

on 29.8 1988 informing the Police that the TDP would be staging a dharna at the Boat Club on 31.8.1988 and 1 9.1988. Permission was accorded. In the application no mention was made about their intention to proceed either to Parliament House or to the Prime Minister's residence.

On 1.9.1988, at about 0830 hours, about 300 members of the Telugu Desam Party, including MPs and MLAs, assembled at the Boat Club. Later they started to proceed towards Rafi Marg where prohibitory orders under Section 144 Cr P.C. were in force. On being prevented from doing so, they turned back on Rajpath and from the Janpath side started marching towards the Prime Minister's residence. The Police officers on duty tried to reason with the members of the procession that they could not proceed towards the Prime Minister's residence as they did not have any permission to take out a procession. However, the processionists did not pay any heed and continued to rush head-long towards the Prime Minister's residence. In view of these developments, police force was rushed towards Gole Methi round-about near the Prime Minister's residence and barricades were also set up. When the demonstrators reached the Gole Methi roundabout, they were again requested not to go any further, but they insisted on doing so.

SHO Chanakyapuri went to the reception of the Prime Minister's residence to enquire whether the processionists could meet the Prime Minister. After checking with the Prime Minister's office, SHO Chanakyapuri was informed that although no appointment had been fixed for a meeting with the Prime Minister. Prime Minister would be willing to meet some representatives of the processionists at his Parliament House Office during the course of the day. SHO Chanakyapuri returned to the Gole Methi roundabout and duly conveyed the message to the processionists.

The processionists did not pay any heed and started rushing towards Prime Minister's residence by jumping the barricades and jostling with the Police. The Police then reformed about 50 yards from the cordon and again tried to restrain them but

the processionists turned violent and started assaulting the Police officers. Many of the processionists broke through the cordon and started rushing towards the Prime Minister's residence. In order to restrain the processionists, the Police ordered the firing of tear gas shells. A total of 7 tear-gas shells were fired. The processionists who broke through the cordon were brought under control and pushed back to Gole Methi cordon. No lathi-charge was ordered to disperse the demonstrators although it is possible that some policemen may have used their canes to push back the processionists who had turned violent.

In the incident, 9 police officials and 7 processionists received minor injuries. A lady in the group became unconscious due to the tear smoke. She was immediately removed to the RML Hospital where she regained consciousness. She did not suffer any injuries. A case of rioting and assault has been registered at Police Station Tugbak Road, 363 persons were arrested from the spot including some women and 162 MLAs.

16.30 hrs.

WATER (PREVENTION AND  
 CONTROL OF POLLUTION)  
 AMENDMENT BILL—Contd.

[Translation]

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI (Satna): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support these amendments. In this connection I would like to congratulate Mr. Z. A. Ansari for bringing this proposal before us. He is a man of very loving personality and I am sure that his Department will also discharge its duties with the same promptitude.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, before I proceed I would like to remind Mr. Ansari that last time he had passed an Anti-pollution Bill in this House and I had asked his predecessor Mr. Bhajanlal and he had assured me that strict action will be taken against all those who flout and violate

[Shri Aziz Qureshi]

this Bill. He had again assured me when I again asked him, I had particularly mentioned my constituency Satna where there is a number of big cement factories. Asbestos-sheet factories are also located there and the owners of these factories are not ordinary persons but the people like Birlaji, Tataji and the people who own other big companies and care a fig for the laws enacted by the Government. I would like to know as to what action has been taken on the assurances given earlier by the hon. Minister? If any action has been taken, we have not received any information in this regard. Even a single person of my constituency Satna doesn't know whether any action has been taken against these big capitalists either by your Department or by the Central Government or by the State Government. Secondly I would like the Government to tell as to how many notices have been issued to these big-industrialists for taking action against them and if issued, the number of persons against whom action was taken and the number of notices withdrawn stating the reasons thereof alongwith the reasons of not taking any action on them.

Just now a point was made about the municipalities. My able friend Shri Digvijay Singhji has very competently pointed out some technicalities. I will not go very deep into it but while citing an example of a govt. agency of Delhi I would like to urge upon the Government to take stringent action against those persons and officials who flout and violate particularly the Government rules and go against its agencies so that others could learn a lesson from it. There is a place known as connaught lane between Janpath and Kasturba Gandhi Marg in Connaught-place but this connaught lane has been converted into a big slum by the N D M.C. There were twelve or fifteen trees in this connaught lane which had been planted there fifty years ago. Ten or twelve of these trees were cut down by the N D M.C officials and that too without any permission. Besides this, a building to supply electricity was also constructed on the children park by N.D.M.C. officials despite the objections of the residents of that area. Some days ago I went there to meet the famous Indian writer Shri Balwant Gargi

and found the whole street sprawled over with knee deep mud. The sewage of these streets was lying open which had converted the entire street into a slum. It is very astonishing that it is so happening in the connaught place, the heart of Delhi and nobody is bothering about it.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether N D.M.C. has been kept out of the purview of law and no rule is applicable to it. Moreover, no action is taken on the complaints of M.Ps and they have to bear with it. I have been putting up in caning lane. This area also has been fully converted into a slum by N.D.M.C. because there is maximum pollution as the drains are not cleaned up. This Bill is quite useless if the labourers and poor people living in these dirty streets are not redeemed of the torture inflicted upon them by the N.D.M.C. With whom else they should raise the matter?

Secondly, I would like to speak something about Satna Parliamentary Constituency. There are three cement factories in this region. Out of them two mills are owned by the Birlas and one by the Tatas and there is also a factory which manufactures Asbestos-sheets. This is the universal opinion if full preventive measures are not taken while manufacturing these asbestos-sheets, it can cause cancer by its dust particles. In spite of my repeated shoutings, no preventive measures have been taken by this Asbestos-factory and thus they are playing with the lives of the people of that area. These factory owners care a fig for the laws of the State Government or the Central Government. They are very influential and command so much power of money that nobody can harm them. I would also like to submit one more thing that there is an imminent threat to the health and lives of the people residing within an area of twenty miles from these cement factories of Satna Parliamentary Constituency. The dust and smoke emitted by these cement factories spreads upto 20 miles and poses a threat to the health of the people of this area. It also affects the cattle life but no effective step was taken against them. Though the laws have been there in existence for a long time but in spite of my

voice against it not only today but for the last three and half years, no action has been taken against the big capitalists because they are Birlas and Tatas. Therefore, nobody paid attention to it and consequently no action was taken against them. They not only ruined this place but also usurped the land of the people residing in this area and even a ten percent of these people could not get job in these factories. Factories are set up in Satna on the lands acquired from the people but the residents of the area are not provided with jobs whereas outsiders are recruited in these factories and brought over the local workers. Resultantly these people are being denied their wages and job opportunities. I would like to ask the hon. Minister what sort of justice is being done to them? Neither they get wages, nor the employment nor justice and their lives continue to fall a victim to the atrocities. No action was taken against the industrial magnets even after the enactment of laws and the officers of the State Government also kept mum over it and could do nothing in this regard. There is no use of passing a bill if injustice is not done away with. What is the purpose of passing such a bill?

Similarly I would like to speak about Seahor. You have made a mention of the water pollution. There is a sugar factory at Seahor, which discharges its entire effluents into the only river of drinkable water in this area. I have been raising my voice against it for the last many years. Our hon. Minister had also visited that place. I would appeal to the Government to take stringent action against that sugar factory.

After this, I would like to speak something about Chitrakoot. It is a place where Lord Rama had passed eleven and a half years of his exile but it is the hard luck of this place and of its people that despite its worldwide religious and historical importance, it has seen no development to this day. It is a bone of contention between Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. We all know that customs comes under our jurisdiction and on the other hand, Madhya Pradesh Government claims that it comes under her jurisdiction. I submitted

a proposal to the Government to constitute a special development authority for development of Chitrakut and its entire area and provide funds for it. This is the area where the big capitalists have purchased lands in the hilly areas and are misusing them. No attention is being paid by anyone to check the river Mandagni being polluted. I would like your Ministry to accord a special status to Chitrakut and pay special attention to it. Special attention should be paid to Chitrakut by your Ministry and funds should be provided for it so that Chitrakut may become one of the best places in India and every kind of pollution may be eradicated there.

I hope you would consider my submission. With these words I conclude.

[English]

SHRI Y.S. MAHAJAN (Jalgaon) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Directive Principles of State Policy enshrined in the Constitution impose an obligation on the State to protect and improve environment. Similarly, a corresponding fundamental duty has been imposed on all citizens to improve the environment.

Powers to legislate for environment purposes are included in all the three lists contained in the Constitution. The Central as well as the State Governments can legislate for this purpose. The present Bill to amend the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act of 1974 has been brought forward under Section 252 of the Constitution of India. It applies to certain States as soon as it is passed, and it will be made applicable to other States as and when they pass resolutions or laws in their legislatures.

Sir, it is not possible to exaggerate the seriousness of the problem of water pollution. The rapid march of industrialisation and urbanisation has been the main cause of polluting our river streams and wells. There has been nothing short of criminal negligence on the part of the municipalities and industrialists in this matter.

[Shri Y S. Mahajan]

Big industries release into the river streams large quantities of chemicals, untreated water and hazardous materials. Ganga, Yamuna, Krishna, Caveri, Godavari, Hoogly, Tungbadhia and Tapti are all witness to this tragedy.

The small scale industry also has contributed its mite to the pollution of rivers. For instance in 1983 in the State of Rajasthan several installed tubewells and pumps near the industrial area in Jodhpur discharged colour water. This was due to the textile printing and dyeing units in Rajasthan. The Rajasthan Assembly was rocked with noisy scenes. Nearly 1500 small scale units of this kind discharged into the river beds 1500 million litres of effluents every day.

Sir, this sort of pollution causes various types of diseases such as cancer and gastroenteritis. It has ruined nearly 10,000 acres of land. It is reported that these industries which have a turn over of 400 crores have still not taken any step to check the effluent flow into the rivers.

I now come to the other part of India, the Tamil Nadu. The North Arcot district is the best example of how industry can ruin the environment. Untreated effluent from about 215 tanneries, most of them from the towns of Ambur and Ranipet have turned the area into a wasteland. Water is undrinkable and even animals refuse to graze in these areas.

Sir, you will find the same thing in some parts of the Kerala. The Coir industry of Kerala is another such example. Domestic sewage is responsible for 90 per cent of water pollution that takes place in this country. According to a study carried out by the Central Board for Prevention and Control of Water Pollution, about 142 class 1 cities with population of one lakh and above generate over 1000 million litres of sewage every day. Most of this waste is dumped into river course, rendering the natural waters downstream unfit for drinking. In some cases, these waters are found unfit even for bathing purposes. Let me give or yet another instance and show how serious this problem is. I happened

to be in America some years ago. University students wanted to have a Swimming competition in the Hudson river there. The authorities warned that the river was polluted. Still, the boys bathed in the river and four of them died. Perhaps the same would have been the situation in our Ganga also, but for the preventive measures taken by the Central Ganga Authority to purify its polluted waters,

Sir, water pollution is responsible for the outbreak of cholera and gastro-enteritis in Delhi which has taken such a heavy toll in the last month.

Sir, the provisions of this Bill have been explained in detail by the hon. Minister. The provisions give the Pollution Control Boards more powers than before. Apart from changes in nomenclature, as per the main amendment, the Central Board will have the right to carry out the functions of the State Boards in the directives given to them are not obeyed by them and the cost incurred will be recovered as revenue. The Bill makes it obligatory on the part of a person to obtain the consent of the relevant Board before establishing or taking any steps to establish any industry, operation or process which is likely to cause pollution of water.

Another important provision is in extreme cases of violation, the Board can even direct closure of the offending unit and even stop the supply of water and electricity to that industry. This is a very important and effective provision.

Yet another important provision in the Bill makes the penalty for breach of its provisions stricter and harsher than before.

Sir, this Bill is very good and nobody can quarrel over it. But the real question is whether it will be implemented properly and effectively. Similar provisions, sufficiently strong, did exist even before this amendment was brought forward. But the Pollution Control Boards have not shown enough determination to check the evil practice of letting loose millions of litres of sewage and harmful effluents into our river systems. 75 per cent of the pollution in Ganga stems from untreated domestic waste



and sewage discharged by riverside municipalities like Kanpur, Allahabad, Varanasi and Patna. The question is whether the Pollution Control Boards will be strong enough to take action against these municipalities. According to one study, Calcutta is the worst offender in terms of individual cities. It lets into Ganga about 580 million litres of raw sewage every day. According to the latest report of the Central Ganga Authority, out of 27 major industrial units which have not taken adequate steps as per the directives of the Pollution Control Board, 13 are the Central Government undertakings. These have not taken any measures in this direction. Thus, the Central Government is also responsible for the pollution of river sources.

Water supply in our country is extensively polluted. It is borne out by the fact that nearly 80 per cent of our people have to drink contaminated water which is the carrier of most of the diseases.

This problem cannot be dealt with effectively unless we are able to generate public consciousness against this; unless we are able to prepare action groups; and unless we are ready to help voluntary agencies which can take the responsibility of undertaking this work in their area. In this regard, I have heard that there are a number of voluntary agencies but they do not get any encouragement from the Central Government in the form of financial help.

I suggest that they should be financed to carry out this important work. Unless this is done, this serious problem of letting city sewage water into the rivers will not be controlled or checked.

With these words, I support the Bill.

PROF N G. RANGA (Guntur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are all in favour of this Bill. We owe a debt of gratitude to Indiraji for having taken initiative in her speech at Stockholm pleading for a clean mother earth and warning people against pollution. We are also glad to our friend Mr. Sinhji, who was the first Environment Minister, for evincing a very great interest in educating and enlightening our own Members of Parliament, through a special Committee which he has been guiding all this time.

There is air pollution. There is water pollution. But we should see that they do not obstruct rapid economic and social and more so industrial development of our country which we are very keen about. We had factory inspectors. We know quite a number of them fell a prey to the allurements offered by big industrialists. Instead of helping factories to develop in more and more places and on right lines, they had proved to be an obstruction. We do not want the administration of this Environment Minister to be an obstruction—to grow as bad an obstruction as factory inspectors had been. There is need to have a monitoring agency to see that these departmental officers themselves do not misuse their powers. We want more and more industries. We want motor transport. We want Inland Waterways. We want Airways also. How to protect the environment? How to prevent pollution? For preventing pollution, you need officers. These officers are likely to become obstructive and also amenable to temptations. There must be a continuous agency in order to see that these people do not stand in the way of genuine all round social progress. Today what is happening? Only today from Andhra Pradesh, we have had a delegation saying that the Centre is standing in the way of so many of their projects being sanctioned by the Centre because of these environmental objections—objections on account of forests, objections on account of pollution and so on. Similar objections or complaints also would be coming from various States. Too much of time is being taken by the Environment Ministry here in giving their final sanction. Therefore, there must be a time limit for various kinds of pollutions within which the Ministry and their Department and Officers should be charged with the responsibility of saying yes or no—the final answer. Otherwise the delaying obstruction will go on. Papers being sent from one Ministry to another, dilly-dallying and delaying in the end, with the result that the industrial development in various States is likely to be delayed, if not obstructed and prevented. Sufficient care has got to be taken in this direction. It is easy to say that village panchayats and other local organizations should be given the right to go on raising their objections. My friend Mr Qureshi has raised several objections,

[Prof. N.G. Ranga]

He was genuine ; he was right in raising these objections. But are they correct objections ? Who has to examine them ; and then, within what time has a decision to be given ? These are questions that have got to be discussed, they have got to be settled very carefully by the Ministry. If we leave it to the local bodies, the local bodies as you all know suffer from their own political troubles. There is every likelihood of a lot of injustice being done to one party or the other. But at the same time, their cooperation is also needed. Their vigilance is also needed. So, in cooperation with the local organizations, decisions will have to be taken by the authorities. If at any time there is difference of opinion between the representative organizations in the local areas and the officers, there should be something like a Lok *adalat* or whatever it is. There should be another authority to decide finally. Otherwise, injustice is likely to be done ; or corruption is likely to creep in. In these directions, care will have to be taken. We must remember one thing : this country is not yet ready to assure the people of pure water, unpolluted water, not to speak of unpolluted air. Then again, for most of the washing purposes in rural areas, people depend upon the local canals, local streams ; and then for drinking water also, in addition to washing their cattle and appeasing their thirst, we are not able to make any arrangements. Until and unless we make arrangements for all these things, there should not be any kind of an obstruction from the point of view of environment. These local needs also will have to be taken into consideration, and something or the other has got to be done ; not in isolation but in harmony with other activities, that we develop in order to ensure that pollution is minimized, if not eliminated.

My hon. friend Mr Qureshi has drawn our attention to the local activities, in regard to pollution. Just closeby Gandhi Darshan, there is a factory. It goes on emitting any quantity of smoke. At one time, Indira Ji said that directions had been given in order to see that the smoke itself was treated in such a way that it would not be a danger to life. I do not

know whether that scheme has been perfected, has been implemented, and with what success. Efforts have to be made in order to see, insofar as these factories which are already functioning in various cities and other areas that the quantity of smoke that they emit and the harm that is being done now to environment is minimized, if not eliminated, by insisting upon necessary remedial measures to be taken by the management.

I do not know whether any effort is being made ; if so, by whom. My final point is : who is going to implement this ? The State Government, I suppose, in most cases ; but in the case of these great rivers like Ganga Ji, Yamuna Ji and so on, like Krishna, Godavari, Kaveri, Narmada Mahanadi and all these rivers, I would like the Centre itself to take the primary responsibility, in order to see that they are kept as clean as possible. But in regard to various other water resources it is the States whose help has got to be invoked whose cooperation has got to be sought. And, therefore, there is need for perfect cooperation, or maximum possible cooperation between the Centre and the State Governments and the State Governments should not be given the negative power of preventing either industrial development or social protection.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Harihar Soren.

17.00 hrs.

[*Translation*]

\* SHRI HARIHAR SOREN (Keonjhar): Mr Chairman Sir, I rise to speak a few words on the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Bill, 1988. The water pollution is posing a serious problem in the country. Some Hon. Members have spoken on this Bill. I don't wish to repeat those points. The pollution control boards were set up at the Centre as well as at the State level. The Central pollution control board looks after the pollution control activities in the various Union

\* Translation of the Speech Originally delivered in Oriya.

territories. Pollution Control measures were being undertaken through Central and State pollution control board. But the Central and State pollution control boards failed to take necessary steps to control water pollution. Therefore water pollution has posed a serious threat to our society. It has become our National problem now. We have to tackle this problem very carefully. However, I thank the Hon. Minister for taking a series of measures in this direction. The water pollution control bill was passed in the House in 1974. But it was not effective. So in 1978 the then government amended the Water (Prevention and Control of pollution) Act, 1974 to remove certain practical difficulties that were faced in the implementation stage. But it is regrettable that the Act of 1978 also could not produce good result. Because there are certain lacunae in that Act. Therefore, the government felt the need to bring a new amendment Bill before the House. Some very good provisions have been made in this Bill. I don't want to say any thing on those provisions. I hope the Bill go a long way in controlling water pollution. But it is always found that a group of people particularly the Industrialist don't adopt the measures to control pollution. They are rich people. They have links in government offices. They influence the government officials. So I request the government to be very cautious and see that the action is taken against those people so that the aim of the government to control pollution becomes a great success. Sir, the government is giving priority to solve the unemployment problem in the country. Therefore a large number of Industries are being set up to provide employment to the unemployed. But it is regrettable that the Industries are causing water pollution and thereby causing harm to the society. So, we have to create awareness among the people, so that they can raise their voice against the Industrialist, the factory owners who are responsible for polluting the rivers. Therefore, I would like to request the Minister to see that action is taken against the Industrialist causing pollution. He has to see that Act is effectively implemented. At the same time he should utilize the media to help the people on this regard. The voluntary organisations should be encouraged to help

the people so that they can fight against this social evil.

As you know Sir, water pollution is not a problem of a particular State. Almost all the major rivers in the country are getting increasingly polluted. The pollution control boards have studied river basins of Ganga, Yamuna and some other rivers and found that they are polluted. Unfortunately Ganga is the most polluted river in the world. It is heartening to note that Ganga development authority has been set up under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi. The State Chief Ministers are involved in the implementation of the pollution control programme. I hope the programme will be a great success.

Sir, like Ganga, Yamuna river is also getting polluted. Industries discharge chemical effluents etc. to this river. That is the main reason of the pollution of Yamuna. Then I would like to say a word about my State Orissa. Mahanadi is the largest river in that State. A study undertaken by Sambalpur University opines that river Mahanadi is polluted due to the Paper Plants set up at Brajraj nagar and Chauduar in Orissa. Besides, some Industries set up in Madhya Pradesh are causing pollution to the Mahanadi water. According to the study Mahanadi water is now very much contaminated and not fit for human consumption. Besides Mahanadi, Brahmani, Baiterani, Subarnarekha and some other rivers are getting increasingly polluted day by day. The Municipalities and Industries located on the bank of these rivers are causing pollution. As you know Sir, Orissa is a poor State. Potable drinking water facility has not been provided in the Entire state. Therefore people depend on these rivers for drinking water, for taking bath and also for irrigation purpose. The washermen wash clothes and the people bath their cattle and other animals in these rivers. Therefore the water pollution of these rivers cannot be checked unless the people are aware of the adverse effect of using polluted water. It is very necessary to adopt scientific ways and measures to check water pollution. At the same time, we have to see the present trend of our society. The people are leaving the villages and coming to towns

[Shri Harihar Soren]

and cities in the hope of getting some job or the other. Once they get the job they settle down in the cities. In the process the population of the towns and cities is increasing every day. With the increase in the population the accumulation of Municipal waste is also increasing. We have to take necessary steps so that the Municipalities do not cause pollution and the effluents are not left into the nearby rivers. But in this Context, I would like to say that the Industries and Municipalities should be adequately financed so that they can take up adequate water pollution control measures. The control and prevention of water pollution requires not only channelising the flow of city sullage and water waste into a sewage system but also the installation of treatment plant and their maintenance involving substantial capital investment and recurring costs. The local bodies cannot finance these work without support and financial assistance from the Union and the State Governments. Therefore, I request the Centre to do the needful in this regard. Sir, I was listening to the speech made by the Hon. Member Shri Digvijay Singh. He urge upon the government to provide necessary financial support to the Municipality. I support his argument which he made in this regard. If some individual, factory owner or Municipal authorities do not take adequate steps in controlling water pollution despite getting assistance from the government, they should be awarded with stringent punishments. At the same time I request the government to see that the law enforcing agencies implement the prevention and control of water pollution Act effectively.

17.10 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Sir, the Hon. Minister is now aware that some State pollution control boards are not taking any action against the Industries causing pollution. If the State pollution control boards are deliberately not taking action against such industries the Central Pollution Control Board or the newly named Centre State Pollution Control Board should take action against those industries. The government or the

Central Pollution Control Board is going to be empowered to take action against such industries. Sir, I thank the government for bringing such timely bill in this House. But while implementing the Act government should see the condition prevailing in our society. The government should study the attitude of the people whether they have any idea about the Act made by the government for them. How far they are able to observe the provisions made in the Act. All these aspects should be looked into before enforcing water pollution law. Lastly, I would like to say a word about the people living in the villages. They use the water of the ponds or the rivers. They use the water for different purposes as they do not have any other facility in their localities. So they should be provided with basic amenities like toilets etc. so that they do not pollute the river and pond water. This thing should also be taking into consideration before implementing the prevention and control of water pollution Act. I am saying this because 90% of the total population is living in the villages. Therefore their difficulties should also be removed. While cleaning the major rivers in the country steps should also be taken to clean the ponds in the villages.

Sir, we have given a lot of power to the Central Government to deal with the Industries causing air pollution. The Hon. Minister is not giving environmental clearance to the State Government or the private sector units who are not making adequate air pollution control provisions. In the case of public sector or the private sector units who are causing water pollution should, also be punished. I hope the hon'ble Minister will not adopt a liberal attitude towards such units.

With these words I support the Bill.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Bill, 1988, which has been introduced in the House. The most important amendment is that if the state Board does not fulfil its duties and does not follow the directions of the Central Board, then the latter has a right to perform the duties of the former and solve the problem of water pollution.

Secondly, the provision made in this Bill regarding severe punishment is a very good provision. Besides, there is also a provision in it that if someone wants to establish an industry, then he has to take the permission of the Central or the State Boards.

It is a matter of happiness that water pollution has invited the attention of the whole world. Late hon. Prime Minister also took keen interest in it and on her initiative a separate new Department was created to look after this problem. When this department was constituted at the Centre, the states also set up similar department. The Environment Department is functioning in Rajasthan also and a Board has also been set up in this connection. It has benefitted us a great deal.

Now I would like to discuss about problems of my own constituency. Balotra, Jodhpur and Pali are the areas adjacent to my constituency. The problem of pollution is ever prevalent there. Our hon. Minister had toured the Pali area and had seen the treatment plants also. The extent to which the benefit should have been received by our industrialists with these treatment plants has not been accrued to them. Besides, the work of water purification has also not been done.

The Central Government and the Rajasthan Government have not yet decided as to the kind of treatment plant which will be most suitable to check pollution due to dyeing and printing industries in Barmer, Jodhpur and Pali. In this connection the Rajasthan Government and the Central Government should issue clear cut instructions to the industrialists as to which kind of treatment plants can prevent pollution 3-4 industrialists in my constituency have jointly set up a treatment plant but its impact has been only to the extent that only 70 per cent pollution has been reduced by installing caustic plants and the rest of 30 per cent pollution still remains. I want that cent percent pollution may be prevented. In this connection, you should make every effort and give suggestions to the small-scale industrialists. It would be better if the Central Government, the Rajasthan

Government and the industrialists together contribute and help in preventing pollution by setting up treatment plants. Central Government should take whole hearted interest in this.

Just now, one of my friends was making submission about Balotra and Jodhpur region. In fact, those areas have been badly hit. The agriculture land have lost fertility due to the polluted water having entered there. Even the water in those areas has turned so brackish that it is injurious to health. The same is the case with Pali and Balotra too and serious damage has been done in the rural areas. Therefore, it is essential that the Central Government should take up this issue because our area has earned bad name in this regard. Even the newspapers are giving wide publicity to this issue. So concrete steps are required to be taken in this regard. Even the industrialists want to stop this pollution. The provisions which have been made in this connection are quite stringent and in fact they should be so, but you should penalise the guilty by adopting these strict provisions. However, before resorting punitive measures against them, we should give them proper suggestions and extend co-operation so that they may run their small-scale and cottage industries pollution free. Now the problem of air-pollution besides water pollution has arisen in the big cities. Ahmedabad has a lot of factories and during my visit there I found that the atmosphere there is so polluted that one's whole body and clothes get spoiled by the ashes within a day. The implication is that the atmosphere is polluted. In this regard all the factories—which have already been established and those which will be established in future will have to take permission but before that you need to consider the problem of the factories already established and which pollute the atmosphere and air. If this problem is not considered, then it will get even more severe. It is all right that now factories and industries likely to be set up in future will have to obtain permission from state Board but you need to take concrete steps in regard to the old factories which create air pollution etc. You are taking steps in regard to the rivers. Our late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi had also taken a step for river



[Shri Virdhi Chander Jain]

Ganga. A demand is being raised for river Godawari too as has been by Shri Ranga, I can also make similar demands about other rivers such as Yamuna etc. The implication, therefore, is that there is a heavy demand but it is quite essential to see as to how the Central Government arranges for so much of funds. You will have to arrange for funds. You will have to arrange for the funds and give priority to it.

Besides, Shri Ranga also talked about environment. It is also essential to see that this may not become a hinderance in setting up new industries. The disposal of file should not be delayed, it should be prompt. Today the file of Mineral Department is sent to the Department of Environment and the file of Commerce Department also goes to the Department of Environment for its clearance. My submission is that you should arrange for the quick disposal of those files without any delay and not let any situation of hinderance be created. From my point of view, you should also take keen interest in your Department of Environment. You should make a quick disposal of all the files which come to you. May I know from you the data with regard to files of different Department cleared by the Department of Environment for the last three years, This will show as to how your department is functioning.

With these words I support the Bill which has been introduced.

[English]

SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL (Erandol) :  
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the amendments to Water Pollution Control Act. It is well known that, with the industries in the country and with more urbanisation and the migration of population to the cities, the water pollution is increasing. It is not only a problem for a developing country like ours. Even in developed countries like Germany, water pollution is very severe. It is said that if you drink half-a-spoon of water from the river Danube, you will get several diseases

which are transmitted through water. It is a very serious problem which needs prompt attention all over the world especially in certain areas where there is a cluster of chemical and paper and other kinds of industries and distilleries which are discharging harmful chemicals in thousands of litres every day all over the country. This Bill seeks to bring in its fold the States of Himachal Pradesh, Tripura and Manipur. Various State Governments are taking strong measures for controlling the pollution but they are not enough. An hon. Member has mentioned that the main cause of pollution of water is because of the discharge of municipal drains. Many municipalities in this country do not have sufficient Budget to treat these effluents, discharges coming out of the city's lanes and industrial areas. It is different with cities like Delhi where we have very huge sewage treatment plants in different areas. We have started to control the pollution in Ganga. But what about the other rivers in the country? What about the other States? Take for example, the State of Maharashtra. A large number of industries, especially chemical industries are there. I would like to give the example of my Constituency. We have got paper mills by name Panchsheel. It is emitting lot of harmful chemicals in river Tapti. Many times the local MLA complained to the concerned Government authorities but it is not much helpful and, that is why, I would like to thank the hon. Minister. The Central Government have now empowered the individual to go to the court to lodge a complaint after giving 60 days notice to the Board or to the officers authorised in this behalf. This will help the local people in that area to get justice against these culprits. These industrialists say that the electric supply was not there for regularly treating the chemical effluents. Many times the water samples which are taken from nearby river and lakes are to be sent for checking at a distance of 200 or 300 Kms. where a laboratory is situated. The laboratory is generally situated in big towns. Here also, I would like to urge upon the hon. Minister of Environment and Forests to see that we have some mobile vehicles and flying squads which would visit such industrial clusters and make surprise checks. They should take water samples and find out the harmful



chemical contents discharged from these industries and give them salutary punishment then and there. Only then, there will be some control. So also, for treating the sewage water or harmful chemical contents that are coming out of these industries, we should encourage the use of windmills and solar energy so that they can get electricity 24 hours in a day. They would be helpful. Then, there will not be any excuse saying that electricity is not being supplied for 6 hours or 10 hours etc. in different States. We can consider this in Tripura, Himachal Pradesh and Manipur and especially in the hilly areas. We can ask the industrialists to have windmills along with their other machinery for the production of their products. If once these windmills are established then they will run 24 hours and treat the discharge of the industries.

Further, the industries are of different capacities. If a paper industry is of 30 tonnes capacity, then the amount on percentage of harmful chemical contents discharged is more. If it is of 90 tonnes capacity, then the amount of harmful contents discharged is of lesser percentage. Therefore, for such industries, we should now think of giving more capacity rather than starting small industries... (Interruptions). In this connection, I am glad to note that the Government is making provision for raising money through the issue of bonds.

Lastly, I would like to make one important point. A time has now come for us to reconsider our religious sentiments also. What is happening is that dead human bodies are thrown into the river. In this case also, we have to teach the people either to burn the dead bodies or adopt some other methods for disposal of the dead bodies. By doing this, the pollution in the rivers can be reduced.

With these words, I thank you for giving me time. I support the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, we are taking the next item—Half-an-Hour Discussion. Shri Saifuddin Chowdhary to speak...

Since he is not present in the House, we now proceed with the existing Bill.

Shri Shantaram Naik.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Panaji) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I stand here to support the Bill moved by the hon. Minister of Environment and Forests. In fact, I would have liked if the three Bills relating to Water Pollution, Air Pollution and the general Environmental pollution had been consolidated into one legislation. Sometimes, when we find some lacuna in the Air Pollution Act, we bring an amendment. When we find some lacuna in the Water Pollution Act, and some provisions which are detrimental, then we bring a separate amendment to that Act. At the same time, we have a general legislation on environmental pollution. At this stage, no programmes as such are created. Why not have a consolidated legislation for the entire environment in which specific chapters on water pollution, air pollution are included so that at one given place, we have a consolidated legislation on environment.

The other aspect I would like to stress here is this. We have now the Ganga Cleaning Project with the respect to which our hon. Prime Minister has taken special interest. I had the occasion to go to the entire area of the Ganga Project. I have verified myself each and every aspect relating to the Ganga Project and how our Secretaries, officials are working to make it a success. At the same time, here I have to stress that industries which are situated in these areas, they are not doing their job of controlling pollution or controlling their effluent. Therefore, it is my respectful submission that the Government should not take up the responsibility of the industrialists to control pollution created by the industrialists, because the Government should make the industrial units responsible to look after their effluent plants. And the public money should not be wasted in controlling the pollution created by these industrialists. This amount which is spent on the Ganga Project should be exclusively spent for the purpose of clearing the city effluents and other effluents which flow in the Ganga River. This aspect has to be considered.

[Shri Shantaram Naik]

Secondly, although the Hon. Minister has stated that several notices have been given under this Act asking them to close down their units, yet, I do not know whether any substantial number of industrial units have been closed down or not. The industrial units which are sick and which would not have otherwise gone for production, have closed down. But industries which are active and would like to continue, such industries have in one way or the other avoided notices under this Act. Therefore, I would humbly submit that without falling into the pressure tactics of these industrial units, notices to close down these industrial units which do not follow the norms laid down by the Act, should be taken vigorously. No doubt, they should be given reasonable opportunity to reply to the notices. After which, if they refuse to comply with the notice of the Government, Government should take steps to close down these units.

Another aspect which should be seen is that there may be certain units which desire that such steps for controlling pollution should be taken. But, in fact, they are not able to take up this because of financial reasons. In such cases policy of the Government has to be laid down and if the Government can pump funds into these industrial units, it should pump in. But if the Government cannot, then these units should be told straightaway. There are, to my knowledge, such units which really cannot. So, the Government has to decide whether these industrial units should continue to function as it is or should be closed down. Here, more than a legislation, some sort of background policy is required.

Another very good aspect of this legislation is that a private complainant can approach court of law complaining about the pollution. This sort of provision has been included in several legislations in the last two-three years. This is a welcome sign, because certain inspectors who are normally entrusted with such legislation they cooperate with the complainants. If you file a complaint with them, they sometimes

go hand in glove with the industrial units and do not file the complaints. Through this legislation, it is the right of the citizen to go straightaway and approach the courts. No doubt, a citizen may not practically go. But some associations which look after these environmental aspects, they can directly go to the court. Therefore, this provision will help those people who in the interest of society would like to go to the court to protect the environmental aspect.

Lastly I would submit that in all cases where prosecution have been launched with respect to environment it should be seen that prosecution machinery effectively deals with these cases. These are technical matters and if there are any loopholes the court may ultimately dismiss the case on technical grounds. If need be we may give special training with regard to environment to the prosecutors so that they may take up these cases effectively.

SHRI JAGANNATH PATNAIK (Kalahandi): Sir, I rise to support the Bill. With the increased tempo of industrialisation need had been felt for such a Central legislation to prevent and control pollution of water. The single biggest problem facing us today is how to keep water clean and how to clean the polluted water. For this many scientific methods have been devised but I want to urge upon the scientists to find out cheaper ways to extract other contaminants in the water because to purify water and to clear it from contamination are two sides of the same coin.

Further what we are observing is that the Central Government rural water supply scheme are supplying drinking water which is unfit for human consumption. This is on account of purchase of sub-standard raw material, faulty planning, pilferage and wastage which have jeopardised the entire rural drinking water supply schemes. The recent greatest human tragedy in Delhi is on account of sub-standard raw material and pilferage and many people died on account of water-borne diseases. Further on account of deforestation the ground water level is going below and there is no recharge of water. If this trend continues it will add to our problems. So necessary

measures which we are going to take in the case of environment should be implemented here also. Although I feel industrialisation and irrigation are equally important yet their development should not be at the cost of environment and water pollution. The greatest challenge that the future generation is going to face is that of environment and clear drinking water. No doubt irrigation and industrial growth are important but environment and clean drinking water is the supreme. For the sake of irrigation and industry we cannot play with the fate of our future generations. Therefore, water pollution schemes should be implemented very strictly. If anybody wants to take political advantage, as he has been done by the hon. members opposite today, we should not bother because it is the greatest challenge that the future mankind is going to face. At the same time, we should see that there is no unnecessary red tapism in respect of irrigation and power projects. I find a very good provision has been made to the Bill. viz.

"It is a proposed to make it obligatory on the part of a person to obtain the consent of the relevant Board for establishing or taking any steps to establish any industry operation or process which is likely to cause pollution of water and also to empower the Boards to limit their consents for suitable periods so as to enable them to monitor observance of the prescribed conditions."

This is a good provision. Many members have pointed that industrialists are becoming careless and they should be brought under the law and strict implementation ensured. Another thing which is most important is to create public awareness.

Without public awareness and mass education, all this despite our legislation, will not be implemented. There is a provision :

"(v) in order to elicit public cooperation, it is proposed that any person should be able to complain to the court regarding violations of the provisions of the Act after giving a notice of sixty days to the concerned Board or the officer authorised in this behalf,"

By this, public awareness and public cooperation will definitely be there.

Lastly, I want to thank the Minister for bringing forward this Bill. Any strict measures for the sake of getting water and clean environment should be welcome.

SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI (Kangra) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I welcome the Bill which has been brought forward by our hon. Minister to prevent pollution of water. In this Bill, most of the aspects which have been taken into consideration, are relating to industries and to see that waste matter of the industries does not pollute the water. I would like to point out that pollution is not caused only from industries. In the hilly areas, we have the problem of soil erosion. The soil erosion also causes much pollution in the major river which flow down to the plains. But people in the Parliament tend to forget about the hilly areas and just think about the industrial areas which are heavily populated.

I would like to highlight that after heavy rains, the soil gets eroded and it goes into the major rivers making the water very dirty. It causes illness and infection. I would request the Central Government that they should take special interest in preventing the soil erosion. I feel that I should bring to the notice of the Government through you Sir, that the soil erosion work is presently being looked after by three departments, namely, the Irrigation Department, the Forest Department and the Department of Agriculture. Now I feel that soil erosion work should be given entirely to the Forest Department and the Environment Department. Then, they can see that soil erosion does not damage our drinking water resources. I request that especially in the mountainous areas, they should make small check-dams and construct retaining walls wherever the erosion takes place. Due to the soil erosion a lot of waste matter comes into water which causes much infection.

I would also like to bring to the notice of the Minister that in Himachal Pradesh, we do not have many industries. But we have lot of mining of slate and limestone

[Shrimati Chandresh Kumari]

which causes enormous problems to the people in the areas like Solan, Simla Kangra. This should be treated as an industry. It is also damaging the water sources. It not only pollutes the water but also the environments. The provisions, which have been mentioned in the Bill, should also be applicable to mining of slate and limestone.

There is another problem being faced in Himachal Pradesh. The waste materials like infected bandages and cotton-wool used in the hospitals, and just dumped on the roadsides. Due to rains, these get washed away into the drinking water system causing further infection. I have heard that in the recent instances, which took place here the cholera infected disposable syringes were thrown away. They get washed into the water and caused further infection. There should also be a check on the hospitals so that they dispose of the waste matter in a proper manner. Thus, it would not cause further infection.

I would now come to the negligence of the NDMC. The NDMC people are also not doing their duties properly. You must have seen for yourself Sir, that all the garbage that we throw away sometime lies for weeks together before it is taken away. This garbage further goes down in our drinking water system and create health problems. Even in big cities, sometimes sewage is discharged into the river at such a place that it goes and contaminates the drinking water system which is below that point. That means that the drinking water system is downstream and the sewage is discharged into the river upstream and the contaminants drinking water. All these things need to be taken care of.

As I said, while the industrial waste material is being taken care of and certain amount of work has been done, but as it has been rightly pointed out by many of the hon Members here, it is not being properly implemented. There is laxity and people are not enforcing the law on the industries. Here, I would like to say that the industries have an important place; after all, they are creating employment for our unemployed people and they should

not be discouraged from coming up. But we should also see to it that the people who are putting up industries do not disregard the requirements in this regard and they should not be allowed to contaminate water and pollute air so that our living is endangered.

Here, I would like to suggest that as we are having disposal plants for industrial waste material, similarly, the smaller industrial units should be given good subsidy for putting up disposal plants in their units. This should be done specially for the small industries, which are being put by the unemployed youths etc.

Once again, I would like to remind the hon. Minister the Himachal Pradesh has the soil erosion problem which contaminate the water and causes epidemics. This should be looked after in a scientific manner.

Further, very often, while putting up any drinking water systems, we do not take precautions of seeing that water is properly covered and channelised properly. For example, in Palampur, water is taken in open channels and given to villages in Sulah constituency. All that water is contaminated by the dirty linens which are washed there and that causes infection.

With these words I thank you for giving me this opportunity to participate on this discussion.

[*Translation*]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL (Chandni Chowk): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support this Bill but at the same time I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the difficulties connected with it. For instance, take Yamuna river in Delhi. The condition of Yamuna river in Delhi is very bad. You are aware that religious sentiments of the people are attached with Yamuna river. It has been an old custom with the people of Delhi to take bath in it. They even used to take its water as 'Charanamrit', but today the things are no longer the same. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to make

available more funds to the Delhi Administration so that the Yamuna river could be brought in the same condition as it was in the past. Today MCD has connected all the sewer lines with it as a result of which the entire sewerage of the city falls into Yamuna river which causes pollution and contamination of water. The religious sentiments attached with it have also been hurt thereby and our system of working has also deteriorated in the eyes of public. Therefore, I want you to pay utmost attention to it so that the river could be cleaned up at the earliest. Besides you might have seen that condition of water supply lines in the walled city is very pitiable. Sometimes even sewer lines get connected with water pipes and the same water is used for drinking purposes by thousands of people. Recently you might have seen that only due to this polluted water the epidemic like cholera broke out in some parts of Delhi resulting in about 250 to 300 deaths. I would urge the Government to take measures to check the outbreak of such epidemics.

Besides this, there are a number of garbage dumps in old localities of Delhi which though do not come under water pollution, but they do cause pollution to a great extent, and as a result thereof the people residing in the adjoining areas are in a very troubled state. The employees of M.C.D. have turned a deaf ear to it. In this connection, I had met the hon. Minister and placed these difficulties before him and he had also agreed to call a meeting. I want him to pay attention to it and to take strict measures to check this problem. It becomes very difficult to breathe even if we pass through these localities. The people of both Hindu and Muslim communities live in these localities and all of them are undergoing this trauma. I hope that the Government will also help us in this matter.

There are open nullahs around Delhi with as much as 50 feet breadth. The sewerage of the city is drained into these nullahs. The condition of the people residing in adjoining areas is also very pitiable. It is very difficult for them to live there as the areas are full of pests and insects. A variety of stray cattle roam there freely I

hope the hon. Minister will pay attention to it and will take some strong steps. The Government should exert pressure on Delhi Administration and Delhi Municipal Corporation. In my view, the Board which the Government is going to constitute cannot exercise control over both these bodies because by now these people have attained expertise in shirking responsibility by simply saying that the population of Delhi is increasing day by day. They are unconcerned even at the death of the people.

Fourthly, I want to speak about the increasing number of small factories in Delhi. Every type of person comes in Delhi and starts his business by establishing a small factory. Many of such factories are Acid Factories which pollute the whole adjoining environment. The people residing in neighbouring areas of these factories are fed up with the fume and smoke emitted by these factories. They cannot breathe freely. The same is the condition of water pipes. I would appeal to the Government to pay full attention to the solution of these problems so that the residents of Delhi could get some relief. I welcome this Bill. I have only two main demands to make. Firstly, the pollution of Yamuna river should be checked and garbage dumps of old Delhi should be removed. I have also some grievances regarding the defective water distribution system of Delhi Municipal Corporation. You might have read in the news papers on a number of occasions that carcasses of animals are found in the water treatment plant from where water is supplied to Delhi. Perhaps the Government is aware of the matter and an enquiry into these reports is supposed to be underway. But it is very necessary to check all these things. So far as industries are concerned, I personally feel that it is the staff of Delhi Administration who are to be blamed for it for they hardly pay any attention to the problem and always try to shirk responsibility.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today you too might be feeling very tired because of hard work you had to put in the morning. Therefore, without speaking any further, I express my thanks to you.



[English]

SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH (Inner Manipur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support this Amendment Bill. Sir, I have only a few points to make. One is exactly on the line of Mr. Aggarwal's point that the pollution in Yamuna is affecting the Krishna Complex in Mathura. Mathura no more belongs to U.P. alone. It belongs to the whole world.

18.00 hrs.

In the rainy season the Yamuna water is so badly polluted that it is not at all fit for the drinking purposes. I belong to the State of Manipur. People from the Eastern side, Bengal, Assam and Manipur, come to Mathura to take a bath or at least a mouthful of the sacred water of Yamuna. These people are unaware of the extent of the pollution of the Yamuna water. But they come here to fulfil their spiritual ethos by taking a bath in the sacred water of Yamuna river. In this respect, I would request the hon. Minister for Environment to pay special attention to river Yamuna also in the same way as they are doing for the purification of river Ganga. Yamuna has got a very short course. It joins the Ganga at Allahabad. But before this point also, you have to take some purifying work. If you do not take up any special programme to purify Yamuna, the Krishna Complex is going to be the worst sufferer. There are certain stagnant ponds known as Radha Kund, Shyam Kund and Manasi Ganga. Though these are stagnant ponds, these are as sacred as Yamuna for the Vaishnavas. Thousands of pilgrims on normal days and millions of people on sacred days take bath in these sacred ponds. Therefore, purification of these ponds is absolutely needed. I may mention here that only after about 60 years, the waters of Radha Kund and Shyam Kund were cleaned as a result of which there was some improvement. Similar is the position with regard to Manasi Ganga at Govardhan. This is not merely a problem confined to Mathura. I would like to draw the attention of the Government of India to pay equally special attention to Krishna Complex, Buddha Complex and Rama Complex in Uttar Pradesh.

Krishna Complex in Uttar Pradesh is a very neglected complex. I would again stress my point that River Yamuna and the stagnant Kunds should be purified periodically and regularly in order to keep the waters clean.

Now, I come to my State. The States of Himachal, Manipur and Tripura were mentioned in the Bill and I belong to Manipur. Manipur is a hilly place and there is a valley surrounded by hills on all sides. The topography of this Manipur Valley is such that in this area, floods are quickly followed by drought. There are small rivulets and during the rainy season, these rivulets cause a lot of damage because their currents are very powerful. But soon after the floods, these rivers become stagnant. There are villages on the river banks inhabited by uneducated villagers who do not know anything about hygiene and the dangers of pollution. During the lean season when there are no rains and during the winter, these rivulets become the breeding grounds for mosquitoes and other disease causing pests. Particular care has to be taken to protect the villagers from these problems. These villages comprise some tribal pockets also. People run piggeries, poultrys and some such small industries and they throw all the waste not required by them into these river waters. When the rivers become stagnant, these things cause a lot of pollution. The villagers have to use these river waters only for all their needs because as I said earlier, after the floods, there is water scarcity in the area. Also, this valley is very slopy. I request the hon. Minister to pay special attention to the problems of the Manipur Valley and to give it due protection, by giving all the necessary Central assistance to Manipur along with Himachal and Tripura.

With these few words, I thank you for giving me this opportunity and I also thank the hon. Minister for noting down my points. I hope he will take due care to implement these points.