

RAJYA SABHA

*Thursday, the 18th December, 2008/27 Agrahayana, 1930 (Saka)*

The House met at eleven of the clock,  
MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

-----

**ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

**Dump of wastage in coastal areas of Tamil Nadu**

\*241. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that some foreign companies have dumped the wastage of their products into the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government;

(c) whether Government has given any instruction to the State Government which allowed foreign companies to dump their wastage causing severe negative consequences to the land and future generations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

***Statement***

(a) to (d) Under the Hazardous Wastes (Management, Handling and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2008 no import of hazardous waste is permitted for dumping or disposal purposes. Recyclable wastes like metal scrap, non-halogenated plastics, waste paper conforming to the specifications are allowed for import for recycling purposes by the recyclers having environmentally sound technologies and by actual users.

As per the information furnished by the Customs Department, no instance of illegal dumping of waste by a foreign company in the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu, has been reported. In one case of import of the waste paper mixed with municipal solid waste beyond the permissible limits, the consignment received at the Tuticorin Port in Tamil Nadu was ordered for re-export by the Customs authorities. The same in view of the court case before the Madurai Bench of the Hon'ble High Court of Madras, is at present under the custody of the Customs authorities.

In the above Rules, with a view to safeguarding the environment, in case of illegal import of hazardous wastes, strict provisions have been made by the Central Government making it

mandatory for the importer to re-export the waste at his own cost. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has also taken up the matter with the Ports and Customs authorities for strict implementation of the provisions regulating management of hazardous wastes, including training of Port and Custom officials. The directions given by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter of hazardous waste management have also been passed on to the State Governments and State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) for compliance.

SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Sir, the reply given by the hon. Minister is incorrect because as per the report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee, around 50,000 tonnes of wastes have been dumped. What do you say on this?

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Sir, as per the Notification, no waste is permitted for dumping purposes in the country. Only waste material is allowed for recycling purposes. However, what the hon. Member is referring to, I will look into the matter.

SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Sir, my second supplementary is, are there any penal action by the UPA Government and by the \*\* Government of Tamil Nadu on this illegal dumping? So, I would like to know whether the Government would take any action to ban even the recyclable wastes from other countries. If so, the details thereof. If not, the reasons therefor.

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Sir, as per the Notification, the imports are regulated by the Ministry of Environment which gives the permission and the DGFT issues the licence. As we know, Sir, there is a shortage of some of the metals like lead, zinc, cadmium and copper in our country. So, we are importing these things and we are encouraging the industry to go for recycling purposes. There is concept of 3Rs, namely, reduce, reuse and recycle. So, this is a well regulated system. We have brought the Notification in 2008. All the recycling industries are registered and the prior consent of the country is obtained while importing these things. So, there is no question of allowing the dumping by the Tamil Nadu Government. It is all regulated by the Ministry and by the DGFT.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri A. Vijayaraghavan. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Sir, in his reply, ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Sir, there is an objection. How can the hon. Member refer to ... ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please, please. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let's not get into a discussion on this. ...*(Interruptions)*... Yes; Mr. A. Vijayaraghavan.

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in his reply, the hon. Minister has mentioned that the recyclable wastes like metal scraps, *etc.*, are being used in our country. Actually, Sir, the country has virtually become a dustbin of all kinds of hazardous wastes from all parts of the world. India has become a destination of these kinds of things. Do you have any

---

\*\*Deleted as ordered by the Chair.

proper checking? For example, these steel companies are using the metal scraps, which is very much hazardous to the health, and, as a result of it, high level pollution is also there. So, will the Government make a proper enquiry in this regard or give an assurance to this House that it will do a proper checking with regard to the reusage of these kinds of things in the country, and, especially, keep a check on those steel companies which are creating pollution in various places, which is hazardous to the health of the ordinary people.

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Sir, as I have stated in my reply, the waste is banned in the country. There is no question of dumping or sending the waste to our country. There is a well laid procedure. We have brought out a notification in 2008. All recycling industries are registered and there is proper checking done. The Central Pollution Control Board is monitoring the State Pollution Control Boards.

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Sir, my question is specifically related to steel companies which are using this particular scrap as raw material and are creating pollution.

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Sir, we are importing scrap. As I have said, recycling is economically beneficial and environmentally sound. In our country, we have a shortage of Lead, Copper and Cadmium, as I have said earlier, worldwide, the concept of three R's is on, not only in this country and in developing countries, but also in the developed countries. But it is all well regulated. Checks and balances are in place and there is no question of dumping.

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: But there are violations and some action must be taken against it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not interrupt. Mr. Anbalagan.

SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Sir, is there any other case of dumping waste by Indian companies and the local bodies? What action has been taken in this regard?

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Sir, a case was reported, a public complaint was received, by the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board on 05.07.2008 that one ITC company which imports paper from foreign countries, have engaged a contractor, SSR. Chandrashekar and Company, for sorting out the material. On enquiry, it was found that 70 tonnes of segregated wastepaper imported by this company were dumped in Kumaragelum and Salaigur villages. Notices were issued by the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board upon which the company removed that waste from the wells, and notices for disconnection of electricity were issued. The matter went up to the High Court and the High Court set aside the order, but that entire waste material is with the ITC Company. The Government of India has issued circulars to the State Governments that importers would have to ensure that all recyclable material is actually recycled either by them or by other firms in the business of recycling. This was noticed and action as per law has been taken.

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, pollution contributes in a big way to climate change and global warming. I am happy to note that the hon. Prime Minister is heading a commission to meet the

challenges posed by global warming and climate change. In this background, I would like to ask a specific question. Tiruppur is a major centre for textile and oyster industries. It is also a major centre causing pollution. The dyers of Tiruppur have constructed 20 central effluent treatment plants, investing Rs. 800 crores, and they have to pay Rs. 100 crores as interest. They have done this because the High Court directed them to do so. They have done this, hoping that the Central Government and the State Government will extend financial grant to them. It so happens that the Planning Commission will have to give approval for this; only then the Textile Ministry can respond to it. My question is, will the Planning Commission give approval for these plants? I urge upon the Central Government to extend financial grant to those dyers. Tiruppur contributes tremendously to the country's exports and foreign exchange earnings. It cannot be neglected like this. I would like to ask the Central Government whether they are thinking of extending financial grant and whether they are thinking of taking up this issue with the Planning Commission to seek approval.

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Sir, the proposal from Tiruppur is pending in my Ministry and a decision will be taken ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI D. RAJA: How long? I have written to the Prime Minister. Many representations have been made to the State Governments and the Central Government. How long can this continue like this? I want an answer from the Minister and from the Government. Prime Minister is sitting here. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, Mr. Raja, resume your place. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Sir, so far as this question is concerned, this is related to something else which is not connected to this question. But I can assure the hon. Member that a decision will be taken at the earliest.

### बेल्जियम में पकड़े गए भारतीय

\*242. श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी:††  
श्री मोती लाल बोरा:

क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि हाल ही में बेल्जियम सरकार ने ऐसे दो सौ भारतीयों को पकड़ा है जिन्हें अवैध रूप से इंग्लैंड ले जाना था;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि मानव तस्करो ने इन भारतीयों को नारकीय स्थिति में रखा हुआ था;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि बी.बी.सी. द्वारा भी हाल ही में ऐसे ही एक गिरोह का भंडाफोड़ किया गया था; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो सरकार द्वारा मानव तस्करो को पकड़ने के लिए क्या कार्रवाई की गई है?

विदेशी मंत्री (श्री प्रणब मुखर्जी): (क) 18 अक्टूबर, 2008 को मारे गये छापो में बेल्जियम के प्राधिकारियों द्वारा 164 व्यक्तियों को गिरफ्तार किया गया। इनमें से सिर्फ एक के भारतीय होने की पुष्टि हुई है। बेल्जियम के प्राधिकारियों द्वारा राष्ट्रीयता के अतिरिक्त ब्यौरे उपलब्ध नहीं कराये गये हैं।

---

††सभा में यह प्रश्न श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी द्वारा पूछा गया।