

[English]

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Pollution Level in Delhi

*23. SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to a report appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' of 24 September, 1990 under the caption 'Delhi most polluted city';

(b) whether the reasons for such a high level of pollution in the city have been gone into; and

(c) if so, the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI):

(a) Yes, Sir. the newspaper report refers generally to the problems of rapid urbanisation and specifically to the problem of air pollution in Delhi.

(b) and (c). It has been estimated by the Central Pollution Control Board that the air pollution in Delhi is mainly due to four categories of activities. The sources and their per cent contribution to air pollution in Delhi are as follows: Vehicular (53), Thermal Power Plants (27), Industries (11) and Domestic (9). The ambient air quality monitoring data indicate that among the parameters mentioned, only suspended particulate matter is above the standards. This is particularly marked during the summer season because of natural dusty conditions. The pollution levels are also aggravated in the winter nights because of occurrences of ground based inversions which prevent the pollutants from dispersing into the atmosphere.

Therefore, concentration of emissions coupled with natural conditions has resulted in high levels of pollution in Delhi. This is primarily due to the excessive number of motor vehicles, particularly the large number of two and three-wheelers.

The steps taken to reduce air pollution include the following:—

1. Vehicular Pollution

(i) Gross emission standards for petrol as well as diesel driven vehicles have been notified on 2.6.1989 under the amended Motor (Vehicles) Act, 1988 and are being implemented from March 1, 1990. Mass emission standards have also been notified and will come into effect from April, 1991 (for petrol driven vehicles) and April, 1992 (for diesel driven vehicles).

(ii) Public awareness campaigns and prosecutions have been launched.

(iii) The petroleum industry has been asked to reduce the lead content in petrol and bring it down to 0.15 grammes per litre by April, 1993.

(iv) The Government has issued a notification on December 6, 1990 that for vehicles manufactured after April 1, 1991 every manufacturer of motor vehicles shall submit the prototype of the vehicles to be manufactured by him for test by an agency specified by the Central Government for certification as to the compliance of the provisions of the Rules governing vehicular emission standards.

- (v) Delhi Administration through the Transport Directorate are implementing a scheme for 'Control of air pollution from the exhaust of motor vehicles'. Free facilities of pollution checking have been provided between December 1987 and April, 1989 at 24 petrol pumps. Since May, 1989, this facility is being provided at all offices of the Transport Directorate. Till November, 1990, owners of over 6.17 lakhs vehicles have availed of this facility. More than 1.06 lakh vehicle owners (between March-November, 1990) have been issued 'Warning Slips' for non-compliance of standards prescribed in the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989.
- (vi) The Government formulated a detailed scheme in July, 1990 for certification of pollution standards of private vehicles registered in Delhi. Under the scheme, the vehicle owners have to obtain pollution control check certificates for their vehicles according to their registration number as per a prescribed time schedule. For this 87 private workshops and petrol pumps have been authorised to provide pollution checking and tuning facilities. These centres have provided pollution checking facility to about 3.5 lakh vehicles between July-November, 1990. About 1.05 million vehicles were tuned and their pollution level brought within prescribed standards.
- (vii) A prosecution drive has been launched by the Transport Authority from the month of April,

1990. About 1600 vehicles have been prosecuted till November, 1990 under the provision of the Motor (Vehicles) Act, 1988 and Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989. In addition, 'Certificate of Fitness' of over 1600 vehicles has been cancelled and the vehicle owners have been instructed to bring their vehicles within prescribed standards before obtaining 'Certificate of Fitness.'

Emission from Industry

- (i) Ambient air quality standards have been prescribed.
- (ii) Standards for air polluting industry have been prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- (iii) Delhi has been notified as an Air Pollution Control Area.
- (iv) Heavily polluting industries have been directed to comply with the consent conditions on a time bound basis. Legal action has been initiated against the defaulting units. All the three thermal power plants in Delhi, have installed Electrostatic Precipitators (ESPs). These thermal power plants are now complying with the prescribed emission standards.
- (v) The supply of furnace oil having high sulphur content, has been substituted by low sulphur heavy stock (LSHS), which has reduced the sulphur dioxide emission from industry.
- (vi) The supply of LPG as a clear

fuel is being encouraged as a substitute for fuelwood and coal to reduce levels of unburnt hydro-carbons

- (vii) Of the stone crushing units in Delhi, 14 units were issued notices under E(P) Act, 1986. Directions for closure were confirmed in 9 cases (8 in Lal Kuan and 1 in Rajakori), these 9 stone crushers have filed a writ petition in the High Court of Delhi. A petition for their transfer has been moved in the Supreme Court. The matter is being pursued vigorously.

Electoral Reforms

*25. SHRI L.K. ADVANI:
SHRI PYARELAL
KHANDELWAL:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) what were the suggestion for Electoral Reforms placed before the conference on 9 January, 1990 presided over by the then Prime Minister; which of them were rejected; which ones were accepted; and which are under implementation; and

(b) what is Government's 'Action Plan' to speed up the implementation of the accepted suggestions; specially those meant to curb the high cost of elections and use and generation of black money?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY): (a) The various suggestions for electoral reforms placed before the conference on 9th January, 1990 are given in the Statement below. In pursuance of the decision taken at the said conference a Committee on Electoral Re-

forms was appointed by the Government which went into the entire gamut of electoral reforms. The main recommendations made by the Committee have already been indicated in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 10471 for 24-5-1990. Based on the recommendations of the Committee, four Bills, namely, (i) The Constitution (Seventieth Amendment) Bill, 1990. (ii) The Constitution (Seventy-first Amendment) Bill, 1990. (iii) The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill 1990 and (iv) The Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Conditions of Service) Bill, 1990 have already been introduced in Parliament.

(b) The implementation of the accepted suggestions will be taken up soon after the enactment of these Bills.

STATEMENT

1. Combating nexus between money, mafia and politicians.
2. Public financing of elections.
3. Compulsory maintenance of accounts by political parties and their audit by an agency nominated by the Election Commission, framing of rules/By-laws for operation of Political Parties—non adherence resulting in forfeiture of registration.
4. Appointment of Chief Election Commissioner in consultation with the opposition. Banning C.E.C. and other Election Commissioners to accept any office after their term is over; Consultation with CEC in the appointment of other Election Commissioners.
5. Independent Secretariat of the Election Commission.