

SMOKE NUISANCE IN BIG CITIES

*155. **SHRI BIREN ROY:** Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether any arrangements have been made to find out year by year the enormous increase in smoke nuisance in the big cities of Calcutta, Bombay, Delhi, Madras and Kanpur; and

(b) the causes of high percentage of increase and steps which have so far been taken to ameliorate such conditions by reducing air-pollution in various ways?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (DR. SUSHILA NAYAR): (a) and (b) The requisite information is being collected and it will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

SHRI BIREN ROY: While this information is being collected, will the hon. Minister please direct that they also collect the amount of increase in smoke nuisance effected by the diesel buses and lorries now introduced in the cities?

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: Sir, the question of atmospheric pollution is a very important subject and it is becoming increasingly important with the spread of industrialisation and in recent times with increasing researches in the use of isotopes and experiments for the use of the nuclear energy and the use of fissionable material for all these purposes. Now, Sir, a Committee was appointed some time ago to go into the matter of environmental sanitation and atmospheric pollution. They have so far mostly concentrated on water and drainage and environmental sanitation; they have not been able to give much attention to the question of the pollution of air. But the recent report of the Health Survey Committee has drawn attention to the need for giving attention to this problem, and it is being looked into.

SHRI BIREN ROY: May I know, Sir, if there are Smoke Nuisance Commissions working in the cities of Calcutta and Bombay?

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: I have got the figures of the percentage of the various ingredients of pollution, in Calcutta particularly, and I will supply them to the hon. Member if he wishes to look at them.

SHRI BIREN ROY: Sir, I asked a particular question whether there are Smoke Nuisance Commissions existing in the cities of Calcutta and Bombay. If so, what are the functions of those Commissions?

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: I am afraid I do not know what the functions of the Commissions appointed by the States concerned are. But I do know that this problem of smoke in Calcutta was taken up as early as 1935 or so when the British were here, but nothing much came out of it.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Sir, the Minister referred to nuclear experiments. Is it a fact that the percentage of Strontium 90 has increased in Calcutta after the recent Soviet explosion?

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: Well, Sir, the extent of radio-activity is increasing in the atmosphere. That has been admitted by everybody.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: Sir, since the diesel buses and trucks, particularly in cities, are polluting the atmosphere too much, will the hon. Minister consider the expediency of having some conveyance going in the sky so that the crowds escape this smoke nuisance?

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: I am sure the Transport Minister will take note of the hon. Member's suggestion.

DERAILMENT OF GOODS TRAIN BETWEEN MUGHAL SARAI AND DEHRI-ON-SONE

*156. **SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the answer