

regarding exemption to 'World Wildlife-Fund India, Bombay' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1985-86 to 1987-88.

- (2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (ii) to (xiii) of item (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-589/85]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under the Central Excise Rules, 1944 :-

(i) G S R 284(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th March, 1985 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to organic Chemicals upto a value not exceeding rupees thirty thousand cleared by a small scale manufacturer during the period from 18th March 1985 to 31st March, 1985.

(ii) G S R 285(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th March, 1985 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to travel goods upto a value not exceeding thirty thousand cleared by a small scale manufacturer during the period from 18th March, 1985 to 31st March, 1985.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-590/85]

12.19.hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

[English]

Reported possibility of major leakage of liquid chlorine in M/s. Shriram Chemicals Works, Delhi and danger to the lives of thousands of workers and others

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK (Cuttack) : I call the attention of the Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers to the

following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:-

"The reported possibility of major leakage of liquid chlorine in M/s. Shriram Chemicals Works, Delhi and danger to the lives of thousands of workers and others and steps taken by Government in the matter."

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND, INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : M/s. Sri Ram Chemicals Works, Delhi is one of the units under M/s. Shriram Food and Fertilizers Limited located at Najafgarh Road, New Delhi. At present, M/s. Shriram Food and Fertilizers Limited are engaged in the manufacture of chemicals including caustic soda and liquid chlorine in their plant located at Najafgarh Road, New Delhi. According to the Delhi Administration about 280 tonnes of Chlorine, which is obtained in process of manufacture of Caustic Soda, is stored in the storage tanks. Delhi Administration have reported that inspections carried out in this unit reveal that preventive and the control measures for the safety of the workers and population around the factory were inadequate. Delhi Administration is fully seized of the consequent potential danger of the safety of the workers and the persons living around the factory from chlorine storage.

After the Bhopal accident, Government is fully conscious of the problems of hazards from dangerous and toxic processes. Instructions have therefore, been issued to the State Governments to constitute task forces/expert groups to make a rapid survey of all such units to take immediate measures for ensuring that all safety control and preventive measures are adopted. Government is also contemplating changes in the Factories Act, 1948, and the rules, to make them more stringent to ensure safety. The areas which Government have identified for technical assistance from ILO among other things, include major hazards control system in dangerous manufacturing processes including Chemical Industry. This problem will be examined by the Experts of the ILO Mission, when they take up the task in April, 1985.

I would like to assure the House that the safety standards required to be observed not

only by this Company but also other units in Delhi using hazardous processes are being kept under regular surveillance and we are already in touch with the Delhi Administration to ensure that steps are taken early in this direction both in the interest of the workers and the general public.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Sir, Delhi is the national capital, with people from all over the country living in it. Also, it has its glorious past, cultural heritage and national as well as international importance. This sort of events or accidents in this cosmopolitan city will have far reaching consequences among the citizens of Delhi, as also among the people of the whole country. So, problems like this are of vital importance and should be taken with all seriousness.

I am really happy that the Government is so serious about this and the Hon. Minister has already replied in his statement that the safety standards required should strictly be observed, not only by the companies owning chemical units but also those engaged in other hazardous processes of manufacture. As far as I know, there are some 400 factories which have been set up in Delhi and some of them pose danger to environment pollution. In the wake of Bhopal tragedy, there is panic among the people that recurrence of such a ghastly tragedy might occur here also. That is why attention of the Government to the problem of such a serious nature is called for. But the scope of the present discussion is very limited, pertaining to this particular incident. Even then there is a general fear among the people. That is why this particular problem has been brought to the notice of the Government so that they may take preventive action and create confidence among the people. It was said that there was a leakage in the chlorine gas unit and I do not know whether any investigation has been made and whether there has been any likely danger to the life of the people living in the area. I have been told that some time back an engineer died on account of some leakage. It was also said that the Delhi Administration had held an enquiry in regard to the threat to the environment pollution caused by Shriram Chemicals. The report mentions that this unit should be closed down. It was also mentioned that an expert from Britain was invited to go into the problem. He too in his report had said

that there is every possibility of danger to the life of the people and the plant poses a serious danger to the environment by way of pollution. It is also said that the safety measures in regard to the maintenance of the gas tanks installed in the complex of the factory are not in order. All these things are to be discussed. My point is that when we come to the general question, sometimes we feel that on paper only the country is aware of the minimum safety standards to be followed by these units. There are barely standards for 400 chemical processes available. Why then standards for other processes are not available? Whatever we do, whatever the Government does, they are not being done systematically. Before the Bhopal tragedy happened, a Sub-Committee to go into these problems was constituted under the Committee of Chemical Industries and the report of that Sub-Committee stated that there was no such danger from the big and organised sector. At the same time, they had stated that proper attention should be given to see that environment pollution danger is completely removed. Sometimes what happens is that the Government formulates some safety measures and passes them on to the State Governments. But we do not know how many States took recourse to those measures. Sometimes the Centre also gives licence and letters of intent to the industries. But the industries evade the issues. Therefore, it is just not enough to mention the safety measures in the project report. But actually it should be strictly insisted upon that those measures are scrupulously followed. For enforcing these measures, periodical inspection at the plant site is also necessary. That is why I say that these safety measures are neither being implemented nor any proper monitoring thereafter is also made. We have also noticed that sometimes there is indifferent attitude in enforcing safety measures by the industrialists also. They feel that any expenditure incurred on safety measures will be non-productive and a waste. That is why they do not spend money on them.

Sometimes we see that when foreign companies transfer technology to the Indian companies, they do not transfer technology regarding safety along with the process of production. That is a difficulty. So, with regard to this particular firm, viz. Shriram Chemicals, I would like to put some questions.

The first is about the location policy. I am told that this industry is situated in a densely-populated area. I do not know whether there was any specific Central Government policy on location, when the licence for this undertaking was given. Had the stipulation banning location of industrial units in this urban area, or in large metropolitan cities, been evolved by that time? If so, was that stipulation followed in this case? If not, what is to be done? What is the next alternative solution? Was there any proposal to shift such an industry to any other place?

I want now to ask about the Pollution Control Board. They define hazardous chemicals precisely, to list a variety of hazardous chemicals. Has the Pollution Control Board set up by the Government laid down the standard of effluent emissions? If so, have the present samples been examined to determine whether the standards have been observed or not?

I also want to know the possible extent of water pollution and also gas pollution in this particular Shriram Chemicals industry. The Minister has replied saying that they are taking various steps, and that they are also devising various means in respect of safety measures. I am glad to know that they are actually sincere about this, but the question is: what is the time-limit given to this particular factory to effect security measures if there is any chance of pollution, i.e. when found out? I say this because there is an apprehension whether we are actually going to carry out whatever decisions we are going to take, or whatever plans we have.

In Bhopal, there were three things on the preventive side: one was the water sprinkler; the second was the caustic soda straggler, and the third was the blast tower. In spite of installing these three preventive measures, we have had the worst ever calamity in Bhopal.

I would like to know what are the preventive measures installed in this case, and whether they are considered adequate, both qualitatively and quantitatively. I would also like to know whether Government have qualified personnel for routine inspection of the preventive and safety measures. The Minister has already said that steps have been taken for inspection. But I want to know what is

routine inspection, and how they are doing it. I would like to have the details of this, and whether the personnel make on-the-spot inspection or not.

Sometimes we find that because we give emphasis on production side, we give emphasis on cut-backs and cost-cutting measures. What happens then is that these preventive measures suffer. That is why I want to know whether Government are watchful about employment cut-backs and cost-cutting measures which affect the safety establishment in chemical industries. They may be considered a potential health hazard. All these things are there.

Lastly, there is one point.

We have got Air and Water Pollution Bill. I would like to know whether the Pollution Control Board has enough powers to stop operations in the factory, if they find that there is a grave emergency. If they had been there, then the Bhopal tragedy would not have happened. That is why I am asking whether there is any such provision in the Act itself, because if there is a loophole, if we cannot stop operation of this factory, then there will be loss of life. How can you implement this Act so that this type of a tragedy may not occur again?

My friend, Shri Lalit Maken, is from South Delhi. It must be of interest to him also. So, I leave some questions to be asked by him also. Thank you.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: I would like to assure the Hon. Member and also the House that particularly after the Bhopal tragedy, the Central Government has alerted the State Governments and Union Territories to have a survey and inspection of all hazardous industries and take necessary steps so that safety measures are adopted; and wherever industries are heavy pollution creating industries, such industries should be inspected periodically and necessary steps should be taken in order to safeguard the health and the safety of the workers working in those units, and also environment should be such that it should not adversely affect the health of the people in general who are residing outside the factory. So far as this unit is concerned, and the other hazardous units in Delhi are concerned. I must say that after the Bhopal tragedy, particularly, necessary

effective steps have been taken by the Delhi Administration. The Labour Commissioner himself conducted a survey of the industrial undertakings in order to identify which are the units which are health hazards and they have identified units and Sriram Fertilizer Unit is one of them; and at the instance of the Labour Ministry, one technical expert, who was foreign expert, Dr. Slatter, was requested to visit this factory and to find out whether safety measures that have been taken and the safety standards that have been adopted in this unit are adequate or any further action has to be taken. So, Dr. Slatter, U. K. Expert, visited the factory and inspected chlorine storage facilities also. He made a report to the government and the Labour Ministry and the Labour Ministry forwarded that report to the Lt. Governor for taking further action. I hope that further action is being taken by the Lt. Governor as per the recommendations that have been given by the U. K. Expert. In addition to this, during 1984-85, the Delhi Administration had carried out eight inspections, so far as this factory is concerned and two challans have already been filed in the court against this organisation or unit. The Hon. Member wanted to know whether government have got any location policy and whether licence has been issued to the unit according to the location policy. I may say for the information of Hon. Members that the location policy was decided in the year 1978. That was in May 1978, but this unit was established long back. I am told that this unit was established before the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act came into force. So, it might have been established some time in the 'forties. I do not exactly know the date or the year when it was established and subsequently the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act came into force. Subsequently the Government of India took a decision with regard to the location policy. So, about licensing, I do not think that it is possible for the Government of India to cancel the licence. And so far as the safety measures are concerned, the Delhi Administration after inspection, if they find that the safety measures are inadequate they can take action. They have already inspected and certain measures have already been taken to see that the inadequacy if any, is removed. The Delhi Administration is quite competent to take action and also to issue instructions to the unit. If after receiving instructions from the Delhi Administration the unit does

not comply with it, the only action that is possible in the circumstances is to take recourse to the Code of Criminal Procedure under Section 133. The Delhi Administration can take action and can issue a notice even to close down the unit. But I do not think that such a situation has arisen in this case, because the unit or the organisation is also taking several measures to ensure the safety and health of the workers—not only that of the workers in the factory, but of those who are outside the factory.

The Hon. Member was saying that this unit is located in the heart of Delhi city. When it was located Nazafgarh was a jungle. Every Hon. Member knows how very rapidly Delhi is growing. It is not only the case of Delhi but of all urban areas. Wherever the units were located at that time, there was no habitation at all, it was as if it were a jungle. But subsequently development has taken place, round the factory, the area has become populated and now it is in the heart of Delhi.

So far as the proposal of the Hon. Member to shift this unit outside Delhi is concerned, I do not think that it is a practical proposal. Because, it is not the only case, but it is so in all urban areas which have got so many industries which are hazardous to the health of the people, but it is difficult to shift them, not only because it is not economical, but also because of other problems.

If we close down the factory, then thousands and thousands of workers who are working there have to be provided employment by the Government or the organisation or the society, or the Delhi Administration. So, shifting or closing down is not a solution.

But I do agree with the Hon. Member that we must take—not only the Delhi Administration but also the organisation should take—sufficient measures to see that the safety and health of the workers working inside and also of the people in general who are there round-about that factory their safety is ensured. For that purpose, I can inform the Hon. Member that every action has been taken.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No. Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

*Not recorded .

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : Let me conclude. The Labour Ministry has taken further action. They are in contact with the International Labour Organisation and they have already requested experts to come here. At their request one ILO expert, one Dr. G. Kelsh, Chief (Safety and Health), International Labour Organisation, has visited our country in the first week of February 1985 and he had a detailed discussion with our experts and he has gone back. After going there, and taking other action, he has agreed to send two other ILO experts here. Out of them one expert is already in our country. Another expert is going to arrive in this country very soon. These experts are going into this matter as to how to safeguard the interest of the workers and how to ensure that the environment is pure and free from all these hazardous substances. So far as the health of the workers and environment are concerned, all necessary steps are being taken. Similarly, several steps have been taken by the Government. I have already enumerated as to what steps we have taken on different occasions. I want to assure the Hon. Members that so far as the health of the workers, environment, taking safety measures in all these hazardous industries are concerned, the Government is quite alert. The Law Ministry is in constant touch with the Delhi Administration. Whatever is necessary, that will be done in this regard by the Government of India and the Delhi Administration and the Organisation will be suitably instructed in these matters.

[Translation]

SHRI LALIT MAKEN (South Delhi): Mr. Deputy speaker, Sir I would like to inform the House that Delhi is sitting on a volcano and according to the Labour Commissioner's report, an incident more dangerous than that which has occurred in Bhopal, could occur in Delhi, where 280 tonnes of chlorine are stored at a time at one place. If you go deep into the matter, you will find that the gas would take the direction of the wind and people living within 200 kilometres will be affected and if by mistake the gas enters Lok Sabha then neither you nor we shall survive.

It is not as if there was leakage of gas from this very factory only a year ago, even now the gas is leaking. There is a school situated near the Swatantra Bharat

Mill. Forty students of that school were passing near the factory and they fainted on the spot.

The Hon. Minister has said just now that they were challaned. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the capitalist would be happy if the action is confined to filing of challans and a fine of Rs. 1000 or 2000 is imposed. It has been stated that licences cannot be cancelled. The Labour Commissioner's report is with us. It has been stated in the report in clear terms that we would take safety measures. I will read out a para of this report to you :

[English]

"Improvements in the present safety devices cannot eliminate the risks involved and the dangerous operations in the factory (Caustic Soda plant) must be shut down immediately.

I am saying this with full responsibility that you may carry out any improvement you like but in spite of that the danger which is looming large over lakhs of people of Delhi cannot be averted. These are not my words but those of Labour Commissioner.

It has been mentioned just now that as regards Delhi, the Lieutenant Governor will take action. I want to say with responsibility that the Lieutenant Governor and Delhi Administration have no powers to take action against them. That is why the the Labour Commissioner has recommended that their licences be suspended forthwith. I want to know from the Hon. Minister why when the Labour Commissioner has recommended that they have no power to take action against them what hitch is there before the Hon. Minister, and why he does not suspend their licences so that the lives of lakhs of people of Delhi could be saved.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the effluents discharged by the factory contain toxic substances like caustic soda, chlorine, sulphuric acid and hydro-choric acid. I would like to inform the House that these effluents flow into the Yamuna. Due to their poisonous effects, the fish perish, vegetables, plants and crops wither away. Besides, consumption of that water is causing slow poisoning. The Labour Commissioner has recommended in his report that bringing about improvement

will not make any difference and that the licence should be suspended. In view of this recommendation I would like to know whether the licence of the factory would be suspended.

My second question is what action would be taken to stop the flow of the effluents into the Yamuna.

About 20 per cent of the workers of this factory are suffering from T.B. It is not I who say this but the doctors have given a report to this effect. The doctors have said that 20 per cent workers are suffering from T.B. 3,500 workers are employed here. Out of them the number of contract labourers is 2,500. Only 1,000 workers are regular. Five workers have died during the last two years. In a year some 150 workers meet different kinds of accidents like severance of hand, suffering burns in feet or other parts of the body. About 25 per cent of the beggars in Delhi had been the workers of DCM Chemicals. The cause of this situation is that no record of the labourers supplied by the contractor is kept. When they lose limbs or meet with some other accident they are dismissed from the job so as to obviate payment of compensation. In case a worker is killed, his corpse is thrown out. When I was Member of the Metropolitan Council, I had raised this question. Five workers had died within a period of two years. The workers are employed by the contractor. When any of them is killed, his family dies of starvation. The contractor or the D.C.M. does not pay a single paisa as compensation to them.

About five lakh people live around the factory. 3,500 workers are engaged in this Factory. Any workers who raises his voice is dismissed and thrown out. It has been stated that as this is a sensitive industry, it cannot be shifted. The Hindustan Insecticides, a Government concern, is located by the side of this factory. They supply chlorine to the Hindustan Insecticides. I would like to know if the Hindustan Insecticides can be shifted, why a decision cannot be taken to shift D.C.M. Chemicals. This is a sensitive industry and is covered under the Essential Commodities Act. I demand that the Government should take over or nationalise this factory where 2,500 out of the 3,500 workers are contract workers, where five workers die within 2 years and where 150 accidents take

place. I also demand that the Government should shift it at the earliest. If Hindustan Insecticides can be shifted, then D.C.M. Chemicals can also be shifted.

[English]

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : Sir, the Hon. Member has stated that 280 tonne of chlorine is being stored in this plant. Though the capacity of the storage in the tank is 280 tonnes, that does not mean that all the 280 tonnes of chlorine is always there in the storage. . . .

(Interruptions)

SHRI LALIT MAKEN : Chlorine is so dense, so heavy that it is being dissolved in the water.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : As I have said here, in the process of manufacturing caustic soda, chlorine is produced and when chlorine is produced, it has to be stored. So far as this organisation is concerned, out of the chlorine that is being produced, they are manufacturing so many items. I can say that out of chlorine, they are manufacturing Hydrochloric Acid, Stable Bleaching Powder, sodium Hypochlorite, Active Earth, Alumina Ferric and High Test Calcium Hypochlorite. All these items are being manufactured out of chlorine. So, it is not correct to say that all the 24 hours of the day or all the months throughout the year, this 280 tonnes chlorine is always stored in the tank. The capacity to store is 280 tonnes. . .

(Interruptions)

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let the Hon Minister reply to that question. Till then I cannot allow any further questions.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : Let the Hon. Members not be under the impression that I am here to suppress information. I am not here to defend that organisation and I am not here as an agent of anybody. I am here to give the facts and I am giving the information, whatever I have in my possession.

The Hon. Member mentioned about an incident that took place in 1982. It is true that in December 1982 it was reported that some school children became unconscious after inhaling poisonous gas near Messers Sri Ram Chemical Works. The enquiries conducted

could not establish anything. According to the report that I have received from the Delhi Administration, the matter was referred to the Central Pollution Control Board for further enquiry. Subsequently, in early 1983, an inspection made by a team of the Central Pollution Control Board did not prove the presence of any chlorine or its content in the air.

The Hon. Member repeatedly referred to the report of the Labour Commissioner. I am told that this report has been submitted to the Delhi Administration, who are seized of this matter and are seriously considering it. I have already said that the experts who have come from the UK and ILO have visited this factory. They have made a report. We have forwarded that report to the Lt. Governor for taking further action. I hope that the Delhi Administration and the Lt. Governor would be taking all the necessary steps in this direction.

The Hon. Member repeatedly asked, what was the difficulty in suspending the licence. I want to explain to the Hon. Member, who is a very prominent labour leader of Delhi—he must be knowing it already—that once a licence is issued, it cannot be withdrawn. In the present case, it is a very old unit and the licence was issued long before the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act came into force. Even according to that Act, once the licence is issued, I do not think it is possible for us to cancel the licence. That is our difficulty. Therefore, as I said in the beginning, if this unit is not complying with the instructions of advice given by the Delhi Administration to rectify the deficiencies, if there are any inadequacies or deficiencies, in order to safeguard the health and life of the workers working there, and also those who are outside, the Administration has got power under section 33 of the Cr. P. C. In the Bhopal tragedy, the Madhya Pradesh administration took recourse to this particular section and they asked the unit to close down. In the same way, the Delhi Administration can also ask them to close down if the instructions given to the factory are not complied with. So far as the cancellation of the licence is concerned, according to the advice that I have received, it is not a feasible proposition and it cannot be done. The only alternative is what I have suggested.

The Hon. Member mentioned that they

are employing a lot of labour, mostly contract labour, there are lots of accidents taking place in that factory, lots of people are dying and a lot of people are becoming disabled. I must say for the information of the Hon. Member—not that he does not know it—that, so far as this unit is concerned, the appropriate government is the State Government, the Delhi Administration in the present case, and not the Central Government. Suppose somebody becomes disabled or meets with an accident, so far as the labour laws are concerned, the Labour Commissioner has got ample power to take action under the Workmen's Compensation Act. So many labour laws are there. It is for the Delhi Administration to take action. It is not for the Central Government to take action under these provisions because so far as this unit is concerned, the appropriate authority is the Delhi Administration and not the Central Government.

The Hon. Member wanted to know about the shifting of HIL. I do not know whether we have taken a decision to shift the HIL. I do not think so. But I will verify and find out. But, so far shifting of these units is concerned, it is not peculiar only to Delhi. As I told you in all urban areas there are such units. If you want to shift all the units as a policy, then we have to work out the implications—financial and other implications—of shifting all these hazardous industries. Therefore, in my opinion it is not feasible, it is not economical and it is not advisable to shift these industries. You may get experts opinion on this. If locally it is not possible, you may get the opinion of international experts to find out what further measures have to be taken in order to see that pollution control measures are foolproof and one hundred per cent completely free from all these hazards. Therefore, I feel whatever action was to be taken by the Delhi Administration, they have taken and as I told you just now, our Labour Ministry is in constant touch with the Labour Administration. I think our Labour Minister is also here and he had the opportunity of hearing the views of the Hon. Members. Certainly he would convey those views to the Delhi Administration and to the Lt. Governor, and whatever action from our side is called for, that will be taken.

SHRI LALIT MAKEN : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, answer to my question is not clear.

As far, the abolition of the contract system is concerned, I am very clear that this step has to be taken by the Delhi Administration. But that was not my question.

As far as compensation is to be given to the workers, I know that is within the jurisdiction of the Delhi Administration.

My question was keeping in view the fact that so many people are dying and so many workers are meeting with accidents frequently and so many people are working under the contract system, will the Government think of taking over the management or taking over that factory. That is my question.

And as far as taking action by the Delhi Administration is concerned, I can say with full responsibility that Delhi Administration is not competent. Delhi Administration cannot do anything. And if you leave the matter to the Delhi Administration, I may tell you, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the life of lakhs of people will be in danger.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : I am sorry, the Hon. Member is suggesting that in order to put a stop to anti-labour practices that are being indulged in by the management, this unit should be nationalised. I have already made it clear on so many occasions the policy of the Government is not to nationalise, because there is a demand for nationalisation. This unit is working well. If there are any lacunae or deficiencies or if they are indulging in anti-labour practices, certainly our Labour Ministry will take cognizance of that and we will write to the Delhi Administration. And if necessary, I will request my colleague, the Labour Minister, to call the Delhi Administration officers for a discussion and think of taking effective steps in order to see that these unfair labour practices are completely stopped in that unit.

SHRI LALIT MAKEN : Does the Hon. Minister agree in principle to accept the recommendations of the Labour Commissioner ?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: I am very sorry, I do not know how to clarify this position. The Labour Commissioner is under the Delhi Administration. So far as this unit is concerned, the appropriate authority or the appropriate Government is the Delhi Administration. So, whatever recommenda-

tions are there from the Labour Commissioner, it is for the Delhi Administration to consider and take action on that, not the Labour Ministry or the Government of India.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: Is he living in India or outside India?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKAR: Mr. Choubey, please sit down. You are not involved in it. Your name is not there.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: I want to assure the Hon. Member since Delhi is a Union Territory and we are also here, we will certainly look into this matter. We will use our good offices to see that all necessary steps are taken in order to safeguard the interests of the workers and also ensure pure environment round about the Union territory.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: In 1982 also it was raised and the same answer was given.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Tytler, have you given Calling Attention notice?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: No, Sir

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members who have given notice only are eligible to ask.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: It is not a class.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This is only a Calling Attention Motion.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: We are raising a problem of our people. I am not on wrong thing. Do not make me sit like this. I have raised a valid question.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If You are interested, you give notice. I will consider it. Without giving notice you are standing. How is it possible? The Hon. Member who has given notice is discussing with the Minister and he is getting the reply.

SHRI LALIT MAKEN : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, the reply is not clear to me. May be I am unable to understand. I have already said that this is not within the jurisdiction of Delhi Administration or the Lt. Governor.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : On the Minister's statement you cannot have a discussion. Please sit down. You have already spoken. You have raised your point. The Minister

has replied to that. A debate cannot be allowed on this.

SHRI LALIT MAKEN : I want a clarification only.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He has already told.

SHRI LALIT MAKEN : But it is not clear.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is not clear means you have to give separate notice. Then I will consider it.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You give notice for that, I will ask him to reply.

SHRI LALIT MAKEN : Will the Minister principally.....

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He has already told.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : He wants to seek clarification. That is the convention of the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have already allowed him. He is answering that. Further he wants to ask.

(Interruptions)

SHRI LALIT MAKEN : My question is : Presuming that the Delhi Administration is unable to do anything because I know this is not within the jurisdiction of the Delhi Administration—presuming that the Delhi Administration cannot do anything, will the Minister accept the recommendations of the Labour Commissioner in that case? That is my question.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) : As regards the charge that the management have been exploiting from the very beginning, I may say that it is an old habit of the management. So far as the contract labour system is concerned, we have heard many things about it and this is mentioned in the report of the Labour Commissioner also. I want that a meeting should be called. I shall invite you as well as the Labour Commissioner of the Delhi Administration to that meeting and discuss

it. The Minister of Chemicals just now gave some information. We shall take some safety measures. Regarding suspension of the licence of the factory and shifting it to some other place, we shall discuss it. If it is hazardous, then we shall think over it, and in view of the incident which occurred in Bhopal, we shall definitely take action in consultation with my colleague, Shri Veerendra Patil.

Mention has been made about the incidents that took place in the factory. They have been mentioned in the report also. We have received reports about the violations being committed by them and we shall take stringent action in this respect. I think in the Chemical industry, everyone should get a permanent job and they should be covered by insurance also. We shall take action in regard to all these aspects.

[English]

I will consult my colleagues and take necessary action. I will call a joint meeting.

SHRI LALIT MAKEN : Mr. Speaker, it is a very satisfactory reply. My question is : Will the Minister be able to let me know as to how long will he take to let us know what measures he is going to adopt as for as Shriram Chemicals is concerned ?

[Translation]

SHRI T. ANJIAH : The I. L. O. experts are coming in April. We shall ask them to visit the factory.

[English]

SHRI LALIT MAKEN : Would he be able to specify the period as to how long he will take ?

[Translation]

SHRI T. ANJIAH : We will call a meeting in 10 to 15 days.

SHRI K.N. PRADHAN (Bhopal) : I have been elected from Bhopal...

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Do not record anything. Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)***