

EIGHTY-FIRST REPORT
ESTIMATES COMMITTEE
(1983-84)

(SEVENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS—ADMINISTRATION
OF UNION TERRITORY OF DELHI—PART II—
POLLUTION CONTROL



81-85

Presented to Lok Sabha on 23 April, 1984.

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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ESTIMATES COMMITTEE
(1983-84)

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1. Shri T. R. Krishnamachari--*Joint Secretary*
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INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of Estimates Committee, having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Eighty-First Report on the Ministry of Home Affairs—Administration of Union Territory of Delhi—Part II—Pollution Control.

2. The Committee took evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Deptt. of Environment, Central Pollution Control Board and Delhi Administration on the 13th January, 1984. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the officers of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Deptt. of Environment, Central Pollution Control Board and Delhi Administration for placing before them the material and information desired in connection with the examination of the subject and giving evidence before the Committee.

3. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 12 April, 1984.

4. For facility of reference the recommendations/observations of the Committee have been printed in thick type in the body of the Report and have also been reproduced in a consolidated form in the Appendix to the Report.

NEW DELHI;
April 19, 1984
Chaitra 30, 1906 (S)

BANSI LAL,
Chairman,
Estimates Committee.

CHAPTER I

POLLUTION CONTROL

1.1 The Central Pollution Control Board is the regulatory authority for controlling water and air pollution in the Union Territory of Delhi. The respective industries or local bodies who actually discharge any effluent have to ensure that the effluents are according to the prescribed standards. The responsibility of seeing that the effluents are upto a particular standard is cast on the industry as well as on the local bodies. The Delhi Administration has set up a consultative committee under the Chairmanship of the Chief Executive Councillor to advise them in matters relating to environmental preservation and improving the aesthetic quality of the Union Territory. At present the Department of Local Self Government in the Union Territory of Delhi is dealing with all the matters on the subject. In view of the importance of the subject, it has been decided by the Government to create a separate cell under the Planning Department for playing a nodal role.

Air Pollution

1.2 An article which appeared in a National Daily, referring to the air pollution in the Capital, has stated :—

“Winter is round the corner and so is the time for most residents of the city to inhale large amounts of poisonous gases, smoke and ash suspended in the air under their sky.

Air pollution, which is quite high round the year in the Capital, is a visible reality during winter evenings when low temperatures don't let the foul gases go up high in the atmosphere. The result is not just a nuisance but a trying time for people sensitive to bad air. Residents of high pollution localities run the risk of serious respiratory ailments and lung diseases.

The pollution is there for everyone to see and smell.

Factors responsible for Air Pollution

1.3 Referring to the factors responsible for air pollution, the Article stated :—

"There are three main factors behind the air pollution in Delhi industries in and around residential areas, the three thermal power stations at the Indraprastha Estate, Rajghat and Badarpur and the ever-growing road traffic. It may be a matter of debate which one of the three is the chief culprit but there is no doubt that 55,000 industrial units, 6.50 lakh vehicles of various types and the three thermal power stations have combined to make Delhi's atmosphere less than healthy, providing ground for the spread of avoidable diseases.

While the citizens have been suffering for a long time, a comprehensive law to tackle the problem has been enacted only recently. The air pollution is covered under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) act as amended in 1978. The Central Pollution Control Board, which is to enforce the law in the Union Territories too came into being a few years ago."

1.4. Asked to comment on the above views as also to state whether the Delhi Administration had taken any preventive measures or chalked out a plan of action to control air pollution in the capital, a representative of the Administration stated during evidence before the Committee that :—

"for chalking out a plan of action for taking remedial and control measures to reduce air pollution, both on short term and long term basis, the Delhi Administration sponsored a project for conducting survey of air pollution areas, which entrusted to the Monitoring and Management Section of the School of Environmental Sciences of the Jawaharlal Nehru University. It started the study in June, 1977. According to two interim reports so far submitted by the School of Environmental Sciences, the pollution in the area was by combustion of fuel or chemical processes. The Monitoring Section of the School had set up five stations for air quality samples. The final report, still under preparation, will indicate the factors responsible for this state of affairs and will also contain recommendations to abate air pollution and to improve air quality".

The representative of the Delhi Administration added :—

“As soon as this report is received, we will act in concert with the Central Board for Control of Air Pollution and in liaison with the concerned authorities like DESU, Delhi Transport Corporation Directorate of Transport, get the remedial measures taken and implemented”.

1.5 Asked what were the findings of the two interim reports of the Jawaharlal Nehru University investigation team, Chairman of the Central Pollution Control Board stated :—

“The Jawaharlal Nehru University investigations have been submitted in two interim reports. As per the report, the stations which are being maintained are at Rashtrapati Bhavan, near the radio tower, near Defence Colony and near Moti Nagar industrial area and another near Jawaharlal Nehru University. According to the Report, in the Moti Nagar industrial area the figure is 452 micro gram particulate matter for every cubic metre of air as compared to Jawaharlal Nehru University area, which is comparatively cleaner, which maintains about 273, about half approximately”.

1.6 Asked what would be the ideal condition, the witness stated :

“For air quality standard, we have divided the country into three different areas—industrial area, mixed area which is commercial-cum-residential and sensitive area. For the industrial area the permissible limit for dust has been kept at 500 micro gram per metre cube of air. Considering that, even Moti Nagar, which is indicated here as 452, is almost at the border level of the limit. For the residential area the limit has been kept at 200. In the Jawaharlal Nehru University area, which is supposed to be a cleaner area, which is a residential area, the limit should be 200 ; but the figure here is 273”.

1.7 Referring to a study undertaken by the Central Pollution Control Board it has been stated in an article appearing in the Press that :—

“A recent study by the Central Pollution Control Board has brought out startling facts. The study covered Nafasgarh Road,

Lawerence Road, Wazirpur, Kirti Nagar, DLF industrial area and Moti Nagar. The Najafgarh Road area, which has chemical fertiliser, iron and steel rolling mills, was found to be the most polluted...Considering the pollution caused by the industrial units in these areas the Central Pollution Control Board has recommended to the Delhi Administration that the six areas be declared "Pollution control areas". After a Notification by the Administration to that effect, the Board can proceed under the law and advise the units how to correct the situation".

1.8 Asked to elaborate on the results of the study, Chairman Control Pollution Control Board stated before the Committee :—

"The areas which have been identified by us are Najafgarh, Lawrence Road, Kirti Nagar and DLF Industrial area. These are the principal industrial areas where activities are going on. Their dust emission is reflected in Rashtrapati Bhavan. That is the reason why we have identified two pockets particularly in Delhi which should be considered as the pollution control areas where the major sources of causes of pollution are existing...Geographically, one area we have declared as air pollution control area. Whose boundary includes Wazirpur industrial area, Lawrence Road Industrial Area, Kirti Nagar industrial area, DLF industrial area and Najafgarh industrial area. The boundary is Ring Road on the north-western area side, Patel Nagar in the south-eastern side and the GT-Karnal road. These are the boundaries. This is about 20 square kilometres where the major sources of pollution exist. This is one air pollution control area.

There is another area where primarily two power stations are located. One is Indraprastha power station and the other one is Rajghat power station. This is the part where the major vehicular traffic passes. Ultlmately the polution will land into the cleaner areas. This area is about 35 square kilometres ; roughly it includes Red Fort area. Chandini Chowk area, ITO area including Connaught Place".

1.9 Asked whether the position of concentration of pollutants was same in winter and summer, the witness stated :

"I am presenting to you what we call annual average. These measurements are taken three days in a week".

Asked to indicate the extent of pollution in winter and in summer, the witness stated :—

“The fluctuation would be about one-and-a-half times during the winter time. The annual average is 374. This will go up to one-and-a-half time more during winter and 50 per cent less during summer months.”

1.10 Subsequently, the Ministry furnished the following statement showing, monthly average values of suspended particulate matters (SPM) in the ambient air at different monitoring stations in Delhi during the period June to December, 1980 :—

Station Month	Jawaharlal Nehru University	Motinagar Police Station	Rashtaprati Bhawan	Defence Colony Police Station	Red Fort
June	241.6	433.6	253.4	273.8	243.8
July	160.0	300.5	180.8	177.5	216.4
August	207.3	424.2	212.8	—	181.5
September	242.3	319.3	213.3	202.4	240.0
October	301.1	614.2	364.9	324.8	437.6
November	290.0	520.5	437.0	459.0	704.0
December	230.6	493.3	420.6	384.0	390.2
All Months	273.5	455.4	315.1	343.1	344.8
Limit suggested by Central Board	200	500	200	200	500

Implication of Pollution on Health

1.11 Asked about the implications of air pollution on health of the people, Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board stated :—

“We are referring to the implications on health. In that case, even 500 which has been said as the limit in the industrial area has not been considered serious. A person who is exposed to 0) limit is still able to sustain his health.”

1.12 Asked if the limit of 500 was considered not to be a health hazard then what was the implication of 200 limit, the witness stated :—

“In the industrial area, a man goes there and works for certain period of time. He is not staying for a longer period. Whereas in the residential area, his stay is almost for the 24 hours. Women-folk will be staying for the 24 hours. Considering that, the lower concentration is to be maintained in the residential area also.....One case is 500 limit exposed for 8 hours a day where a man works. Another case is, 200 exposure for 24 hours for all the days. This point is to be taken into consideration.”

Thermal Power Station—Source of Pollution

1.13 The thermal power stations in Delhi are stated to be another source of air pollution. An article published in the Press stated that :—

“The Indraprastha station has an installed capacity of 284 MW but its normal generation is between 150 and 200 MW. For this generation the power house consumes 2,500 tonnes of coal and 70 to 80 Kilolitres of furnace oil daily.

The consumption of 2,500 tonnes of coal leaves behind 1,000 tonnes of ashes, out of which 200 settle down at the bottom. The remaining 800 tonnes go into the three chimneys to be tackled by their electrostatic precipitators. Till 1979, the situation was quite bad as between 80 to 100 tonnes of ash and smoke were being emitted by the chimneys every day. Depending on the wind direction, different localities of the city, used to get their share of soot in their terraces and back-yards”.

1.14 Asked whether steps had been taken to remedy the situation, Commissioner, Municipal Corporation of Delhi stated that at the cost of Rs. 9.50 crores electrostatic precipitators had been fitted in the Chimneys of two thermal power stations. With this, upto 93 to 98 per cent of smoke could be controlled.

1.15 Asked, what was being done with regard to Rajghat Power Station, the witness stated that there was only one unit there which did not have electrostatic precipitators. The matter was under the consideration of the Govt. of India as to what should be done.

Pollution caused by Industries

1.16 The representatives of the Delhi Administration stated before the Committee that most of the small industrial units in Delhi used steam producing boilers for which coal was used, and furnace for constructing steel sheds. The boilers they used were of elementary and rudimentary type which caused pollution. It was not possible to compel these industrial units to modernise their boilers.

1.17 Asked, what was the Central Pollution Control Board proposing to do in this regard. Chairman of the Board stated that Delhi IIT were working on two projects one was to develop cheap mechanisms which could soften the steam and arrest dust and the other for use by the units which did melting work. It was expected that cost-wise these devices will be within the means of small industrial units.

He added :—

“We can take one of the units, instal it and demonstrate that this is the mechanism which you can adopt. After that you can get it proliferated.”

1.18. Asked, when the prototype will be ready, the witness stated :—

“By April we will be able to demonstrate. This is being demonstrated effectively in the Campus.”

Asked whether the components for such a device will be available in India, the witness stated :—

“Even the local mistry can make those components.”

1.19 Asked what was the position of other industries, the witness stated :—

“There are of two kinds. One—there are some who puri yacids. They do it with the help of crude sulphuric acid.”

I was listing how many problematic units we have in those six areas :—

Najafgarh	32 units
Lawrence Road	27 units
Wazirpur	90 units
Kirti Nagar	14 units
DLF	15 units
Moti Nagar	3 units

Total is 181. These units are to be controlled. The method should be such as is less expensive."

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We have identified which are the polluting sources. I have given the number. Now the major sources of pollution here, as I said, is steam producing boiler for which coal is used or alternatively melting some metal for which coal is used. We are trying to evolve simple techniques by which dust particles can be arrested so that it does not go into the atmosphere. Unless these industrial units adopt this simple techniques in arresting dust, nothing can be done."

1.20 Asked, whether any study had been made about the number of industries, both large and medium scale, which were causing air pollution and also water pollution in Delhi and, if so, how many of them were treating pollution with proper treatment plants and what action has been taken against other units which had not put up these plants, Chairman Central Pollution Control Board stated :—

"There are 16 large and medium industries which cause water pollution and which have put up their treatment plants."

1.21 Asked whether they were functioning properly, the witness stated :

"Yes, Sir. Out of these 16 large and medium units, there are three units which also cause, in addition to water pollution, air pollution. Two of them have put up their treatment plants and one has improved the process so that the air pollution is not caused."

Pollution due to exhausts from Vehicles

1.22 The Committee came across a Press Report which stated :

"According to Pollution Control Board experts the pollution caused by petrol-consuming vehicles is much more harmful than that caused by diesel vehicles. Petrol consumption leads to the emission of carbon monoxide, which is more injurious to health than smoke emitted by diesel vehicles.

A survey by the Board experts at the Banda Bahadur Marg Depot revealed that only 65 per cent of the DTC buses could meet the standards, although the DTC fared far better than other State Roadways."

1.23 Asked whether Delhi Administration had thought of any solution so far as smoke emitting vehicles were concerned; and what stood in the way of the Administration in exercising checks on vehicular traffic and keeping off the roads such smoke emitting vehicles, Chief Secretary, Delhi, stated during evidence :—

"As regards this problem we have taken various measures in the Delhi Administration. But one thing I would like to make clear in the beginning is that the rate at which the number of vehicles is rising in Delhi is really alarming. In the absence of any mass transport system like fast electric trains between north and south and east and west—Delhi has expanded and it continues to expand, the whole pressure is on road and today we have 7 lakhs vehicles registered in Delhi. Those which come from outside there is no count of them. So this is a major problem and we have already taken some steps. The effective ones are only checking by the traffic and the traffic police and our own motor inspectors. We carried out both kinds of checking individually, as well as jointly. We also put heavy fines. Sometimes we impound the vehicles also. That has proved somewhat effective. What we found is that the privately owned vehicles, many of them continue to escape and things like that. So it was not really possible to check all of them on the road. So a new thing we have introduced very recently—only 15 days back. We have issued a notification by which all the privately-owned vehicles which are more than 15 years old would require

to be re-registered. So before the next due date, compulsorily they will have to bring the vehicles for re-registration. At that time we will subject the vehicles to thorough fitness tests."

1.24 Asked, what action was taken in regard to DTC buses which were not of standard, Chief Secretary, Delhi stated that Chief Executive Councillor had held a meeting in this regard with the DTC officials.

1.25 Asked, to what extent smoke emitting vehicles contributed to pollution and how far it was affecting health of the people, Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board stated :

"There are 7 lakhs of vehicles in Delhi Metropolitan City. Delhi Metropolitan Area covers 65 k.m. in one direction; it covers 70 k.m. in another direction. If you take total air volume—I am talking of diesel limit of 65—carbon monoxide limit should not exceed 3 percent with the exhaust gas. The volume of air will be able to maintain such a concentration level. It will not affect the health."

1.26 Asked, if the pollution caused by 7 lakhs of vehicles was added to the pollution by the factories, will it not be injurious to the health of the citizens, the witness stated :

"You cannot come to "Zero" pollution even if you control them."

1.27 Asked, whether special measure were required to be taken in so far as exhaust pipes were concerned, the witness stated :

"It is required definitely. But we need not go into what the western world is thinking today. They have special exhaust ignition system.....They burn it again in the exhaust pipe itself. The exhaust comes out and it is burnt again so that hydro carbon is converted into carbon dioxide. In your petrol driven car, carbon monoxide is totally converted into carbon dioxide."

1.28 The Committee note that the Central Pollution Control Board is the regulatory authority for controlling water and air pollution in the Capital. The respective Industries or local bodies who actually discharge any effluent have to ensure that the effluents are treated according to prescribed standards. The Delhi Administration has set up consultative committee under the Chairmanship of the Chief Executive Councillor

to advise them in matters relating to environmental preservation and improving the aesthetic quality of the Union Territory. At present the Deptt. of Local Self Government in Union Territory of Delhi, is dealing with all the matters on the subject but in view of the importance of the subject, it has been decided by the Government to create a separate cell under the Planning Department for playing a nodal role.

1.29 There are three main factors behind the air pollution in Delhi—industries in and around residential areas, the three thermal power stations at the Indraprastha Estate, Rajghat and Badarpur and the ever growing road traffic. In order to take short and long term remedial and control measures, the Delhi Administration are stated to have sponsored a project for conducting survey of air pollution areas and entrusted it to the Management section of the School of Environmental Studies of the Jawaharlal Nehru University. They started their study in June, 1977 and have given two interim reports and the final report is yet to be submitted by them. The final report will contain their recommendations to abate air pollution.

1.30 The Monitoring section of the school at Jawaharlal Nehru University have set up five stations for air quality samples viz. at J. N. U., Motinagar Police Station, Rashtrapati Bhawan, Defence Colony Police Station and Red Fort. According to the figures furnished by the Central Pollution Control Board, which are based on the average value of suspended particulate matters (SPM) from the samples collected thrice a week by the J. N. U. team the yearly averages came to 273.5, 455.4, 315.1, 343.1, and 344.8 micro grammes per metre cube of air at the five stations as against the suggested limit of 200, 500, 200, 200 and 500. According to Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board 500 limit in the Industrial area is not considered 'serious' if people are exposed thereto for 8 hours a day which are usually the working hours for the industrial labour. The Committee, however, see that all areas wherefrom samples are collected are residential areas and the environment pollution is far greater than the limit suggested by the Pollution Control Board themselves. The Committee deplore this situation and desire urgent measures to be taken to contain the pollution. The Committee further recommend that the School of Environmental Services at J. N. U. may be impressed upon to give their final report at the earliest. As soon as the report is received by the Government, as assured they should 'act in concert with Central Board of Air Pollution and in liaison with the concerned authori-

ties like DESU, Delhi Transport Corporation, Directorate of Transport, have the remedial measure taken'.

1.31 The Committee find that to contain pollution caused by the thermal power stations at Indraprastha Estate and Badarpur, electro-static precipitators are stated to have been fixed in the chimneys of power stations at the cost of Rs. 9.50 crores. With this upto 93 to 98 per cent of smoke is stated to be controlled. But one unit of Rajghat Power Station does not have the precipitators and provision of the same is stated to be under the consideration of Government. The Committee desire the Government to take decision in this regard without delay under intimation to them. They further desire that a system should be evolved whereby the functioning of the electro-static precipitators may be periodically reviewed.

1.32 The Committee note that the causes of pollution from the small industrial units is the use of rudimentary and elementary type of boilers and furnaces using coal. It is stated that these units cannot be compelled to modernise their boilers. But Delhi IIT is stated to be working on two projects for developing cheap mechanism at a very low cost, which could arrest dust and thereby control pollution. The prototype is likely to be ready shortly. The Committee desire that these projects should be completed soon so as to demonstrate the device so evolved to the small industrial units in Delhi. The units, in turn, may be persuaded to use the device in the larger interest of the community. With regard to 16 large and medium industries who are stated to have put up treatment plants to check pollution, the Committee would like the Delhi Administration to evolve a machinery for supervision on the functioning of the treatment plants put up by these industries.

1.33. The Committee welcome the notification issued by the Delhi Administration whereby automobile vehicles which are more than 15 years old will have to be re-registered subject to fitness test. The Committee desire that with regard to smoke emitting buses of the D. T. C., the matter should be taken up and pursued vigorously with the concerned authorities. Alongside, feasibility of incorporating suitable provision in the law so as to subject D. T. C. buses and private buses, trucks and tempos to fitness test every 5 years, by the Transport authorities be also examined.

CHAPTER II

Water Pollution

2.1 In an Article on Water Pollution in Delhi which appeared in a National Daily it was that :—

“A deep in the Yamuna in Delhi no longer cleans the body or uplifts the soul; it only ‘saps’ the body and ‘sages’ the soul. This grim description of Yamuna’s alarming pollution was provided by no less a person than the Lt.-Governor of Delhi a few months ago.

“A pure holy river has been turned into an open sewer Mr. Jagmohan lamented while opening one of these periodic seminars, but he stopped short of naming the culprits, which just as well, for it could be embarrassing to the authorities.

“Heading the list of defilers of the Yamuna is a public body—the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, which accounts for 80 per cent of the waste water and sullage falling to the river, much of it untreated. Seventeen open drains keep disgorging their huge murky loads into the Yamuna relentlessly.”

Analysis of Yamuna Water

2.2 Referring to the analysis of Yamuna water conducted by the Central Board for Prevention and Control of Pollution, the Article stated :—

“The Central Board for Prevention and Control of water pollution, after close monitoring and analysis classified the river’s status as follows. For bathing—bad; for public water supply—bad; for fish culture and overall use—ordinary; for agricultural and industrial use—good.

“Little wonder then that there should be grave public concern about the potability of the city’s drinking water supply. The civic

authorities want to reassure the citizens that the municipal water supplied to them is 100 percent safe."

2.3 Asked in view of the analysis by no less a body that the Central Board for Prevention and Control of Pollution, which gave such a dismal picture, how the civic authorities claimed that the water was "100 percent safe", Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Delhi stated during evidence that the Central Board for Prevention and Control of Pollution had conducted a study with regard to drinking water in Delhi in 1977-78 and again in 1982-83. They divided Yamuna river into six parts viz. Hathni Kund to Wazirabad Barrage, Wazirabad Barrage to Okhla Barrage, Okhla Barrage to Agra, Agra to Allahabad and so on. Their finding was that quality of water at Hathni Kund was fit for drinking. From Wazirabad Barrage to Okhla Barrage the quality was not good, though it could be set right with treatment but water was not being drawn from there. The quality of water from above Wazirabad Barrage was quite good and that was being drawn and filtered. One fulfledged laboratory was engaged in testing the quality of water. Adviser, Public Health Ministry of Works & Housing had also been checking the quality of water. Municipal Health Officer of the MCD was also getting reports in this regard and was separately checking the quality of water.

2.4 Asked, how much was one daily requirement of water in Delhi, the witness stated that about 308 million gallons of water was being drawn daily which included 37 million gallons i. e. about 10 per cent drawn from tube-wells.

2.5 Asked, whether water would be required to be drawn from tube-wells even after project for getting water from Ganga was completed, the witness stated that in view of the growing demand this source might continue to be resorted to.

Pollution through Sewer Drains

2.6 Referring to the pollution caused by discharge of various sewer drains in Yamuna water, an Article in the Press stated :

"The real assault on the Yamuna, by all accounts, starts a little downstream of the Wazirabad water works. Sewer lines release some 120 million gallons of waste water and filth daily into the river without any chemical treatment.

A little further, another 100 million gallons are discharged by the dreadful Najafgarh drain. It is this concretelined drain which brings with it all the effluents discharged by the industries of West and North Delhi. Thanks to this additional burden, the transformation of a healthy river into a virtual sewer is more or less complete.

The Wazirabad-Okhla stretch according to environmental scientists is the worst polluted segment of the entire, 2,100 Km. course of the river.

Further :—

"What is of utmost concern is that only 46.4 per cent of the waste water and sullage flowing back into the river through the 17 open drains is being chemically treated before their discharge. The sewage treatment plants are located at Keshopur, Coronation Pillar and Okhla. The quantum of untreated water getting into the Yamuna is put at 5,15,000 kilo litres a day. Further, whatever, waste treatment that the three plants do is of a primary nature, not very comprehensive, a scientist of the Pollution Control Board commented.

2.7 Asked, what was the factual position in this regard and whether the Government had drawn any perspective plan to save Yamuna water from pollution caused through the inflow of drains into the river, Commissioner, MCD stated that there were 17 open drains which ended up in Yamuna. The corporation proposed to tackle the problem in three ways. Firstly, wherever sewerage water was flowing into these drains, it may be trapped and diverted to the treatment plant; secondly capacity of treatment plant may be increased; and thirdly, whatever sullage entered those drains, it may be purified before, it was flown into the river. Work was going on in all these directions. Pollution concept was a recent one and less attention was paid to this aspect hitherto.

2.8 In six years, from 1974-75 to 1979-80 about Rs. 10.25 crores and from 1980-81 to 1982-83 about Rs. 19.5 crores were spent on scheme to contain water pollution from sewerage drains.

2.9 Asked how much funds would be required and how long will it take to complete these schemes if the required funds were made

available, Commissioner, MCD stated that upto 1988-89 water requirement in Delhi was likely to rise upto 350 million gallons. As at present corporation had treatment capacity to the tune of 140 million gallons. In order to accomplish the schemes for treatment of this much water funds to the tune of Rs. 350 crores were required.

Pollution due to Industrial Waste

2.10 Referring to the pollution caused by the Industrial waste through sewers and drains which ended up in Yamuna, it was stated in an Article that :—

“Industrial pollution of the sewers and drains which finally end up in the Yamuna may not have got out of hand as yet, but the portents are no less grim. In terms of quantity, the effluent discharge by the 16 large and 500-odd medium industrial units reportedly add up to only 20 per cent of the total, but what they dump include sodium salts, acids, phenols, cyanide, metals, DDT dyes. Hence the concern.”

2.11 Asked, what was the percentage of pollution caused by the industrial liquid waste, Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board stated :—

“15 percent is caused by the industries and 85 percent by our municipalities.”

2.12 Asked, of the 15 per cent caused by the industries how much was contributed by the large industries, Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board stated :—

“These contribute 90% of the total pollution. That is why our attention was how to put the treatment plants at least in these 16 large industrial units which exist in Delhi today. Now that these industrial units have put up their plants, 90% of the total industrial pollution is being tackled. What is left is on account of the small sector units. It is difficult to give suggestion in that regard.”

2.13 Asked, what was the present position with regard to small units, the witness stated :—

"We are trying for one area, which is known as Wazirabad industrial area. In this area the total number of units is 233. They are small units. One year earlier the industries Department of the Delhi Administration had announced that whichever industry provides pollution control measures, they will provide 50% of the cost totalling a maximum of Rs. 50,000. We suggested the Industries Deptt. of against this scheme. We said that Rs. 50,000 will be spent and treatment plant will not be useful at all. Industries Deptt. agreed and now we have prepared a scheme for them. We are looking as to how to get the necessary money partly from the industries and partly from the Industries Deptt. so that one collective treatment system can be brought about. If one example is set, then we can go to other seven industrial Estates for collective industries scheme.

2.14 The Committee were informed that the Central Board for Prevention and Control of Pollution had conducted studies with regard to quality of water drawn from Yamuna river in 1977-78 and again in 1982-83. For this purpose Yamuna river was divided into six parts. According to Commissioner, M. C. D., the water for use of Delhi citizens was being drawn from above Wazirabad barrage which was quite good in quality and the same was filtered and treated before its supply. One full-fledged laboratory was engaged in testing the quality of water. Adviser, Public Health, Ministry of Works & Housing had also been testing the quality of water. Further, Municipal Health Officer of the M. C. D. is also stated to be separately checking the quality of water. The Committee recommend that in place of so many agencies involved in checking the quality of water a single Centralised agency in the Dehi Administration be created for keeping a watch on the quality of water right from its drawl from source to the supply point.

2.15 The Committee are informed that 17 open drains end up in Yamuna. Initially constructed to drain out rain water, sewerage and sullage is stated to be getting mixed up in them making them a major source of pollution to Yamuna water. Certain short term measures are stated to have been adopted by the M. C. D. such as diverting the flow of these drains to treatment plant, increase in capacity of the treatment

plant and purifying the water before it reached Yamuna. About Rs. 29.75 crores is stated to have been spent on various schemes to contain pollution from sewerage drain during the last 6 years from 1974-75 to 1982-83. According to Commissioner, M. C. D. about Rs. 350 crores would be required to accomplish these schemes fully. The Committee strongly recommend the Government to adopt a liberal approach for providing funds for these schemes as accomplishment thereof would eliminate one of the major health hazards in the capital.

2.16 The Committee note that 15 percent of the total pollution in Delhi is caused by Industrial waste that flows into Yamuna. Of this 15 percent, major part i. e. about 90% which was hitherto being caused by the 16 large industries, is being tackled as these industries are stated to have put up their treatment plants. In so far as small industrial units are concerned, the Chairman, Central Board for Prevention and Control of Pollution has suggested area-wise collective treatment system for them. The Committee recommend this suggestion for implementation. They also desire the Board to evolve a machinery to periodically review the working of treatment plants put up by the large industries.

CHAPTER III

NOISE POLLUTION

3.1 The Committee came across an article on Noise Pollution in the Central in a National Daily which stated :—

“In umpteen places around the Capital the early morning tranquility is shattered by the shrill pressure horns of heavy vehicles like trucks and buses which start plying before dawn, the drivers pressing the horns more out of habit than necessity.

About the sametime, loudspeakers, take to the air from a top religious places calling on the faithfuls to arise and pray to the almighty. As the city gradually awakens all kinds of noise Pollutants take to the air. Traffic picks up. Factories in residential areas start operations Motor workshops in the midst of localities start dent beating and hammering. Radios and transistors blare out the AIR mileau.”

Further :

“There seems to be an alround apathy to noise pollution in the metroplis with the citizens having resigned themselves to the position that they must learn to live with noise rather than fight this hazard. The authorities too have relegated environmental pollution due to noise to a low priority. While water pollution has been causing concern for quite some time and air pollution is beginning to receive attention, nobody seems to be concerned at the growing noise pollution in the city.”

Role of Traffic Police

3.2 Referring to the role of Traffic Police in taking action against the defaulting drivers it has been stated :—

“The traffic police are not only imposing a spot fine of Rs. 100 for blowing a pressure horn but also removing it in many cases.

But the use of musical horns on cars is menace which though limited has gone unchecked. Similarly motorcyclists with silencers removed or cut go zooming past in residential areas enjoying a thrill by making all that racket, oblivious to the annoyance they are causing to other citizens."

The rapid growth of vehicles on Delhi roads from 2.4 lakh is 6.8 lakh in the last 10 years has added to noise pollution by a much higher level. The multiplicity of types of vehicles and the failure to segregate fast and slow moving traffic results in high noise emission as vehicle brake and then accelerate frequently."

3.3 Asked, what was the thinking of the Delhi Administration in finding a permanent solution to the problem of noise pollution in Delhi, Chief Secretary, Delhi Administration stated :—

"In regard to the pressure horn, I am glad to submit that we have had a very successful campaign this year, in 1983. As against 1200 prosecutions in 1982 this year we have prosecuted 15,000 people for these pressure horns."

3.4 He added that this problem is practically solved. Motor Inspectors have been instructed not to give fitness certificates to the vehicles which have pressure horns. Regarding loudspeakers, special rules were framed in 1980 with the result people were by now habituated to seek permission for use of loudspeakers. About 90 per cent people were seeking permission. The problem remains with religious institutions against whom it is difficult to take drastic action. The authorities were, however, trying to tackle the problem and were successful to a certain extent

3.5 Asked, what action authorities took against those motorists who played horns outside prohibited areas like hospitals, e.g. Ram Manohar Lohia hospital etc. Chief Secretary stated that such people should be challaned.

3.6 Asked, whether there could be Mobile Courts with traffic police so that defaulters could be fined there and then, the witness stated that it was usually there. But they "Traffic Police" themselves had been delegated power to impose spot fine upto Rs. 100/-.

3.7 The Committee welcome the step taken by the Delhi Administration for checking noise pollution i.e. campaign in the year 1983 by prosecuting about 15,000 people and introducing a system of spot fine of Rs. 100/- by the Traffic police on motorists who use pressure horn. The Committee desire that persons who blow horns in the prohibited areas like hospitals, should also be imposed spot fine as in the case of blowing of pressure horn. The Committee suggest that there should not be any slackness in this campaign till the problem is completely rooted out. They also desire punitive action against use of loudspeakers without the permission of the concerned authorities.

NEW DELHI;
April 19, 1984
Chaitra 30, 1984 (S)

BANSI LAL,
Chairman,
Estimates Committee.

APPENDIX

Statement of Recommendations/Observations

Sl. No.	Para	Recommendations/Observations
1	2	3
1.	1.28 to 1.30	<p>The Committee note that the Central Pollution Control Board is the regulatory authority for controlling water and air pollution in the Capital. The respective Industries or local bodies who actually discharge any effluent have to ensure that the effluents are treated according to prescribed standards. The Delhi Administration has set up consultative committee under the Chairmanship of the Chief Executive Councillor to advise them in matters relating to environmental preservation and improving the aesthetic quality of the Union Territory. At present the Deptt. of Local Self Government in Union Territory of Delhi, is dealing with all the matters on the subject but in view of the importance of the subject, it has been decided by the Government to create a separate cell under the Planning Department for playing a nodal role.</p> <p>There are three main factors behind the air pollution in Delhi—Industries in and around residential areas, the three thermal power stations at the Indraprastha Estate, Rajghat and Badarpur and the ever growing road traffic. In order to take short and long term remedial and control measures, the Delhi Administration are stated to have sponsored a project for conducting survey</p>

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of air pollution areas and entrusted it to the Management section of the School of Environmental Studies of the Jawaharlal Nehru University. They started their study in June, 1977 and have given two interim reports and the final report is yet to be submitted by them. The final report will contain their recommendations to abate air pollution.

The Monitoring section of the school at Jawaharlal Nehru University have set up five stations for air quality samples viz. at J.N.U., Motinagar Police Station, Rashtrapati Bhawan, Defence Colony Police Station and Red Fort. According to the figures furnished by the Central Pollution Control Board, which are based on the average value of suspended particulate matters (SPM) from the samples collected thrice a week by the J.N.U. team, the yearly averages came to 273.5, 455.4, 315.1, 343.1 and 344.8 micro grames per metre cube of air at the five stations as against the suggested limit of 200, 500, 200, 200 and 500. According to Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board 500 limit in the Industrial area is not considered 'serious' if people are exposed thereto for 8 hours a day which are usually the working hours for the industrial labour. The Committee, however, see that all areas wherefrom samples are collected are residential areas and the environment pollution is far greater than the limit suggested by the Pollution Control Board themselves. The Committee deplore this situation and desire urgent measures to be taken to contain the pollution. The Committee further recommend that the school of Environmental Services at J.N.U. may be impressed upon

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to give their final report at the earliest. As soon as the report is received by the Government, as assured they should 'act in concert with Central Board of Air Pollution and in liaison with the concerned authorities like DESU, Delhi Transport Corporation, Directorate of Transport, have the remedial measures taken.'

2. 1.31

The Committee find that to contain pollution caused by the thermal power stations at Indraprastha Estate and Badarpur, electro-static precipitators are stated to have been fixed in the chimneys of power stations at the cost of Rs. 9.50 crores. With this upto 93 to 98 percent of smoke is stated to be controlled. But one unit of Rajghat Power Station does not have the precipitators and provision of the same is stated to be under the consideration of Government. The Committee desire the Government to take decision in this regard without delay under intimation to them. They further desire that a system should be evolved whereby the functioning of the electro-static precipitators may be periodically reviewed.

3. 1.32

The Committee note that the causes of pollution from the small industrial units is the use of rudimentary and elementary type of boilers and furnaces using coal. It is stated that these units cannot be compelled to modernise their boilers. But Delhi IIT is stated to be working on two projects for developing cheap mechanism at a very low cost, which could arrest dust and thereby control pollution. The prototype is likely to be ready shortly. The Committee desire that these projects should be completed soon

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so as to demonstrate the devise so evolved to the small industrial units in Delhi. The units, in turn, may be persuaded to use the device in the larger interest of the community. With regard to 16 large and medium industries who are stated to have put up treatment plants to check pollution, the Committee would like the Delhi Administration to evolve a machinery for supervision on the functioning of the treatment plants put up by these industries.

4. 1.33

The Committee welcome the notification issued by the Delhi Administration whereby automobile vehicles which are more than 15 years old will have to be re-registered subject to fitness test. The Committee desire that with regard to smoke emitting buses of the D.T.C., the matter should be taken up and pursued vigorously with the concerned authorities. Alongside, feasibility of incorporating suitable provision in the law so as to subject D.T.C. buses and private buses, trucks and tempos to fitness test every 5 years, by the Transport authorities be also examined.

5. 2.14

The Committee were informed that the Central Board for Prevention and Control of Pollution had conducted studies with regard to quality of water drawn from Yamuna river in 1977-78 and again in 1982-83. For this propose Yamuna river was divided into six parts. According to Commissioner, M.C.D., the water for use of Delhi citizens was being drawn from above Wazirabad barrage which was quite good in quality and the same was filtered and

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treated before its supply. One full-fledged laboratory was engaged in testing the quality of water. Adviser, Public Health, Ministry of Works & Housing had also been testing the quality of water. Further, Municipal Health Officer of the M.C.D. is also stated to be separately checking the quality of water. The Committee recommend that in place of so many agencies involved in checking the quality of water a single Centralised agency in the Delhi Administration be created for keeping a watch on the quality of water right from its drawl from source to the supply point.

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The Committee are informed that 17 open drains end up in Yamuna. Initially constructed to drain out rain water, sewerage and sullage is stated to be getting mixed up in them making them a major source of pollution to Yamuna water. Certain short term measures are stated to have been adopted by the M.C.D. such as diverting the flow of these drains to treatment plant, increase in capacity of the treatment plant and purifying the water before it reached Yamuna. About Rs. 29.75 crores is stated to have been spent on various schemes to contain pollution from sewerage drain during the last 6 years from 1974-7 to 1982-83. According to Commissioner, M.C.D. about Rs. 350 crores would be required to accomplish these schemes fully. The Committee strongly recommend the Government to adopt a liberal approach for providing funds for those schemes as accomplishment thereof would eliminate one of the major health hazards in the capital.

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7. 2.16

The Committee note that 15 per cent of the total pollution in Delhi is caused by Industrial waste that flows into Yamuna. Of this 15 per cent, major part *i.e.* about 90% which was hitherto being caused by the 16 large industries, is being tackled as these industries are stated to have put up their treatment plants. In so far as small industrial units are concerned, the Chairman, Central Board for Prevention and Control of Pollution has suggested area-wise collective treatment system for them. The Committee command this suggestion for implementation. They also desire the Board to evolve a machinery to periodically review the working of treatment plants put up by the large industries.

8. 3.7

The Committee welcome the step taken by the Delhi Administration for checking noise pollution *i.e.* campaign in the year 1983 by prosecuting about 15,000 people and introducing a system of spot fine of Rs. 100/- by the Traffic police on motorists who use pressure horn. The Committee desire that persons who blow horns in the prohibited areas like hospitals, should also be imposed spot fine as in the case of blowing of pressure horn. The Committee suggest that there should not be any slackness in this campaign till the problem is completely rooted out. They also desire punitive action against use of loud-speakers without the permission of the concerned authorities.

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