

[श्रीमती आनन्दीबेन जेठाभाई पटेल]

रही है। डाक विभाग का अपना इंजीनियर हो, यह बहुत जरूरी है वरना यह बहुमूल्य मशीनें बेकार पड़ी रहेंगी और हमारा इन पर किया गया खर्च व्यर्थ हो जाएगा। इसलिए मैं माननीय संचार मंत्रीजी को इस बात पर गौर करने का सुझाव देती हूँ। धन्यवाद।

**Health Hazard and Agricultural devastation due to polluted water in North Arcott district in Tamil Nadu.**

SHRI R. MARGABANDU (Tamil Nadu): Madam Vice-Chairman, I had intended to raise a point on tannery effluents. Recently there was a judgment by the Supreme Court which ordered the closure of 55 tanneries and ordered the effluent treatment to be implanted within three months. That order was passed against 496 tanneries. It was passed on 1.5.1995. The time given was till 31.7.95 but it has not yet been complied with. This is the problem everywhere, in the whole of India. Even the Gujarat High Court ordered for closure of 250 dyeing and printing factories at Jamshedpur. This is a matter which concerns health as also devastation of agriculture. North Arcot is a Government resort and about 82,000 acres of land are rendered barren. This is as per the Government's report. There are 42,000 tanneries in North Arcot on the banks of the Palar river, all manned by a few rich people. The rich people, perhaps in the garb of foreign exchange, were given the permit and licence to run these tanneries and earn in crores. On account of this, lands of lakhs of people are rendered useless and the people are not able to use their land. As a matter of fact, in the whole of India North Arcot is characterised as a dark district. Similarly, Delhi is the fourth most polluted city in the world. So, pollution is taking a very, very serious toll. This Government is willing to cater to few rich people in the garb of foreign exchange and is not worried if the entire agricultural community is devastated. There is a health hazard in North Arcot. Water is allowed to flow into the Palar river. Wherever a well is dug, it is only

polluted water that comes out. Especially in Ambur, people are not having drinking water and they have to go four to five miles from their place to fetch drinking water. That is the position. Even in the year 1978, when I was a legislator, I raised this point in the Madras Assembly when my leader, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivar had said that Tamil Nadu would take steps to see that all the tannery owners installed effluent treatment plants within the stipulated period of time. Our people are suffering from T.B., asthma, bronchitis, muscular problems. Their only justification is that it generates jobs. But at the same time within three months the workers are getting diseases and they are mercilessly dismissed from service. The entire soil quality has worsened, and the persons are affected very much. I appeal to the Authorities that vicarious liability has to be imposed upon all the tanneries to pay compensation to all those persons who have lost their lives. As a matter of fact, even cattle drinking this water are dying. And people are dying. So, a serious note of this has to be taken. Even the judicial redressals have also remained only on paper. The pollution has reached monstrous proportions. Therefore, the judgements given by the Courts have to be respected and stern action has to be taken against these persons who are violating the orders of the Courts and of the Government for setting up the effluent treatment plants. Those who are violating these orders have to be punished rigorously, and vicarious liability for payment of compensation has to be imposed on the tannery-owners.

With these words, I close my special Mention. Thank you, Madam.

**Increasing criminal activities in railways**

श्री रामजी लाल (हरियाणा): धन्यवाद, उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदया। मैं रेलवे में यात्रा करने वाली महिलाओं के जेवर और नगदी की लूटमार की बढ़ती घटनाओं की ओर सदन का ध्यान आकर्षित करते हुए इस प्रकार की लूटमार से प्रोटेक्शन के लिए अपनी मांग सदन में रखूंगा।