

[Shri Bhajan Lal]

The environmental problems faced in our country pose a danger to the integrity of our national resources. Environmental pollution caused by unplanned discharge of wastes and improper handling of toxic chemicals has serious implications for the well-being of our population. The Bhopal gas tragedy has poignantly brought home the dangers to human safety, health and environment which can arise from industrial accidents.

It is in this context that Environment Protection Bill was introduced in the Parliament providing for comprehensive coverage of environmental issues and measures that need to be taken in this regard. Such integrated legislation is probably the first of its type in the world. Parliament had approved the Bill and the assent of the President was received in May 1986. As members are aware, the Act encompasses every area of the national activity and its implementation requires rigorous scientific support. The Government, in the last few months, have enlisted the services of specialists in this regard and have prepared a set of rules to implement the Act effectively.

These rules cover standards in respect of seven industries, procedures to be adopted by the Central Government while issuing directions, procedures for imposing prohibitions or restrictions on the location of industries, processes or operations in different areas, functions of environmental laboratories, qualifications of Government Analysts and procedures for taking samples, submission of samples and laboratories reports.

As you are aware, the Act has provided, probably for the first time, that courts can take cognizance of offences under the Act on a complaint made by any person who has given a notice of not less than 60 days. The manner of giving notice by a person has been prescribed in the rules framed.

Action is being taken to formulate the other necessary rules under the Act regarding standards for more industries, hazardous substances, delegation of

powers to states and other regulatory agencies etc. Adequately equipped existing laboratories will be recognised as environmental laboratories and new laboratories will be established where necessary.

The Government are firmly resolved to implement the goals set before us by Mrs. Indira Gandhi and affirmed by our Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi to ensure the basis of long term development by protecting the environment in all its aspects. This national resolve to bequeath to the succeeding generations an environment better than what we have received from our forebears cannot be better expressed than by implementing the Environment (Protection) Act effectively. The Government have, therefore, decided to bring into force the Act and the rules from 19-11-1986 as a tribute to the memory of Mrs. Indira Gandhi who was the inspiration the world over on environmental issues.

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[Translation]

SHRI UMAKANT MISHRA (Mirzapur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a small request to make. Through you, I would like to make a request to the Government that the martyrdom day and the birth anniversary of Shrimati Indira Gandhi may be declared gazetted holidays.

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12.15 hrs.

#### MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[Translation]

- (1) Need to start superfast trains from Gwarlor in M.P. to Calcutta and Ahmedabad.

SHRI KAMMODILAL JATAV (Morena) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Railway Department has not provided train service from Madhya Pradesh to Calcutta and Ahmedabad. For going to Calcutta and Ahmedabad, the people of Madhya

Pradesh have to go first to Delhi, Aligarh, Tundla and Agra. It causes wastage of money and the people are put to needless inconvenience. The people of Madhya Pradesh and the Members of Parliament have made repeated representations in this respect but no action has been taken on them so far. I would request the Minister of Railways and the Government that super-fast trains from Gwalior to Calcutta and Ahmedabad should be run forthwith for the convenience of the people.

[English]

- (ii) Demand for a link highway to connect National Highways Nos. 47 and 17 in Kerala for the convenience of Pilgrims visiting Guruvayur Temple.

SHRI P.A. ANTONY (Trichur) : Trichur in Kerala is the cultural capital of Kerala State. National Highway No. 47 is passing through Trichur. National Highway No. 17 passes through the coastal area of Kerala. But there is no link highway to connect National Highway No. 47 and 17.

Guruvayur Temple is the most important pilgrim centre of South India. Thousands of pilgrims are coming to visit Guruvayur Temple daily from all parts of India. A link highway between Trichur, i.e., NH 47 through Guruvayur to NH 17 will help the tourists and pilgrims to visit Guruvayur Temple and also reduce the density of traffic in this area.

There is a proposal to connect NH 47 and NH 17 through Guruvayur. I request the Government to expedite the matter.

- (iii) Need to look into the grievances of about 40,000 sailors in the country.

SHRI I. RAMA RAI (Kasaragod) : It is estimated that nearly 40,000 people are employed in the country as sailors. About 10,000 are from Kerala alone. These sailors are treated as contract labourers and are not guaranteed with permanent jobs throughout the year and sometimes they have to wait for a number of months

for another chance of sailing. There are instances of their not getting chances for 2 years or more. During serving period, they have to work very hard and they usually lose their health before retirement. Various facilities enjoyed by Government and private employees are denied to these sailors.

Considering the miserable working conditions of these serving sailors, the Government of India was kind enough to appoint a Commission called Nanda Commission to go into the service conditions and other aspects of various difficulties experienced by sailors. Though the Commission has submitted its report, the various recommendations of the Commission have not been implemented.

I urge upon the Ministry of Surface Transport to look into various grievances of this large number of sailors whose services earn large amount of foreign exchange to the country.

[Translation]

- (iv) Demand for strict enforcement of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA (Pali) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, India has the largest record of steps taken to protect wild life in the past. King Ashok the great, had imposed ban on the hunting of wild life as far back as in 300 B.C. To make the ban effective, the King had got the names of those birds, animals and fishes inscribed on the columns whose hunting was prohibited. The ban was stringently imposed. The animals of the forests are our mute friends. Man should treat them with compassion, sympathy and love. We will have to enlighten the common people through the Indian Board for the welfare of wild life for arousing soft feeling for those animals. Government have enacted "Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960" and made therein such provisions which enjoin upon the people to regard animals as their friends and not to treat them with cruelty or to torture them for their recreation. It is unfortunate that