

Environment Monitoring Organisation

•147. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set Up a national environmental monitoring organisation to build a safe and sound base for the fertilizer and chemical industrial units; and

(b) if go, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN): (a) and (b) It is proposed to let up a National Environmental Monitoring Organisation (NEMO) for* generating data on a wide range of environmental parameters. NEMO will be designed to cover air, water and soil quality monitoring, source monitoring, monitoring of toxic waste dumps and heavy metals, environmental impact, assessment of developmental activities, area specific monitoring etc.

~ The organisational structure locations and sites for monitoring stations, parameters to be covered, methodologies to be adopted, etc., are being worked out. NEMO is conceived to have a decentralised structure fully utilising the existing monitoring facilities available with the Universities UTs, Research Institutions, Central and State Pollution Control Boards, etc. Such existing facilities will be strengthened wherever necessary.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Sir, it is indeed laudable that the Government is proposing to set up a National Environmental Monitoring Organisation, and the details, are already being worked out. May I know from the hon. Minister as to how, much time is it likely to take to set up this organisation?

SHRI VIR SEN: Sir, we will be taking the initial action this year and for setting up of the centres, field centres etc. it will take 5 years.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: NEMO is conceived to have a decentralised structure. May I know from the hon. Minister as to what will be the status of this organisation, whether autonomous or...?

MR. CHAIRMAN: What kind of an organisation will it be?

SHRI VIR SEN: This will be working under the Central Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is whether it will be a corporation or » department. You must answer. Is it going to be a corporation?

SHRI VIR SEN: No, it is not a corporation; it will be a department under the Ministry.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Satya Pal Malik.

श्री सत्यपाल मलिक : श्रीमन्, इस संबंध में मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि आगे जो कारखाने बनेंगे ...

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Now he is* on that side, Sir. You looked this side.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I go by this method, one question from that side and one from this side.

श्री सत्यपाल मलिक : श्रीमन्, वहाँ से यहाँ आना सदैव सुखद काम है। जनता से हम यही कहते हैं कि हमें बराबर यहाँ भेजती रहे।

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: When the Chairman called your name, he was still looking this side.

श्री सत्यपाल मलिक : ज्यादातर लोग जो वहाँ हैं वे यहाँ से अनुशासनहीनता की वजह से निकाले गये हैं। जो वहाँ हैं उनमें से ज्यादातर लोग यहाँ रहे, मंत्री रहे, मज लूटे और आखिर में उधर चल गये और वहाँ जाकर अब वे लोकतंत्र को विरोधी पार्टियों में रहकर बचा रहे हैं।
... (व्यावधान) तीन बार ईधर आये
... (व्यवधान) ...

यहाँ की मदद से पावर में आये तथा फिर बराबर वही रहते हैं। इस बहस में आप न पड़े तो वह ज्यादा अच्छा ही।
... (व्याख्यान) ... यहाँ बैठना अच्छा काम है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: I do not go by history, I go only by the present situation.

श्री सत्यपाल मलिक : श्रीमान् मेरा निवेदन है कि यह जो संगठन होगा यह आने वाले दिनों में जो कारखाने बनेंगे और उनके जो असरात होंगे क्या उनकी भी जांच करेगा ? मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि न सिर्फ बड़े कारखाने फर्टिलाइजर और कैमिकल्स के बल्कि जो बांध बनते हैं या थर्मल बिजली घर बनते हैं उनके असरात के बारे में भी बहुत बहस होती है। मिसाल के तौर पर नरोरा में जो बन रहा है उसके बारे में अखबारों में हर साल यह बहस होती है कि जो वहाँ की सिस्मिक हिस्ट्री है वह ऐसी है कि इसमें लीकेज होने का कभी भी खतरा हो सकता है, सिस्मिक हिस्ट्री की वजह से इसी तरह से दिहरी गढ़वाल में जो बनने वाला बांध है उस बांध के बारे में भी बहस होती है कि क्योंकि चट्टानें कमजोर हैं और अगर वह टूटती है तो बहुत बड़ा जवर्दस्त विनाश हो सकता है। इस तरह की जो संभावनायें बांधों और परमाणु बिजली घरों के कारखाने जो लगे हुए हैं जो लगने हैं उनका नहीं, जो लगे हुए हैं, उनके बारे में है तो क्या सरकार अपने इस संगठन को यह जिम्मेदारी देगी कि उनके बारे में जो संभावनायें हैं उसके बारे में वह फाइनल जजमेंट दे ताकि इस तरह की अफवाहों से जो डर पैदा हुआ है वह दूर हो सके ?

श्री बीर सेन : सभापति महोदय, यह जो माननीय सदस्य ने प्रश्न उठाया है वह पहले से ही ... (व्याख्यान) ...

-MR. CHAIRMAN: Come forward both literally and metaphorically.

श्री बीर सेन : सभापति महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने जो प्रश्न उठाया है उनके बारे में पहले से ही योजना में शामिल है

चाहे छोटे उद्योग हों, चाहे बड़े उद्योग हों, विकास योजनाएं हों, ईम्स वगैरह हों सब के बारे में पर्यावरण सम्बन्धी जो प्रभाव होगा उसका डाटा कलेक्ट किया जायेगा और उस डाटा का प्रयोग किया जायेगा।

DR. SHANTI G. PATEL: Sir, many places in the urban areas as well as in the rural areas, have become victims of the pollution, due to the necessary steps not having been taken in time. Bhopal tragedy is a recent incident. I would, therefore, like to know from the hon. Minister as to what is the time perspective for setting up this organisation and for its efficient functioning? Will it start functioning, to be very specific within a year's time?

SHRI VIR SEN: As I have already said, we will be initiating action within this year and all the field units will be established within a period of five years.

DR. SHANTI G. PATEL: By that time, there will be so many Bhopal tragedies.

SHRI VIR SEN: There will be none.

DR. SHANTI G. PATEL: The hon. Minister should treat this matter with urgency.

SHRI VIR SEN: I do not think, there will be another tragedy.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: Mr. Chairman, while welcoming the proposal of the Government and congratulating him on this, coming from Kanpur, I would like to know, from the hon. Minister—this is a very specific question—would the purview and ambit of this particular organisation be expanded so that the other types of pollution caused by waste and refuse being thrown into the river, as well as the pollution caused by noise are covered? Many things are thrown into the river Ganges because of which the water is undrinkable. I

would like to know from the hon. Minister whether all these things would be taken care of by this organisation or the Government would set up another organisation like this to cover all these aspects?

SHRI VIR SEN: Of course, except for noise portion, all these things will be covered in this scheme.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: As I said, the water in the river Ganges has become undrinkable because of the pollution caused by many things being thrown into the river. This causes many hazards to human life.

SHRI VIR SEN: As I have already said water pollution control is also a part of this scheme.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: Including the noise pollution coming from the other side.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Coming from both sides. *

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir to add to what the Leader of the House has complained about this is somewhat of a grey area. We have recently legislated on control of air pollution. There is no similar legislation in respect of environment which will cover the whole of the country. It is because of this difficulty that no matter what corporation you or organisation you form they will essentially lack teeth. Therefore, is there any proposal under the consideration of the Government to bring environment in the Concurrent List and a comprehensive legislation similar to the one enacted by Parliament in regard to control of air pollution enacted? Otherwise, in a very short time, we will not have even drinking water.

SHRI VIR SEN: As far as the question of environment is concerned, the suggestion will be considered.

SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY;

Sir, मिनिस्टर बोलेगा है

सब ठीक है I • Now, it has been stated that they are going to set up the national environmental monitoring organisation. It does not require any proof to say that there is lot of pollution. There is pollution in the Ganges. There is pollution in many cities of the country. Much of this pollution is caused by defective chemical and fertiliser units. Many such units are situated on the banks of the Ganges, and in many cities. So, what positive and immediate action is being taken to stop this pollution? I would only request him to read this week's Sunday. »; It describes the grave condition prevailing about river and environmental pollution.

SHRI VIR SEN: This organisation will be studying the status of pollution in rivers, in air, etc. and action is already being taken. As you know, the Central Ganga Authority has been established to look after pollution control in the Ganges river. Pollution in other rivers is also under consideration and it will be taken up in phases.

SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY: What is the progress?

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI: I might just add that we are taking action as the hon. Minister has said, but as pointed out by on© of the hon. Members from the opposition, it is a State subject. We could look into making it a Concurrent subject, but pending that I would request the hon. Member to approach his own State Government and ask them to take action.

SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY: The Prime Minister himself is the chairman of the Board. He is looking after the whole Board. Why is he pointing at me to look to the State Government?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You must feel flattered. Why are you objecting?

SHRI S. W. DHABE: Sir, the location of big industries and fertilizer chemical industrial units is in the hands of the Central Government under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act. Location and licensing is exclusively in the hands of the Central Government and not with the State Government. So, may I know whether any guidelines have been issued? Recently, we discussed about the Rashtriya Chemical factory at Bombay. So, may I know whether any guidelines have been issued for location of such units outside the urban areas or where the pollution problem is bigger? Is any preventive certificate necessary from the monitoring organisation or department for location of such units?

SHRI VIR SEN: Sir, the Government has issued guidelines. At the same time I may say that every project or industrial unit has of course, to get the clearance from the Environment Department.

SHRI S. W. DHABE: Prior clearance?

SHRI VIR SEN: Before issuing a licence, clearance from the Department of Environment is necessary.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I would like to know whether the role of such an organisation would be purely advisory or it will have the power of prosecution by making certain amendments to the Act. Also, will the clearance organisation have the power to declare finally that in view of the polluting nature of certain industries such industries would not be set up in particular areas of the Country?

SHRI VIR SEN: The role suggested by the Member is not envisaged so far. As far as the new industries are concerned, selection of site, of course, will depend upon the permission from the Department of Environment and from the Industry Department. All these questions will be

considered, but the type of authority as proposed by the hon. Member is not envisaged to be there.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: We agree with the hon. Prime Minister that this is a State subject, but what does one do if the State Government is inactive? We have to approach the Centre and look to this national Committee which is being set up. We hope it will be set up soon. Especially, there is the problem for the city of Bombay. It has a population of 85 million and 33000 industries are there today. Most of them are chemical plants. As Mr. Dhabe said, these plants could be shifted but. Especially 60 per cent of the pesticide factories in the country are located in Bombay. The chemicals are stored in godowns in a haphazard way and they constitute fire hazards. So I would like to know whether Government will immediately form an enquiry committee to go into the problem of Bombay because the National Committee will take a long time to come up but they must go into the Bombay problem immediately because Bombay is sitting on top of a volcano which could explode any time.

SHRI VIR SEN: The suggestion may be considered.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

Recognition of the new regime of Sudan

*148. SHRI P. N. SUKUL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have recognised the new regime of Sudan; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN):

(a) We have been closely