I41 Hepatitic virus SRAVANA 22, 1896 (SAKA) report in Delhi's 142 filtered water supply (CA)

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

FILTERED WATER SUPPLY IN DELHI REPORTED TO BE CONTAMINATED WITH INFECTIVE HEPATITIS VIKUS

भी नम् (लन्बे (वारा) श्रध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं श्रविलम्बनीय लोक महन्व के निम्नलिखिन विषय की श्रोर स्वास्थ्य श्रोर परिवार नियोजन मत्री का ध्यान दिलाना हे श्रोर प्रार्थना करना है कि बे डम के बारे में एक वक्तव्य दे

"दिल्ली में सप्लाई कियं जाने वाल पेय जल में इन्हेक्टिक हैपटाईटिस के कीटाणुश्रों के पाए जाने के बारे में स्वास्थ्य सेवा सहा. निदेश का प्रित्त वक्तत्व्य और उस स्थिति का सामना करने के लिये सरकार के द्वारा की गई कार्यवाही ।"

स्वाह-य सौर परिवार नियोजन मंत्री (डा॰ कर्ण सिंह) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, दिल्ली में Hepatitis महामारी के फैलने का जो समाचार छपा है, वह सही नहीं है । पिछले वर्षों की तुलना में दिल्ली राज्य में इस रोग की घटनाम्रों में कोई समाधारण वृद्धि नहीं हुई है।

एकः प्रैम सवाददाता ने स्वास्थ्य सेवा
महानिदेशकः से यह जानना चाहा था किः
मौनसून वाले महीनो में पीने के पानी के बारे
में क्या-क्या सावधानिया बरती जानी चाहिये,
इस पर उन्होंने मामान्या, यह सलाह दी थी
कि यद्यपि फिल्ट्रेशन छीर करोरीनेशन से भ्रम्य
जीव तो नक्ट हो जाते है, तथा, पे Hepatitis के

की दाण पानी के उबालने से ही नण्ट हो सकते हैं। पानी को दूपित होने में बचाने के लिए दिल्ली नगर जिगम ने जो-जो उपाय किए हैं उन्होंने वे सब बतलाए और माथ है. साथ कहा कि वजी गवाद में जो बाध बनाया गया है वह भी इन्हों उपायों में में एक है। फिर भी, दिल्ली में विलेपकर अलिक्त बिनयों में उपयोग किये जाने वाले हैंण्ड पम्पों के पानी में जिन से केवल जमीन के अन्दर का बच्चा पानी ही आता है, समय-समय पर दूषण पाया गया है और उमिलए पानी सहोंने वाली जो बीमारिया है उन बाए? कारण यह पानी भी हो सकता है। नगर निशम द्वारा इन बिन्तयों में प्राय पीने के पानी के सार्व जिनव करने तरा दिए गए हैं।

ग्रान्वणोथ ( Gastroenteritis )
सत्रामन विस्म ना पीलिया ( )
तथा इस प्रकार की ग्रन्थ बीमारियों ने फैलने
के सम्भाविष खतरे के नारण दिल्ली मे
इन की घटनाग्रो पर सारे साल नजर रखी जाती
है ग्रीर ग्रम्पताला में माप्ताहिक ग्रानडे
इन्ट्टे किए जाते हैं। हम ने यह देखा है कि
गर्मियों ने महीनों में जब पानी की कमी हो जाती
है ग्रीर मौनसून के महीनों में जब पानी के दूरिन
लोने की मम्माबना ग्राधार रहते हैं ये
बीमारिया कुछ ग्राधिन हो जाती है।

भी मधु भिन्नये : ग्रध्यक्ष महोदय, कुछ दिन पहले 8 ग्रग्सन को हिन्दुस्तान टाइम्स मे यह समाचार छपा था

"Though the authorities are rejuctant to disclose the exact number of infective hepatitis cases in the capital, running into hundreds, or describing the current situation as 'an epidemic' the Director-General of Health Services, Dr. J. B. Shrivastava says that Delhi's water supply is not free from the danger of this disease."

भीर इन्होंने भी अ मी कहा है कि हर सप्ताह हम लोग आकडे इकटठा करते है। दिल्ली मे तकरीबम दस बडे ग्रस्पताल है भीर जो प्राइवेट प्रैक्टिशनर्स है कुल मिला कर हर रोज 40-50 हजार जो मरीज होते है उन की जाच की जाती है तो सब से पहले मेरा मन्नी महोदय से यह सवाल है कि जो प्रति सप्ताह ब्राकडे वे इकट्ठा करते है क्या केवल प्रस्पतालो के बारे में आकड़े है या जो प्राइवेट प्रैक्टिशनसं क्तिन की सख्या लगभग 3 हजार हं उन के पास जो मरीज जाते है उन के बारे में भी क्या जामकारी इकट्ठा करने का प्रयास करते है भीर खास कर के चूकि उन्होंने स्वय कबल किया है कि बरसाती मौमम इस तरह की बीमारिया ज्यादा बढ जाती है तो क्या बे 1 जुन के बाद दिल्ली के बारे वे यह विस्तृत जानकारी देगे कि हर सप्ताह हैपेटाइटिस के भीर जाडिस के कितने श्रस्पतालो मे या प्राइवेट प्रैक्टिशनर्स के पास म्राए है ?

दूसरा मेरा सवाल यह है कि जो सागरीय शहर है, समुद्र के किमारे बसे हुए, उनके जो सीवरेज वगैरह है या इडस्ट्रियल एन्नुएट्स हैं, बे समुद्र में छोड़ दिए जाते हैं इस के नारे में भी इस तरह के नियम दूसरे देशों में है कि जब तक सीवरेज को श्रीर इडस्ट्रियल एक्नुएट्स को ट्रीट नहीं किया जायका उस का गुद्धीकरण नहीं होगा वह समुद्र में नहीं छोड़ना चाहिए क्यों कि इस से मछ लिया वगैरह मर जाती है। लेकिन जहां तक दिल्ली जैसे शहर का सबध है दिल्ली में तो कोई समुद्र नहीं है सारा सीवरेज श्रीर इडस्ट्रियल एक्नुएट्स यहा दो निदयों में छोड़ा जाता है जहां से हमारा पार्ग का सारा सप्लाई श्राता है एक हिन्डन नदी में श्रीर इसरा जम्ना नदी में। तो क्या मंत्री

महोदय हम को इस बारे में नफमील बेंगे कि क्या इस अहर के लिए, यह राजधानी है भारत की कोई कानून या आप का कोई आदेश है कि कोई भी इंडस्ट्रियल एप गुएंट् या सीवरेज बिना उस के शुद्धीकरण के मदियों में मही छोडा जायगा ? इस से आप को एक दूसरा लाभ भी होगा स्वास्थ्य के भ्रलावा कि सीवरेज ट्रीट करने से उस का सुद्धीकरण करने से कुछ नैस भी आप को मिलेगी, उस का प्युएल के तौर पर आप इस्तेमाल कर सकते हैं। इस के बारे में मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हू, मीवरेज भीर इडस्ट्रियल एप गुएट के बारे में।

तीसरी बात म यह जामना चाहता हु कि वैज्ञानिको का यह कहना है कि दिल्ली ग्रौर उस के ग्रास पाम के जो उत्तर पश्चिमी इला के हैं वहा जमीन के नीचे का जो पानी है उस की मनह ऊची उठ गई है भीर साधारण लोग जो हैंड पम्प के द्वारा पानी खीचते है उस में यह जो सब-सोयल वाटर है जिसमे बहत ही द्विन कीटाण रहन है उस के कारण बीमारिया फैल जाती है। तो क्या इस तरह के सब-सोयल बाटर के बार ो काई लेबोरेटरी मे टैस्ट वगैरह किया है ? मै पूरे दिल्ली यनियम टैरिटरी के बारे में बात कर रहा हू, केवल प्रानी दिल्ली की बात नहीं कर रहा है। तो इस के बारे में भी वे सदन को जानकारी दें। दूसरी जो महामारिया है उन के बारे में भी ग्रख गरों ये खबरे भाई है बाढ़ के बाद जो म्रन्य राज्य है जैसे पूर्वी उत्तर प्रदेश बिहार म्रादि इन में जो शढ़ ग्रस्त लोग है उन मे टायफाइड, जाडिस म्रादि-म्रादि बीमारिया फैं र रही है। हालांकि यह नोटिस दिल्ली से ही सम्बन्धित है लेकिन मैं मन्नी महोदय से जानना चाहता हु क्योंकि स्वास्थ्य मतालय का इन राज्यों के बारे में भी, जो बाढ़ग्रस्त हैं, बिहार है, ग्रासाम है, उड़ीसा है, पूर्वी उत्तर प्रदेश है इन के बारे में कोई कर्तव्य है, तो क्या इन के बारे में भी केन्द्र की सरकार की मोर से वे कुछ कर रहे हैं या नहीं?

धािखरी सवाल मेरा यह है कि वाटर सप्लाई एड सीवरेज डिम्पोजल श्रुडटेकिंग जो है उस के काम के बारे में काफी श्रसतोष है। ठीक इंग से यह श्रडरटेकिंग काम नहीं कर रहा है। तो क्या इस की पुनरंचना के बारे में सरकार कोई कार्यवाही कर रही है ? श्रीर कर रही है तो उस का क्या निप्कर्ष है ?

डा० कर्ण सिह ग्रध्यक्ष महोदय, पहली रिपोर्ट थी हैनेटाइटिस ऐपीडेमि ह के विश्यमे उस कातो मैने मूल वक्तव्य मे खण्डम किया है कि कोई ऐसा ऐपिडेमिक मही है भीर नहीं हमारे स्वास्थ्य महा-निदेशक ने कहा कि इस प्रकार का कोई ऐपीडे मिक है। उम से पूछा गया कि क्या करमा चाहिए बरसात में तो उन्हों न कहा कि ठीक है, पानी उबाल मको तो उगल लो। ग्राक्डो का जहा तक प्रश्न है हमारे पाम 6 महीने के ग्राकड़े है जो रा-स्टेटिस्टिक्स है जो ग्रम्पतालों में श्राए है । यह इन्फेक्टिव हैपेटाइटिम कोई न टि-फाइड डिजीज मही है इसलिए कोई यह भावस्यक मही होता है कि इस को नोटिफाइ विया जाय जैसे स्माल पावस धौर श्रन्य डिजीज नोटिफाई किए जाते है। लेकिन हमारे पास जो आकडे है उस से हमें लगता है जैसे गैस्ट्रो एन्टरेटाइटिस, हैपेटप्इटिस, कालरा पैरा टाइफाइड इत्यादि के सब आउडे हमारे पास है इम आकड़ो से हमे यह लगता है, हैपेटाइटिस के ब्राकड़ों में ले लू 1972 में 4620 केसिस हुए है दिल्ली के अन्दर। 1973 में 4981 केसिस हुए है भीर 1974 के छ महीनो में 1633 केसिस हुए। इसलिए कोई ऐसा नही लगता कि इस समय कोई एपेडे मिक है

श्री मधु लिमये: ये ग्रस्पतालों के है या प्राइवेट प्रैक्टिशनजें के भी है ? कितने मरीज होने पर महामारी मानी जाती है ?

इति कर्ग सिंह . प्राईवेट प्रैक्टिशनस के न्नाही हैं लेकिन प्रस्थतालों के वो घाकड़े होते है उम से पता चल जाता है। ग्रगर कहीं कोई बीमारी फैलती है तो ग्रिष्ठकतर लोग ग्रस्पतालों में जाते हैं क्यांकि वहा नि मुल्क सेवा होती है। प्राइवेट प्रैक्टिशमर्स को नो फीस देनी होती है। इसलिए ग्रिश्वकतर इस पना चल जाता है कि क्या ट्रेट है।

उन्हान मीवरज के सम्बन्ध में महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न उठाया। इसके सम्बन्ध में वाटर पोल्यूशन एक्ट फ्रभी गस हुआ है आर दिल्ली ग जो सीवरेज के ट्रीटमेंट के प्लाट है उनकी इस समय 98 एम जी पर डे क्षमता है। इस को बढाने के प्रयन्न किए जा रहे हैं। वन्से हाउसिंग मिनिस्ट्री ने एक मास्टर लान के नहन इस की स्कीम वनाई है।

इसके झलावा वाटर मण्लाई व लिए भी डब्ल्यू एच एम मिनिस्ट्री एन मास्टर प्नान बना रही है। इस मे दा प्रम्म है एक वाटर सप्लाई पर्याप्त होनी चाहिय होर जब वह भीवज बगता है तो उस का दाय दूर करन के लिए सीवरेज ट्रांटमेट की क्षमता होनी चाहिय। दोनो जा क्षेत्र है उसकी क्षोर हम ध्या दे रहे है और इस समय 193 एम जी डी हमारे पास वाटर सप्लाई है। उस का बढान के लिए बहुत । प्रयत्न किये जा रहे हे जिन का ऋधिक विस्तार झगर आप चाहन हना में आप को दे सकता हू।

मब ोयल लेवेल मे अवश्य पानी बढा है और जैंगा मूल वक्तव्य में कहा मब-मायल वाटर बहुत द्षित पाया जा रहा है। इस प्रश्न पर विचार करन की जरूरत है। कि क्या टेबल सब सायल का बढ़ रहा है या पही लेकिम इस का एक ही इलाज है कि हम मई वाटर सप्लाई की क्षमता अपनी बढ़ाए जिसके लिए हैदरपुर विलंज के पाम 100 एम जी पी डी का एक प्लाट हम बना रहे है। एक शाहदरा में लगाने पर विचार किया जा रहा है रेनी-वे स बम रहे है भीर राम गथा की जी कैमाल योजमा है उस के उपर भी विचार हो रहा है। जब ये सज़ बातें हो आयोंनी तब इसमें हम आगे बढ़ सकेंगे।

श्री सटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (ग्वालियर) : वर्षों से विचार हो रहा है।

**डा॰ कर्ण सिंह** जी हा, विचार हो रहा है।

जहातक ग्रन्य राज्यों के सम्बन्ध मे जो प्रश्न पुछा गया है. यद्यपि इस प्रश्न से उस का सम्बन्ध मही है, फिर भी यदि श्राप धाजा दे तो उस का जवाब दे द । हम जानते है कि जहां बाढ़ शाई हुई है वहां वाढ के समय भीर बाढ़ क बाद रोग फैलने की बड़ी सम्भावना होती है। इसके लिये हमने ग्रमम, बैस्ट बगाल, बिहार यु० पी श्रीर करेल मे "हालोजिन टेबलेट्स" भें जी है जिनको पानी में डाल कर पीने से धानी का दोष कुछ हद तक दूर किया जा सकता है। बाद के समाप्त होने के बाद ब्लीचिंग पाउडर की स्रावण्यकता पडेगी. हम 200 टन ब्लीचिंग पाउइर रिक्वी-जीशन कर रहे है ग्रीर ग्रंपनी टीम्ज भी भेज रहे है। यश्वपि इस मामले मे राज्य सरकारो का प्राथमिक दायित्व है. फिर भी हमारा मंत्रालय इस पर नजर रख रहा है भीर जहां तक सम्भव हो सकेगा हम उनकी मदद करेंगे।

SHRI K. MALLANNA (Madhugiri). In a big city like Delhi there are so many causes which lead to all kinds of diseases. They are water pollution, air pollution and adulteration of food. So, we should be very careful regarding the health and sanitation system.

Now, we are concerned with water pollution in Delhi. It is because of mis-management and negligence of water supply and sewarage authority. All sorts of diseases like cholera, malaria, gastro-enteritis, infective hepatitis, etc. now-a-days are increasing. The Times of India published in a news-item that deaths from gastro-enteritis were 730 whereas from in-

fective hepatitis 32 in the year 1973. This shows the water-borne incidents are increasing. Regarding water-borne incidents certain care should be taken. The most important thing at Delhi is inadequate supply of water. The Delhi people get less water than they need. At least 40 gallons are required whereas they get only 25 gallons per head.

There are only five water units working at Delhi. In this connection I would like to know whether these five units are sufficient to supply minimum required water. If not, what steps have been taken.

My second point is regarding water distribution and pollution. In a big city like Delhi pipelines are running into hundred kilometres. There are so many leakages, bursts of pipes, repairs which involve a lot of dust and other contaminated substances which make water get polluted.

The Delhi Corporation had set up so many hand pumps which are another source of pollution. These pumps are not only in authorised colonies but also in unauthorised colonies. The water coming out from the pumps is unsafe and contains all sorts of contamination including the germs of infective hepatitis. There is no control over these pumps.

In this connection, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what steps have been taken by Government to prevent contamination and the spread of water-borne diseases, and whether Government are thinking of setting up mobile water testing laboratories in the city.

Chlorination and filtration are generally used to purify the water. Somelines we find that there is excessive chlorination of water and sometimes there is no chlorination at all. In one of the Rainy wells chlorine is mixed with the water which contains iron. So, as soon as chlorine is mixed with tron, the iron contents

are turned into ferric chloride which is bad for the stomach. So, no proper method is being adopted for purification of water.

The Okhla water plant contains highly contaminated raw water. May I know from the hon. Minister what steps have been taken to rectify the position? May I know also whether the Okhla water plant which possesses highly contaminated raw water was recommended for closure? May I know whether it is a fact that the negatitis virus cannot be eliminated by mere purification techniques, and if so, whether Government have been thinking of some other techniques to eliminate this virus?

MR SPEAKER: According to the rules, the hon. Member can ask only a question; somehow, he should connect his other questions with that one question. Let him try to finish all his questions as part of one question, so that I may also justify it when I ask somebody to stop.

SHRI K. MALLANNA: I shall conclude in a minute. It is often complained that there are no adequate or proper measures like vaccination and inoculation adopted to arrest the spread of diseases.

MR. SPEAKER: I think the hon. Member has not followed what I said. This is not an occasion for making a speach. This is just an occasion for seeking clarifications.

SHRI K. MALLANNA: I shall conclude by putting a question. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what steps have been taken to prevent the spread of water-borne diseases.

KARAN SINGH: The hon. Member has asked about ten questions and I shall try to reply to each one of them.

MR. SPEAKER: He may treat it as one question.

DR. KARAN SINGH: First of all, as regards the causes of diseases, there are multiple causes for diseases, and water-borne diseases are one of our greatest health hazards in this country. As Health Minister, I am keenly aware of the fact that water supply is one of the basic requirements for good health.

At the outset, I would like to make one thing clear. Delhi is very much better off then most States in India. I am not saying that it could not be better. I am simply saying that the water supply for Delhi per day is 48 gallons per head, while in Bombay it 1s 29 gallons, in Calcutta 31.5 gallons and in Madras it is only 17 gallons. So, the first thing that I would like to say is that although there is scope for improvement in Delhi which is the capital city, the situation is not quite as bad as the hon. Member has tried to make out.

Secondly, as regards the pipe-bursts, I think evidently the hon. Member has been relying very heavily on the press report. Pipe-bursts were there, the information that I have received from the WHS Ministry tells me that these pipe-bursts were looked into urgently. They took place between March and October, 1973 and they were plugged.

The hand-pumps are not installed by the Delhi Municipal Corporation. They are installed by the private people who live there. The DMC in fact installs hydrants for drinking water, and we have gone round and see that they have been giving warnings to people that drinking should only be used from these hydrants and not from the handpumps.

Therefore, it is not true that Handhand-pumps are provided. pumps do provide polluted water, as I said in reply to Shri Madhu Limaye. Sub-soil water is heavily polluted.

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Therefore, it should not be drunk without being boiled.

## (Interruptions)

I do not want to cause a panic. The Delhi Municipal Corporation does chlorinate and treat the water supply to Delhi. It is not as if the water is all polluted; that will create an unnecessary scare. As I said, I and my colleagues in the WHS are certainly keen to improve the situation.

With regard to Okhla, it is true that several committees have suggested that the Okhla Plant should be closed down. Unfortunately, until such time as the Ramganga Canal or the Hyderpur project is completed, if we close down the Okhla plant the water supply will drop sharply. In order to make up for that, super chlorination of the Okhla water is being undertaken. That may be responsible for taste that the hon, member the mentioned. So in order to make up for the unsatisfactory situation Okhla, we are going in for special chlorination. But we hope that when the Hyderpur project is completed, which should be within the course of the next two or three years, it should be possible to close down the Okhla plant.

SHRI SEZHIYAN (Kumbakonam): In the first part of the statement of the hon. Minister, there is this sentence:

"There has been no abnormal increase in the incidence of this disease in the Union Territory of Delhi as compared  $t_0$  previous years".

DR. KARAN SINGH: In fact, there is a decrease.

SHRI SEZHIYAN: But the last sentence says:

"It has been our observation that these diseases tend to show an increased incidence during the summer months when there is scarcity of water and also during the monsoon months because of increased chances of water pollution".

DR. KARAN SINGH: That is every year-general.

SHRI SEZHIYAN: That means, during this period when there is scarcity of water or when there is more water, you get this. There is a normal increase. What he is pleading is that there is no abnormal increase in the incidence of this.

It is a well-known fact that these water borne diseases manifest themselves not immediately but in 30-40 days. While I do not want to create a panic, if there is the slightest is it not doubt of contamination. better for them to take immediate steps for survaillance in respect of this disease? It is said that period of May to September is considered to be the crucial period for the three types of diseases, dysentery, typhoid and infective hepatitis. Is it not better for him to take advance and preventive steps if there is even the slightest doubt about contamination, even if there is a recorded normal increase, as he says?

Comparison of the quality of water here with that in western countries is not helpful because what is considered to be safe in western countries will not be safe here. The consumption of water here is more where as in western countries consumption of drinking water is very low, they take to liquor whereas we take to drinking water and we take more of it. What is safe there cannot be safe here. Therefore, will he arrange for a redefinition and to set up our own norms and parameters as to what is safe for human consumption in this country with the expertise available here instead of relying on the standards set in western countries?

He made a comparison of the availability of water here in Delhi with

other cities and said Delhi is better off than many other cities. I will put if the other way. Madras and other cities are worse off than Delhi in regard to the supply of water.

I will make one more suggestion. Instead of using iron pipes for taking drinking water will be consider using plastic pipes which are free from corrosion, which are easy and do not get broken up? In western countries, this has become very popular as a substitute for iron pipes. In Holland, West Germany and other countries, now a days 80 per cent of the pipes is plastic. Will he make a move in this matter which will go a long way to reduce the consumption of iron and also reduce pollution and other things which emanate from the use of iron pipes?

DR. KARAN SINGH: First about the question of increase. I think I have not been able to make myself clear. I was trying to say that in the summer and monsoon months generally there was an increase in this sort of diseases. That is a normal increase every year. About comparative compared to the last year, there has been no abnormal increase this year in fact there is no increase. Figures with regard to other things are not yet available. 1,000 samples are tested every month regularly by the National Institute of Communicable Diseases in my ministry and the CSIR. Apart from the standards laid down by the WHO, the Health Ministry has laid down chemical, physical, bacteriological and biological standards water test. We do not rely upon the norms of the western countries; we have developed our own norms. Finally, the suggestion regarding the plastic pipes, it is interesting. My colleague Shri Om Mehta of the WHO Ministry is here and I am sure he will take cognisance of this.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY (Nazamabad): On account of water borne diseases, the death rate is about 25 per cent. I want to know whether the death rate

has gone up on account of water borne diseases. Is it due to the hand pumps installed in unauthorised colonies? Will they dismantle them and instead have deep wells so that people may get good water from these areas. Poor people are not getting fuel even to cook their food, boiling water for drinking purposes is in their case next to impossible. The population of Delhi has increased enormously. Are the civil amenities increasing in the same proportion or not? The hon. Minister knows that when the summer months or the monseen months are coming, why should he wait for these two seasons to come for taking action? Why not these steps be planned in advance so that there is no recurrence of these diseases?

DR. KARAN SINGH: I am not sure where the hon. Member got his figure of 25 per cent death rate, according to the figures I have for infective hepatitis in 1972 the death rate was about 1.2 per cent and in 1973 it was less than one per cent.

SHR! M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: What about other diseases?

DR. KARAN SINGH: Certainly it is not 25; it varies from diseases to disease. In small pox it is high, I am not saying that one per cent should be accepted, we should try to prevent it. Hand pumps are mainly in unauthorised colonies. It is part of the problem of urban development with which we are grappling: how to prevent unauthorise colonies and see that the metropolitan city develops properly. He asked are municipal amenities in Delhi keeping pace with the growth in population? This is a question which every city in the world is facing I do not think there is a single city in the world which can claim that municipal arrangements are absolutely as they should be. It is a constant battle. I think Delhi by and large is better than most cities in India. Certainly if more funds are made available, more amenities could be provided. The general point is with regard to preventive measures rather than curative measures. That brings us to the very important aspect of community and preventive health. So far we have concentrated on clinical aspect to the comparative neglect of community and preventive health. This is something which we have got to set right. General waring should be given but the real solution lies in more drinking water supply and better sewage facilities. The Government is working on these measures in order to give better service to the citizens of the capital.

13 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: STRIKE BY ENGINEERS IN NEYVELI LIG-N'ITE CORPORATION, LTD.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES SUBODH HANSDA): about 1.200 Junior Engineers and intermediary technical staff working in the Neyvell Lignite complex of Neyvelı Lignite Corporation in the South Arcot District, Tamil Nadu went on strike from the morning of 11th August, 1974 in connection with their demand for higher emoluments, automatic promotion and upgradation of certain categories. Following the strike and sympathetic work-to-rule action by the Assistant Engineers, the Corporation has been compelled to close down their briquetting, fertilizer and power plants. According to information received this morning, the mines are, however, being worked.

The Junior Engineers and intermediary technical staff have already been offered higher emoluments but in regard to other demands, like automatic promotion, etc., these could not be conceded. The Chairman, Neyveli Lignite Corporation had offered to place the matter before the Central Government but this was not accepted by the Engineers and these officers decided to go on strike Earlier, there were .....nation talks with the Management at Madras, which had also failed. In this context it is relevant to note

that strikes in the Neyveli complex have been prohibited by the Union Government under the Defence of India Rules. Forty seven persons have been arrested so far in connection with this illegal strike under the Defence of India Rules.

This stoppage of work in a coresector industry like Neyveli Lignite Corporation which produces badly need power and fertilizers at this juncture when the country is facing serious economic difficulties and all-out efforts are being made by the Government to raise production and combat inflation is most unfortunate. I, therefore, appeal to the striking Engineers of Neyveli to appreciate the serious consequences of their unjustified and illegal strike and come back to work.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): As the statement has revealed, it is a very serious matter.

MR. SPEAKER: Please confine yourself to the procedural matter. Don't go into the merits of the statement.

SHRI JYTIRMOY BOSU. I am seeking your guidance in the matter. 16 people have been arrested. The briquetting plant, the fertiliser plant etc., have been shut down. We have earlier given calling attention notices. But you have allowed the minister to come wih a suo motu statement.

SHRI SEZHIYAN (Kumbakonam): When there is a calling attention notice pending, if the minister makes a statement, that will scuttle the calling attention notice.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I have given a tice under 377, a short notice question and a calling attention notice on this subject. They have been agitating for the fulfilment of their legitimate demands. Now 16 of them have been arrested under the DIR. Who should have precedence—those who have given calling attention notice so that there is a complete dialogue between both sides or the minister to make a suo motic speech in self admiration and an appear to the engineers?