

Pollution of Ganga and Jamuna waters

484. SHRI BHAIKAB CHANDRA MAHANTI :

SHRI R. NARASIMHA REDDY :†

SHRI KASIM ALI ABID :

SHRI G. LAKSHMANAN :

Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state the extent to which waters of Ganga and Jamuna are being daily polluted because of industrial waste, sewerage, chemicals and other toxic substances ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT) : No comprehensive survey of the extent of pollution of Ganga and Jamuna has yet been undertaken. However, on behalf of the Calcutta Metropolitan Development Authority, the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, Nagpur commenced a base line study of water quality of Hoogly Estuary in the 100 km. long reach between Kalyani and Birlapur. As per the interim report of the above study about 346 waste water drains were discharging a total quantity of about 718 million gallons per day of waste water into Hooghly. According to the above report the Hooghly water in some of the stretches are of undesirable nature.

SHRI NARASIMHA REDDY : Sir, maintaining the purity of the river waters is as important as maintaining the purity of human blood for the body. Sir, very alarming reports have been received that these two rivers, Ganga and Jamuna, have been polluted to a dangerous degree by industrial wastes containing chemicals and sewerage water and all kinds of dirt are thrown into these two rivers. In this connection, I may also say that the tradition in this country, as given by the ancient sages, is that the rivers are holy and, therefore, it is very ne-

cessary to keep them pure in order to keep the nation pure. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether in view of this national health hazard, particularly to the poor people living on the borders of the rivers, the hon. Minister and the Government will impose a strict ban on all the industries not to let their industrial wastes into the rivers, even to the point of cancelling their licences.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: Sir, I agree with the hon. Member that the purity of river waters should be maintained. This problem is stupendous both in regard to Ganga and Jamuna. Not only in Calcutta but at various places, water in these rivers is polluted. The Central Water Pollution Board has been set up for this purpose itself. This Board has been set up in different States. The Board has been set up in West Bengal also and it has started functioning. The Calcutta Metropolitan Development Authority had sanctioned the survey which was conducted. They have considered this matter and they have decided to sue such people. They are seeking legal opinion and certain other steps are also under consideration. It is a very huge problem. It certainly deserves the attention which the hon. Member has suggested.

SHRI R. NARASIMHA REDDY: Sir, my second question is with regard to the municipalities. They are letting all the sewerage into these rivers. Instead of letting this sewerage into the rivers, they can let it into empty lands where it can become compost manure. This is a positive suggestion. Will the Government impose this restriction on the municipalities? Also, regarding this huge problem, will the Government ask the C.S.I.R. or some other scientific body to investigate the present level of danger due to pollution?

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: Sir, it is true that the local bodies are also responsible for pollution of river waters. And therefore, the problem of local bodies is also looked into by the Boards. As a matter of fact, we have one problem. That is, shortage

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri R. Narasimha Reddy.

of funds. And there is a proposal to bring forward a Bill with a view to levying some kind of cess on the polluting industries as well as local bodies so that these Boards can have adequate finances. This matter is under examination of the various Boards.

SHRI SALIL KUMAR GANGULI: Sir, I would like to know, since the passing of the Prevention of Water Pollution Act, how many public undertakings and large private enterprises have set up effluent purification plants in accordance with the law.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: Sir, that is too big a question, information for which needs to be collected from various States. But with regard to the new undertakings which are being set up, they are being asked to take the precaution so that they can have some treatment Plant etc.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI: Is the Government aware that only day before yesterday in the newspapers it came out that at Varanasi, near the Dasaswame-tha Ghat, the water is so polluted, according to the tests conducted on eight samples taken by the Research Department of the Banaras Hindu University, that the water is full of human excreta and all sorts of germs? Varanasi is a place to which pilgrims from the entire country are going and treating it as a holy place. What steps the Government will take to protect the pilgrims at Varanasi from the pollution which has been brought before the Government by the Research Department of the Banaras Hindu University?

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: Sir, this is correct that a newspaper report appeared day before yesterday that some kind of a survey was conducted by a few officers. This appeared in the newspaper. As soon as the report was seen, the attention of the U. P. Government was drawn to it immediately. The report was seen day before yesterday and immediately U.P. Government's attention has been drawn to it.

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री : गंगा और यमुना देश की दो ऐतिहासिक और पवित्र नदियाँ जिन जिन

राज्यों से हो कर निकलती हैं उन में केवल पश्चिमी बंगाल, कलकत्ता के संबंध में आप ने बताया कि वहाँ इस प्रकार के बोर्ड की स्थापना हुई है। बाकी जिन राज्यों से हो कर यह नदियाँ जाती हैं वहाँ भी इस प्रकार के बोर्ड बने हैं क्या ? ताकि वह दूषित जल जो नदियों में पड़ता है उस से उन्हें बचाने की कुछ व्यवस्था कर सकें। मैं जिस प्रदेश से आता हूँ, उत्तर प्रदेश से और जहाँ से यह दोनों नदियाँ निकलती हैं वहाँ कई नगर इस प्रकार के हैं कि जो तीर्थ स्थान हैं और वहाँ गंगा और यमुना में जिस प्रकार के गंदे नाले पड़ते हैं उस से उन का जल बहुत दूषित होता है और यात्री लोग उन को पवित्र मान कर वहाँ स्नान करने जाते हैं और उस को और दूषित करते हैं। उस को तो छोड़िये, दिल्ली जो भारत की राजधानी है और माननीय मंत्री महोदय, जो इस प्रश्न का उत्तर दे रहे हैं वह जिस का प्रतिनिधित्व करते हैं, वहाँ भी वर्षा के बाद यमुना के जल को देखिए तो पता चलता है कि यहाँ यमुना यमुना न रह कर एक गंदा नाला बनी हुई है जो राजधानी की नाक के नीचे है। तो यह इस प्रकार की समस्या है कि जिस से सारा देश चिन्तित है और देश के साथ ही लोगों की सांस्कृतिक और अन्य पवित्र भावनायें भी जुड़ी हुई हैं। तो कम से कम तीर्थ स्थानों को इस गंदे जल से मुक्ति दिलाने की कोई व्यवस्था आप स्वयं करें या करायें इस के लिए कोई व्यवस्था आप कर रहे हैं क्या ?

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: Sir, I might inform the hon. Member that Pollution Boards to tackle this problem have been set up in other States also. So far as Uttar Pradesh is concerned, his own State. . . (Interruption).

दूसरे राज्यों में इस प्रकार के बोर्ड बनाये गये हैं। उत्तर प्रदेश में 3 फरवरी 1975 को बोर्ड बनाया गया और जहाँ तक दिल्ली का ताल्लुक है इस काम को करने की जिम्मेदारी सेंट्रल बोर्ड पर है। सेंट्रल बोर्ड ने इस के बारे में सर्वे करने का फैसला किया है और इस के लिये दो लाख रुपये मंजूर किया है। कुछ प्लाइंट्स पर सर्वे

स्टार्ट हो गया है और सर्वे जल्दी पूरा करने की कोशिश की जा रही है और पानी के पोल्यूशन को रोकने के लिये दिल्ली में पहले से कई कदम उठाये जा चुके हैं और दूसरे कदम उठाना सेंट्रल बोर्ड की जिम्मेदारी है दिल्ली में और वह इस काम को काफी गंभीरता से ले रहा है।

श्री जगदीश जोशी : माननीय मंत्री जी क्या यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि चूँकि गंगा और यमुना नामक दो नदियाँ केवल उत्तर प्रदेश, बिहार और बंगाल की नदियाँ न होकर सारे हिन्दुस्तान की नदियाँ बन गयी हैं इस लिये यह प्रश्न उन के शुद्धिकरण का न हो कर सामान्य नदियों के शुद्धिकरण का न हो कर, अलग-अलग तीर्थों का न हो कर एक राष्ट्रीय सवाल है और इस लिये क्या शासन को कोई आपत्ति है कि इस पर संसद एक कानून बना कर नदियों के जल दूषण को रोके और उसके लिये एक सर्वसत्ता संपन्न बोर्ड निर्धारित करे। जिस बोर्ड के माध्यम से इन सब का नियंत्रण हो सके। सीवेज के पानी की खेतों में और कारखानों के पानी की बंजर भूमि में निकासी के लिये एक स्पष्ट नियम केन्द्रीय संसद में बनाने हेतु विधेयक प्रस्तुत करने पर क्या सरकार विचार कर रही है?

श्री एच० के० एल० भगत : यह बात सही है कि गंगा और यमुना दोनों भारत की नदियाँ हैं। इसी विचार से एकट पास किया गया। कांस्टीट्यूशन के मुताबिक यह स्टेट सब्जेक्ट है और स्टेट ने पार्लियामेंट को अधोराइज्ड किया तभी पार्लियामेंट ने एकट पास किया जिसके कारण सेंट्रल बोर्ड बना। यह इसलिये बनाया गया जिससे स्टेट बोर्ड और सेंट्रल बोर्ड का इस काम में कोऑर्डिनेशन हो। दो मीटिंगें स्टेट बोर्ड और सेंट्रल बोर्ड के अधिकारियों की हो चुकी हैं। इसमें एकट में क्या-क्या संशोधन किये जायें इस बारे में कम्पारिहेंसिव तौर से सोचा जा रहा है। क्योंकि यह सारे राष्ट्र का प्रश्न है इसलिये यह कानून बनाया गया है। स्टेट बोर्ड और सेंट्रल बोर्ड दोनों में कोऑर्डिनेशन के लिये विचार किया जा रहा है।

SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN: Sir, there is a reasonable belief among the engineers and scientists in India that the bridges over the Ganges and the Yamuna are rusting quicker because of the corrosion caused by chemicals and other toxic substances thrown by the industries on the banks of both these rivers. Has the attention of the hon. Minister been drawn to this fact? If so, was an inquiry held and what were the results?

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: Sir, is the hon. Member referring to water? As far as this water pollution is concerned, certainly the people who have made investigations have pointed out this fact and that is why, pollution boards have been set up and steps are being taken to maintain the purity of water.

SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN: Sir, my question has not been answered.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: Sir, I will just add that in order to keep the purity of water intact and to prevent water from getting polluted beyond certain limits, its proper chlorination, etc., is being done.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

†Thefts of semi-precious stones from Agra Fort

*485. **SHRI KHURSHED ALAM**

KHAN:†

SHRI KASIM ALI ABID :

SHRI IBRAHIM KALANIYA :

Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of semi-precious stones inlaid in the

†Transferred from the 18th March, 1976. Previously numbered as Starred Question No. 215).

‡The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Khurshed Alam Khan.