RAJYA SABHA

Thursday, the 2ith March, 1982/4th Chaitra 1904 *(Saka)*

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

ORAL ANSWE IS TO QUESTIONS

*441. *[The quertioner (Shri Mulka Govinda Reddy) was absent. For ans. wer$_t$* vide cols. 31-32 infra].

*442. *[The que; ioners (Shri Debondra Nath Barmai. and Shri Satya Pal Malik) were absent. For answer,* vide *cols.* 32-33 infra;.

♦443. *[Transferred to the* 23rd March, 1982].

*444 *[The qutstioners (Shri Lai K. Advani and Shri Lakhan Singh) were* absent. *For ansoer,* vide *cols.* 33-34 infra].

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 445.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Sir, question No. 447 is also of th$_e$ same nature. Both can be taken together.

MR CHAIRMi JST; But you are immediately after I

Air pollution ; round steel plants

1 *445. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLAit DR. LOKESH CHANDRA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that 15 per cent of the tota amount of waste gases released n the atmosphere come from the iron and steel industry; and

(b) if so, what is the pollution level of the air arounl steel plants?

+The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. (Shrimati) Najrr.a Heptulla.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF INDUSTRY AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA): (a) and (b) The percentage of waste gases released in the atmosphere from the iron and steel industry to the total waste gases in the atmosphere is not known.

Without an elaborate study of the total amount of waste gases released in the atmosphere in a particular area from various sources, it will not be possible to find out the contribution of the iron and steel industry to the total air pollution. However, studies hav$_e$ been initiated to find the levels of emissions of waste gases from the steel plants.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPT. ULLA; Sir, in advanced industrialised countries like Japan, Germany and others, to control air pollution they have started chemical, electrical and mechanical means to keep the smoke down. In Delhi also you hav$_e$ seen how much smoke is coming and making places and also the atmosphere very dirty. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is atay proposal before the Government about seeing that these mechanical, electrical and chemical devices are adopted by these industries. What action are they taking about this?

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA: Sir, th$_e$ question relates to pollution generated by steel that is, atmospheric air pollution Firstly, I will reply to that question. In fact, the process of iron and steel making has a very high potential for generating pollution in the air. The integrated plants within their own system had an in-built process of avoiding pollution. In spite of that pollution is generated. What we have done is. in all the steel plants we have formed pollution control committees which are making efforts from process to process to see that pollution is mini-

mised. And there are various methods by which that is done. Now there are five major processes where different types of air pollution is generated: right at the stage of ore preparation; than coke making; iron making process, steel making process, casting and rolling and finishing. From plant to plant efforts are being made at different processes. The types of pollution that is generated needs to be treated and so we are working on that. I would like the hon. Members of the House to know that we are at a stage where we are making continuous effortsi to minimise air pollution, in addition to the enactment by Parliament in 1981 regarding air pollution.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEP-TULLA: Sir, I am sorry the Minister is giving a very vague answer. He is trying to avoid saying what effort has been made and whatever result is there [na]s not been specified, so far as smoke and air pollution are concerned. There are other kinds of pollutants that are let out by the steel industry in the process of making steel right from th$_e$ ore to the final product. The people working in these industries are affected, their health is affected, they generally get tuberculosis, rashes, allergy and what not. What i$_s$ the Government doing in this case and also how much money is being kept for it for the next two years?

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA: Sir, the plant to plant things that are being done today T would like to give for the information of the hon. House. For example, in the Rourkela steel plant, what we are doing right from the beginning is: the units which predominantly contribute to atmospheric pollution in the Rourkela steel plant are, first stage, the ore preparation, i.e. the sintering plant, the convertors of the steel melting shop. the power plant and the rotary kiln of the refractory materials plant is the third. The blast furnace plant does not give rise to atmospheric pollution as the gas evolved from the furnace is cleaned and is used as fuel. So this is one process. As far as the blast furnace is concerned, the process is such that in the process the pollution ig minimized. The pollution discharges from the cok$_e$ ovens are primarily of fugitive nature and normally difficult to control. The sintering plant at Rourkela is provided—I am giving the process to process things—with the process known as electrostatic precipitators. In the blast furnace, cyclones, scrubbers and electrostatic precipitators have been provided whereas two numbers of dry electrostatic precipitators have been provided in th$_e$ steel melting shop which is also reported to be inadequate for the present load. Therefore, we are now in the process of increasing that also. Now stacks with heights ranging from 40 to 70 metres have -been provided in blast furnace stove. LD, SMS, dust-catchers power plant. These are the processes T am telling.

MR. CHAIRMAN; Nobody can understand them.

SHRI CHARANJIT CHAN ANA: Sir, the hon. Member was not statis-fied with the general reply of mine, saying that we are making efforts at different processes of production in the steel plant to minimize re-generation of pollution.

MR. CHAIRMAN; You forget M Minister that she is a scientist an. I we are not. Why don't you directly give it to her?

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA: With your permission, I would give all the details, but for the information of the hon House I would like to . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Place it on the Table. That is the best. Dr. Lokesh Chandra. Now put a question,

DR. LOKESH CHANDRA: Most of the steel plants are located in the public sector So it is easier to control pollution because the construction of our steel plants [a]re preplanned

in the Air Pollut on 1982. Seminar held at New Delh in February this year Mr. C. K. ^akshminarayan of the Metallurgical I ngineering Consultants, Bangalore h;,d pointed" out that 15 per cent of the total amount of waste gases are ge-erated by the iron and steel industry. So when the iron and steel industry which is primarily in the public sector and a major contributor to the tot; 1 pollution in the country, what steps does the Government plan to indue' i into the planning process itself to a/oid this major source of nationa pollution. And secondly the research on pollution by non-governmental agencies is not being utilized by the planners in the public sector. Wha'; steps are being taken to see that tl e work done by individual scientists also contributes to the lessening of pollution in the country?

SHRI CHARAN. IT CHANANA: As far as the mini nising process of pollution is concern d, an inter-disciplinary effort is. ir fact, being made by a separate department of the Government of Ind a. the Environmental Department. And the Ministry of Steel also takes advantage of that, because we hav; formed a working group of this particular thing where the Environmental Department is also involve! As far as the honourable Member s reference to the seminar and the ! 5 per cent pollu-ti>n of the atmosphere is concerned, \ fact, the estimates available with til only show that o it of every tonne made 31 kgs is the pollution. So it has been 31 kgs out of one tonne. As far as the environment; and pollution Is concerned, for th< information of the honourable Member* I can bring to their notice that we must have to develop standards or norms or what is known as the base atmospheric frame. Tt is onlv after that base is defined, rthe deviations and the abnorms are, in fact, counted. As regards Honourable Member's refer ?ncP earlier to Japan and other countries, we have already evolved frames under the latest Act and we a e trying to form the bases...

DR. LOKESH CHANDRA: Can we not import the technology from abroad?

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA: Technology aspect is all right. Before that for every particular steel plant assessment has to be made as to what is the norm of the atmospheric frame. It is only after that you can work out the percentages, as the honourable Member has said—15 per cent, 20 per cent. In fact, one of the schemes of the United Nations was to have pollution monitoring centres. One was put up at Gulmarg, the second at Ludhiana, the third was put up in the industrial area of Delhi, the fourth was in Kanpur and the fifth was in Jamshedpur, at Ahmedabad, and so on. These schemes are being made. This is as far as measurement of pollution is concerned. Import of technology, that is not required, because, the process here has already started by the enactment of a measure against air pollution and as part of implementation of that Act would be to evolve the norms and then according to the norms the deviations will be avoided. As far as counting the statis-lical part of the measurement of pollution is concerned... (fn-temtptions).

SOME HON. MEMBERS; Sir. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN; I will allow only two questions. There are other questions also. You cannot hold up only on one question. Now Mr. Mirdha.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: The Minister has referred to the Prevention of Air Pollution Act which has been passed by Parliament as being in force. And he has also mentioned about electrostatic precipitators and scrubbers which have been installed there. T would likP to know from the honourable Minister what the permissible level of pollution is and also under the Act whether their preventive measures are enough to ensure the least possible level that is per-missible under the Act, because in spite of all this, many of the scrubbers

do not work. We are having in In- i draprastha Power House these scrubbers being used, but they are not effective. They are designed to a certain capacity. So we want an assurance from the Minister that the levels of prescribed pollutions under the Prevention of Air Pollution Act are being enforced and also we want to know whether the measures that aire being adopted in the steel plants are sufficient to ensure that level of purity.

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA: The level of purity will be determined only after the standards are evolved under the Act. And in fact, the process has already started. The first thing would be the formation of a Central Control Board fo$_r$ Air Pollution. That is yet to be constituted. But the whole thing has started and is in operation. After the Constitution of the Board and the implementation machinery for enforcing the Act, all these things would become a part of it. As far as the steel plants are concerned, the effort is that we minimise the generation of pollution... *(Interruptions).*

AN HON. MEMBER: Does the WHO standard apply to Indian cities?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have not been allowed. This amount$_s$ to pollution in the House.

PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTA-CHARJEE; How much percentage, Sir?

MR. CHAIRMAN; Fifteen per cent.

PROF. (SHRIMATI) ASIMA CHATTERJEE: During the process of production of various chemicals carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide are generated which are injurious to the health; these are also injurious to the plants. I would, therefore, like to know what steps are being taken against this pollution so that they may not be detrimental to the human system as also the plant kingdom. I have a suggestion in this connection. At many places around the factories and industries if various kinds o: plants are planted, they can pick ui the pollutant materials and therebj they can also check the pollution to *i* large extent. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what step! are being taken against pollution o1 sulphurdioxide and carbon monoxide

SHRI CHAR AN JIT CHAN ANA: The hon. Member's question is verj relevant. Besides these two, then are other eight major pollutants namely, particulates, nitrogen oxides silicon compound, benzene, hydrogei sulphide, hydrogen fluride, phenol and cresols and carbon dioxide. Th< details of th$_e$ work done in findin; these pollutants and to minimise th< pollution will be placed on the Tabl< of the House.

Secondly, the hon. Member saic that these pollutants have an adverst effect on the vegetation and on humar life. That is a known factor and maximum effort is being made in fac' to evolve method$_s$ to minimise tht pollution and generation of these pol. lutants the details of which will b< laid on the Table of the House.

SHRI DAYANAND SAHAYA; would like to know whether the hon Minister knows or not that there is a W.H.O. standard for human life and whether that standard applies tc Indian conditions or hot.

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANATV The WHO and the IT.N.'s Env.$_{ft}$!-mental Centre in Stockholm *liswe* worked out the details of the norm. But that norm is disturbed o$_r$ deviation is created in that norm in the country by the pollutants. I have already submitted that we are work-ing on this. Even if the UNO norm is brought in here, it will not fit in here unless and until we are able to diagnose the pollution generated v^n the atmosphere. The hon. Member ~ knowledge of the WHO's formula and the TIN formula can be utilised by us after the basic diagnosis is made of the parameters of pollutants in the atmosphere.