

RAJYA SABHA

Thursday, the 24th March, 1983/3,
Chaitra 1905 (Saka.)

The House met at eleven of the clock,
Mr. Chairman in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

"Pollution of Ganga Waters"

*361. SHRI LAKHAN SINGH:
SHRI HARISHANKAR
BHABHRA:t

Will the PRIME MINISTER be
pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that accord-
ing to the survey conducted by the
Central Pollution Control Board, the
pollution of Ganga waters is steadily
increasing and that at certain stretches
of the river it is not only unfit for
human consumption but unfit for ir-
rigation purposes too; and

(b) if so, what are the details
thereof and what remedial measures
are proposed to be taken in this re-
gard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT
(SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH): (a) and (b)
According to the survey conducted by the
Central Board for the Prevention and
Control of Water Pollution, the stretches
of the river immediately downstream of
Kannuj, Kan-pur, Allahabad, Varanasi,
Patna and Calcutta are polluted and not fit
for human consumption without adequate
treatment. However, the water is fit for
irrigation purposes.

The Central and State Boards for
Prevention and Control of Water
Pollution are taking measures to regulate
the discharge of industrial and domestic
effluents from the polluting sources.

fThe question was actually asked on
the floor of the House by Shri Hari
Shankar Bhabhra.

श्री हरी शंकर भाभड़ा : सभापति
महोदय, जिस गंगा को पतित पावनी
समझते हैं, आज उस गंगा का पानी
इतना पोल्यूटेड हो गया है कि पीने का
तो सवाल ही नहीं, सिंचाई के लिये
भी उसका प्रयोग नहीं किया जा सकता।
उसमें मछलियां बगैरह भी पैदा नहीं हो
रही हैं। यह बहुत लम्बी दूरी तक ऐसा
हो रहा है, उल्हरिया, डाइमंड हार्बर
और आगे चौबीस परगना तक, दोनों किनारों
पर पानी सिंचाई के प्रयोग में नहीं आ रहा है।
इसी तरह से कानपुर, इलाहाबाद, वाराणसी
और उसके नीचे तक पानी पोल्यूटेड हो गया
है। इसका सबसे बड़ा कारण यह है कि
जो इंडस्ट्रीज लगी हुई हैं और नगरपालिकाओं
द्वारा जो सीवज आता है, वेस्टेज आता है,
उसको रोकने का कोई प्रयास नहीं हो रहा है।
साथ ही जहां तक स्टेट गवर्नमेन्ट्स का सवाल
है, स्टेट गवर्नमेन्ट्स के जो साधन हैं,
वित्तीय साधन, वे इतने कम हैं कि
इस और ध्यान नहीं दे पा रहे हैं।
इसलिये मैं माननीय प्रधानमंत्री जी से
पूछना चाहूंगा कि क्या वे इस नीति को
एक ओवर आल नीति समझकर और
उसके अन्तर्गत राज्यों को विशेष वित्तीय
सहायता और दूसरी सहायता देंगी ताकि
वहां पर इस वाटर पोल्यूशन को रोकने
के लिये कुछ कदम उठाए जा सकें ?

श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी : जहां तक
हम से होता है वहां तो हम सहायता देते
ही हैं लेकिन जैसा माननीय सदस्य को
मालूम है, यह स्टेट सब्जेक्ट है और हमेशा
वे हमारे दखल को बहुत खुशी से स्वीकार
नहीं करते हैं। दूसरी बात यह है कि यह
ज्यादातर पोल्यूशन जो है वह इंडस्ट्रीज
का है और अब जब भी कोई लाइसेंस
देते हैं या किसी को स्वीकृति देते हैं
इंडस्ट्री लगाने की, उसमें हमेशा एक क्लॉज
होती है कि वे इस पोल्यूशन को देखें
सबसे जल्दी काम तो म्युनिसिपैलिटीज का

घसल में है, सी-साइलिंग आफ दि वेस्ट जिसको कहते हैं, इसलिय साइंस पालिसी और टेक्नालाजी पालिसी सब में जोर देते हैं। लेकिन सच है कि यह अभी हो नहीं रहा है।

श्री हरी शंकर भाभड़ा : मान्यवर, सेंट्रल प्रिवेंशन एण्ड कंट्रोल आफ वाटर पोल्यूशन ऐक्ट लागू हुए काफी वर्ष हो चुके हैं। लेकिन इस कानून को तोड़ने का काम किया जा रहा है। सरकार ने आज तक इस कानून को लागू करने के लिये ईमानदारी से कहीं भी ध्यान नहीं दिया ताकि इस कानून का पालन किया जाये। जैसा माननीया प्रधानमंत्री जी ने कहा वह स्वयं वित्तीय सहायता राज्यों को देती हैं। लेकिन सवाल यह है कि यह पोल्यूशन जो घटना चाहिए वह बढ़ रहा है। और इसके लिए जो कानून बने हुए है, आपकी एक नेशनल कमेटी आन एनवायरनमेंटल पोल्यूशन एण्ड कोन्ट्रोलेशन 1972 में हुई थी, उस कमेटी ने भी इस सम्बन्ध में अब तक क्या किया है? इस ऐक्ट को लागू करने के लिए जो सेंट्रल ऐक्ट है, केन्द्रीय सरकार क्या कर रही है?

SHRI DIGVUAY SINH: The States have their own State Boards for water and air pollution control and they have been taking action. It is not right to say that no action has been taken. I would read out all the industries that have been identified as polluting industries in all the States covered by the question. The States are Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and even Delhi and Haryana in relation to the Yamuna. All told, I can give the number of such industries in each of the above States which have been identified as polluting industries. The figures are 95 in Bihar, 110 in Haryana, 109 in Uttar Pradesh, 120 in West Bengal and 79 in Delhi. Out of these industries where effluent treatment plants are commissioned are 8 in Bihar, 6 in Haryana, 32 in Uttar Pradesh, 37 in West Bengal and 30 in Delhi. Those industries

where the construction of water treatment and pollution abatement system is in the planning stage are 6 in Bihar, 10 in Haryana, 15 in Uttar Pradesh, 16 in West Bengal and 15 in Delhi. In the case of the remaining industries, action has been taken and prosecution has been launched. I could read them out in each State.

MR. CHAIRMAN: How long will you take?

श्री हरी शंकर भाभड़ा : मेरा पूछने का मतलब यह है कि वाटर पोल्यूशन की स्थिति यह है कि यह 1.5 लाख प्रति मिली लिटर जो पहले था वह अब बढ़ करके 4.6 लाख प्रति मिली लिटर हो गया है। यह रिजल्ट है उसका और आप कह रहे हैं कि कदम उठा रहे हैं और रिजल्ट यह है कि एक से बढ़ कर चार तक यह बढ़ गया है ...

श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी : जनसंख्या भी बढ़ रही है, उद्योग भी बढ़ रहे हैं (अवधान)

एक माननीय सदस्य : क्या करेंगे (अवधान)

श्री जगन्नाथराव जोशी : इस सरकार की विशेषता यह है कि एवरीथिंग इज आन दी वर्ज आफ कोलेप्स ... (अवधान)

श्री हरी शंकर भाभड़ा : करप्शन भी बढ़ रही है।

श्री सभापति : श्री ए पी० शर्मा ने कहा था कि गंगा तो कभी पोल्यूट होती ही नहीं मैंने इसी हाउस में सुना था।

SHRI KALYAN ROY: • When this Pollution Bill was being piloted in the Lok Sabha, the then Minister for Works and Housing, Mr. Sikhandar Bakht had stated that as per the provisions of the Act the Central Government and State Governments had to provide funds to the Central Board and the State Boards respectively for implementing the provisions of the Act. However, due to pressure of limited resources, Governments were

not able to provide adequate funds and some cess or levy was imposed by the local authorities on specific industries. The proposal for 70 per cent rebate was opposed by all of us. Is it not a fact that most of the industries right from Calcutta upto Allahabad upstream have not paid whatever levies were fixed for them and they have gone to the High Court and got injunction? I can name them. One is Bengal Paper Mill of the Bangoors. As a result, the whole provisions of the Act have become practically dead and the result is that pollution is increasing. Unless you take serious and drastic action against those industries nothing will happen and pollution will only increase. I would like to know what deterrent steps are you taking against those industries which are deliberately violating the Act in order to earn more profit.

SHRI 'DIGVIJAY SINH: Under the present laws on water pollution control, there is provision for criminal prosecution under which the pollutant is liable to go to jail and pay fine. But I do agree that the present system of jurisprudence in this country makes a provision for going in for stay orders and this has been, I believe, a bugbear and we are re-examining this and, Sir, next month, we are going to have a meeting of all the Boards to re-examine this from the point of view of implementation of this under the law.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mrs. Najma Heptulla.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA: I thought you did not notice me, Sir.

मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहती हूँ कि जो इंडस्ट्रियल पाल्यूशन हो रहा है, गंगा वाटर में वह तो है ही, और वह न सिर्फ गंगा में ही बल्कि दूसरी दरियाओं के आसपास भी लोग जो कचरा फेंकते हैं द्रयूमन पाल्यूशन होता है और वहाँ पर डेड् बाडीज़ डालते हैं, बहुत सी चीज़ें उसमें डालते हैं उससे होता है तो इसके बारे

में सरकार क्या किसी वालंटरी ऑर्गेनाइजेशन की मदद लेकर एक बाडी बनायेगी ? इसके बारे में सरकार का क्या ख्याल है ?

oxiru. ijxurviJai Hinii: sir, it is very true that this is more a question of creating civic consciousness and civic consciousness can never be created by any Government fiat and it can only be something which is voluntary and which is spontaneous. Voluntary bodies, various voluntary bodies, have come up in various parts of the country and various institutions, especially the universities, have been involved in creating this kind of input both from the scientific point of view and public awareness point of view and I am happy to tell you, Sir, that even amongst us parliamentarians, there are many here who have been actively involved in a forum called the Parliamentary Environmental Forum and in the last two months, Sir, 7 Assemblies have created Legislature Environmental Forums which have hundreds of MLAs under the message of the honourable Prime Minister who are involved in creating this kind of awareness and public consciousness.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: Sir, the honourable Minister. . .

SHRI KALYAN ROY: Don't go on appointing people as Directors who would pollute the Reserve Bank and the IDBI.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: Sir, the honourable Minister has said that to prevent pollution it requires civic consciousness. Is it also not a fact that a number of Government undertakings and semi-government undertakings are creating an atmosphere of pollution by dumping their wastage in the rivers and ponds? What is the Government doing or what direction has the Government given to these various Government and semi-Government undertakings in this regard?

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINHA: Sir, throughout the country and beyond the Ganga, in every state, the Water Pollution Control Boards of the States have been advised properly and they know that there is no discrimination between a public undertaking and a private sector undertaking and the steps are being taken with regard to every enterprise, which pollutes, against the polluter and the norms have been laid down under the law and there is no discrimination.

SHRI SADASHIV BAGAITKAR: Sir, I want to put a question. . . .

MR CHAIRMAN: I think we cannot go to the other rivers; this is only about the Ganges and I think the question does not admit so much of discussion. Question No. 362.

Modernisation of Indian Iron and Steel Company at Burnpur

*362. SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA: f
SHRI SURAJ PRASAD;

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that modernisation of the Indian Iron and Steel Company at Burnpur has become overdue;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a contract has been signed with Soviet experts to prepare the feasibility report in this regard; and

(c) if so, by when the report is likely to be submitted and by when modernisation process is likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI N. K. P. SALVE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The feasibility report is likely to be received by January, 1984. The Government will consider this report and then take a decision about the modernisation project.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Inderdeep Sinha.

SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA: Sir, sometimes, it is said that brevity is the soul of wit or wisdom. But here was an occasion when the Minister could have elaborated the subject a little more. Now, Sir, the Indian Iron and Steel Company was a British concern and it was nationalised some time back. After the nationalisation, it was also modernised, as we were told at that time that it was 'rehabilitated' and that some amount of money was spent on its modernisation. So, my first question to the honourable Minister is this: When was this firm nationalised and what amount was spent on its rehabilitation and modernisation? What is the product-mix of this Plant, and what type of changes, either in the process of steel making or in the product-mix are envisaged, for which a new contract has been signed with Soviet authorities and a feasibility report has been called for?

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Sir, the plant was taken over in July 1972 and the acquisition of shares was in July, 1976. No. 1. No. 2, a sum of Rs. 59 crores was spent to arrest further deterioration which had been in the plant when the Government took over. No. 3, there is no feasibility report as yet. So the question of what product-mix has been advised would not arise.

SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA: No, Sir, my question was different. What is the present product-mix and what changes in the product-mix and in the steel-making process are envisaged, for which the contract has been signed.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: The contract has not been signed for product-mix. The contract has been signed to get a feasibility report which will come in 1984 January. After the feasibility report comes, we will go into the various proposals, examine and implement the same, and then the question of product-mix will arise.