hon. Minister.

Finally, coming to the nuclear issue, see how the country has gone nuclear. We have the bombs. We have seen the other day Pokhran II. I want to know whether the Ministry of Environment has any safeguards to avoid an accident of Chernobyl type taking place in the country because when we have the explosion in Pokhran, there is bound to be pollution and radioactive pollution. One green organisation from Paris, from France, has said so, and I think we have to believe it, wherever you have a nuclear explosion, there is bound to be some radiation, some pollution. I want to know whether we have realised what happened at Chernobyl and whether the Ministry of Forest and Environment has geared up its machinery to face any eventuality, in case there is a disaster. With these few submissions, I hope the hon. Minister would react to the points, whatever they are, I have raised. Thank you very much. Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): Shri Adhik Shirodkar. Your party has got only four minutes.

SHRI ADHIK SHIRODKAR (Maharashtra): Sir, I will try to confine myself to the time.

Sir, the great threat to India is from environmental disaster when we are counting by our own relentless and savage encroachment on mangroves, rainforests, bird life, wildlife habitat in our own pursuit of pleasures which are material, the main problem is felling of trees indiscriminately, felling of trees without regard to the fact that it takes decades to have trees which are benevolent for our

existence like 'neem' trees or like the trees that we have in Maharashtra, 'Tulsi' as we call it. Now the problem is that the moment there is a felling of trees near the water rivers, canals, or anywhere else, it causes soil erosion.

My friend, Mr. Fernandes, has referred to mangroves. Now mangroves are soil tolerant forest eco-system in tropical and sub-tropical regions. They stabilise the shore lines, act as buffers against encroachment of water. Now if this very buffer is removed by our unmindful, vicious and malicious felling of the trees, we are counting disaster.

There is also a reference made to the green house effect. One of the causes for the green house effect is the indiscriminate felling of the trees; I will not go into that in detail. It will be seen that carbon dioxide, 'CO<sub>2</sub>' as we call it, accounts for 60 per cent of the warming observed since 1950. Carbon dioxide concentration has been on the increase by 0.3 per cent a year, and now it is 30 per cent higher than it was before the industrial revolution all over. CO<sub>2</sub> has a life-time of more than hundred years in the atmosphere compared with eight days of the water vapour which is another ingredient causing green house effect. Methane which we use also persists in the atmosphere for a decade and so. The accumulation of green house gases, as we call it, in the next hundred years, the temperature will rise by one to 3.35 per cent, it seems that it is nothing.

[3 p.m.]

But even half a per cent variation can cause flooding, a tremendous temperature rise bringing in the El Nino effect. We have been hearing about the El Nino effect for the last three years. The El Nino effect has caused havoc all over the

world. It has created disturbances in the seasonal patterns. We have seasons—monsoon season, winter session, etc. We also go by those seasons so far as the Parliamentary sessions are concerned. All these seasons are being disturbed because of the El Nino effect which is caused by

greenhouse effects and ozone depletion. All these things go on in a cascading manner and do one thing which goes against over the other and the whole eco system is disturbed. I wish I could go into the details. I have to confine myself. I will first refer to the damage that we have caused by our relentless destruction. I will give some figures which are shocking. Sir, Rs. 34,000 crores per year, that is, 4.5 per cent of GDP in 1992 accounts for environmental damages Health, because of air pollution to which my friend, Shri Fernandes referred, particularly because of mines cost us Rs. 18,000 crores. Water degradation accounts for health cost of Rs. 19,915 crores, i.e. 59 per cent of the total environmental cost. Land degradation costs us Rs. 1810 crores. Loss to international tourism is Rs. 9,991 crores. Africa which is dependent only on tourists because of the wonderful forests and an animal habitat like Masaimara Sarengti Ngorangora, suffered a loss of five billion dollars last year because of the El Nino effect. I was a victim of that. I went there and found nothing. The net result of all these years that is we are losing tourism. We lose biodiversity gains that we have. These are the facts which have not been established from any foreign journal. These are the figures given in 1996 in an answer to a question posed in this very August House. What can be done? That is the question. Everybody has spoken about what is being done. The cure lies, according to me, in an effective forestation on a war-footing. It is essential that all the mangroves must be restored to their majestic glory on a war-footing as it was about 50 years ago. Trees must be planted wherever possible. I don't say that you plant those trees which absorb only water. There are certain trees which are good like 'Neem' trees. 'Tulsi' has a cleansing effect on our atmosphere. In Maharashtra we have 'Tulsi' plants in front of every house. It is a small plant but it cleanses the atmosphere around the house. I have got six acres of land. I have got 20 Tulsi plants and the atmosphere is very beautiful. 'Neem' is medicinal. 'Neem' also has

cleansing effect. So trees which are necessary for that purpose should be used. Sir, we have Dr. Mashelkar with the Government of India who has successfully-fought our case of patent on turmeric. He is doing research on 'Neem' trees. His help may be sought. The second thing that we can do is take the help of the Navy. The Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Vishnu Bhagvat is an avid naturalist. We have an institution in Dehradun Which is doing geoman service in planting of trees. This has to be attended to. The other thing that we can do is prevention. A lot of efforts have been put in creating laws. There are 32 laws on environmental protection. I have counted them. I am a lawyer by profession. A murder charge invites a penalty of death sentence, but murders over the ages have not stopped. Law does not deter anybody. It is a deterrent only notionally. It, in fact, never deters. So, having laws is not sufficient. There should be prevention rather than cure. We are talking of effluent management. We are talking of installing machinery to see to it that effluents of industries, chemical industries or otherwise, are not allowed to go into the streams, into the sea or canals, by treating them. There is a machinery available, a machanism available, a treatment available, which prevents the creation of effluents to the extent of 50 to 60 per cent. What cannot be prevented, namely, 40 per cent of it, can thus be prevented by taking the treatment that is available. I will make reference to two more things and I will conclude. I can speak for 10 hours. It is a subject dear to my heart. If we don't attempt it now, there will be no India left. We will have a barren land. My other point is that instead of depending heavily on the laws on industrial pollutants, their effluents and their management, an awareness programme should be created to which there is no reference. I have with me the Annual Report and the Performance Budget of the Ministry of Environment. I have got both the books with me. Not a single reference is there that the awareness

programme should be started for people right from the young" age group. My grand daughter, Uma who is six years old, can name nearly hundred birds, animals and insects right from the age of three, because the books which I have, she has every right to open them whenever she wants. Now she Knows about animals, birds and plants. She knows the benevolent effect of it and the effect of destruction of it. This is the eduction. We need to equip children with this type of education. Dehra Dun has got lakhs of transparencies taken all over India which can be used. Another thing that can be done is that in every school, one hour per week or per fortnight or per month should be devoted to programmes like discover channel and so on. I have to make a reference to only one thing. The infantry battalion, the territorial army, based at Dehra Dun has got an ecological task force. I think that many of us are not aware of it. This task force performs the task of planting trees and looking after them. Another thing that we can do is to have photographs. I am aware that a photographer from Mumbai, Mr. Gopal Bodha, has taken aerial photographs from helicopter, photographs of all the mangroves of most of the places. These photographs can be educative. Lastly, I would suggest one more thing. I have seen that normally punishment is sentence or fine. The penalty of fine for a company goes out of the coffers of that company. The fine should be attributable to a person and the punishment should not be sentence or fine. Normally, fine is given. Even that should be stopped. Apart from awarding sentence to an individual in charge of a company, there should be a provision that every company which violates the law should be required to plant 10 times the trees that they have felled. Not only this, there should be a mandatory provision that apart from their own activities, every industry should undertake planting of trees out of their funds. If these things are done, I am confident that the dangers posed to environment can be minimised. My last sent-

ence which I always refer to is: We have turned our back on the nature. It is high time we go back to the nature at least for our own survival. Thank you. Sir.

**श्री मनोहर कान्त ध्यानी** (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, आज हम वन और पर्यावरण मंत्रालय के कार्यक्रम पर चर्चा कर रहे हैं लेकिन पूरे देश का जैसा वातावरण है और खासकर ये जो बड़े शहरों के लोग हैं, इनका जैसा कार्यक्रम है, उसमें यह चिंता वास्तविक नहीं लगती। एक आंकड़ा आप देखिए कि पिछले एक दशक में जो देश की जनसंख्या है वह 46.10 प्रतिशत बढ़ गई है और हमारे वनों का जो आकार है, वह 1,930 वर्ग किलोमीटर कम हो गया है। वनों के बारे में, वृक्षों के बारे में हमारा जो मौलिक चिंतन था, उसमें वनों को जीवन से जोड़ा था, मनुष्य से जोड़ा था। उसके दर्शन हमारे व्यवहार में अब सर्वथा लुप्त हो रहे हैं, इससे कठिनाई बढ़ रही है।

(उपसभापति पीठासीन हुईं)

**उपसभापति:** ध्यानी जी, मैं आपको एक मिनट के लिए इन्टररप्ट करना चाहती हूँ। एक समस्या थी, इसलिए मुझे मीटिंग छोड़कर आना पड़ा। डा. मुरली मनोहर जोशी को एक स्टेटमेंट करना है इस हाऊस में और चूंकि यह अभी लोक सभा में भी नहीं हुआ है, इसलिए उनको वहां भी जाना है। हमने उनसे कहा कि वन और पर्यावरण मंत्रालय के कार्यक्रम पर हमारा डिस्कशन चालू हो गया है और we don't want to disturb the discussion. I can take the opinion of the House. It is a good statement — about giving scholarships to scientists in the golden jubilee year of our independence. So, if the House so agrees, I can allow him to lay it on the Table of the House and if there are any clarifications, we can have them later. If he makes it in the Lok Sabha and if he doesn't make it here, then it will not be proper.

**DR. MURLIMANO HAR JOSHI:** Madam, if the House so agrees, can I read it? It is a small statement.

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:** You may lay it. We will circulate it among the Members.

**SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:** I would have preferred the hon. Minister read the statement.

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:** I would also prefer it. I know it concerns scientists and you are a supporter of scientists. But the point is I would not disrespect the Member who was speaking. I have already interrupted him.

**DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:** He has agreed, Madam.

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:** Okay. You can read it.

#### STATEMENT BY MINISTER

##### Swarnajayanti fellowships for young scientists

**THE MINISTER SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI):** Madam, Science & Technology have always been regarded as powerful tools for the economic and social development of a nation. It is recognised world over that long term technological competence and international competitiveness can only from a strong foundation of high quality basic research. In recognition of this, Government of India, on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of our independence, have launched "Swarnajayanti Fellowships for Young Scientists" to enable them to attain world class levels in Science.

The Swarnajayanti Fellowships are open to Indian Scientists in the age group of 30—40 years with proven track for outstanding research work exploring new frontiers in their field of expertise. These fellowships are scientist specific. The fellowship includes, in addition to an attractive fellowship amount of Rs. 25,000/-per month, research grant for equipment, manpower, supplies and consumables, travel including international travel and other special requirements for performing at the highest level. The duration of the fellowship is for a period up to 5 years.

The Swarnajayanti Fellowships have been widely announced both within the country as well as to attract good Indian Scientists. A 3-Tier system for selection of candidates for the Swarnajayanti Fellowships has been adopted. This included sub-committees in six subject disciplines