

SHRI P.R.S. VENKATESAN: I want to know whether the Southern region is more suitable for this purpose.

SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN: Yes, already our launching station is in Sriharikota which is in the South. We have also got launching facilities in Trivandrum.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri C. Madhav Reddi. The hon. Member is absent.

Shri Krishna Rao.

Amendment to Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981

* 858. **SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO:** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring an amendment to the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981;

(b) if so, the time by which it will be introduced; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, sir.

(b) and (c). A proposal to amend the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 is under the consideration of the Government.

SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO: What are the steps taken to prevent smoke pollution of motor vehicles in cities like Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Bangalore?

SHRI Z.R. ANSARI: Under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, certain steps have been taken with regard to the monitoring of the pollution levels as well as fixing the standards for air quality in different locations.

As far as the monitoring stations are concerned, 43 monitoring stations have been established for air pollution monitoring at different locations including Hyderabad, Cochin, Baroda, Agra, and different places. These are the monitoring stations which have been established by the Central Pollution Control Board.

Then there is National Environment Engineering Research Institute, Nagpur. It has established certain monitoring stations at Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Cochin, Calcutta, Delhi, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Kanpur, Nagpur and Madras.

After passing the Environment Protection Act the standards for the air quality and water quality are being fixed for different specific industries. For industries like caustic soda, man-made fibre, oil refineries, sugar, thermal power plants, cotton textiles, composite woollen mills, cement, electroplating, dyes, etc. the standards have been fixed. For other industries, on a priority basis, the preparation of standards is under process.

SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO: Which is the largest polluted city in India in motor vehicles?

SHRI Z.R. ANSARI: I do not have the comparative figures of different cities. But I can say that as far as air pollution is concerned, Delhi and Bombay are in competition with each other.

DR. DATTA SAMANT : Government is considering to amend the Air Pollution Control Act. We are facing the problem in Bombay. The existing old factories like Union Carbide, Digvijay Cement Mills, are taking advantage of the amendment even before it is done, and are trying to close down their units and shift them outside where thousands of workers will be retrenched. I am facing the same problem in three of four factories. They are taking the issue to the municipality or somewhere. Though the Government is not allowing them to close the units, on the plea of pollution they are doing it. So laws are

used by the employers and industrialists to shift the industries from the cities. What is happening in Bombay? Union carbide has given a notice to the Government that they are going to close the unit because something like what happened in Bhopal may be repeated. And about 2000 workers will be retrenched. I ask a categorical question. While making this amendment, will the existing industries in the cities not be allowed to shift or this clause may not be used by the employers to shift the industries? About new industries one can understand that they should not be allowed in cities. If there is pollution, steps may be taken to prevent pollution and the employers should be forced to act accordingly.

SHRI Z.R. ANSARI: About setting up of industries which are polluting the environment and also shifting of industries from those areas which are fragile and where the population is more and the pollution may cause certain very hazardous incidents, the policy is that we just go by case by case study. If there is a case that the industry in a particular locality may cause pollution hazardous to the human population residing there, we shall ask such industry to shift.

DR. DATTA SAMANT: The existing industries should remain.

MR. SPEAKER: Do you want have to come this way, not that way?

SHRI Z.R. ANSARI: It all depends upon the total picture of the environment of that locality. If in a particular place we find that there is a serious danger to environment we shall certainly ask the industry to shift from that area.

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK: Mr. Speaker, some slides have been prepared by one Mr. Anil Aggarwal which have been displayed at Consultative Committees of the various Ministries to create an awareness about the problem of pollution and soil erosion. May I know from the hon. Minister whether any strategy is being developed to create

awareness about the problems of pollution and soil erosion which can reach at the district level and the village level keeping the problems at the local levels into mind?

SHRI Z.R. ANSARI: Sir, to create awareness among the people is a continuous process and the Government is very much alive to this problem of creating awareness and educating the people because half of the problem is that of the not being aware of the hazards which are being caused by these pollutions. We are utilising every machinery-mass media, Press, radio, T.V.-and seminars are also being held. All these things are being done in order to create more and more awareness to seek the cooperation of the general people to improve the environment.

SHRI ATAUR RAHMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as regards pollution, there are several kinds of pollution. One is industrial pollution, the other kind of pollution which we normally face is pollution by various types of transport. One of the Members here raised a very pertinent question about pollution by fumes emitted by motor vehicles. I am told that the Motor Vehicles Act is being amended or is being modified, or a new Act is probably being brought in. I would like to know whether this aspect of pollution will be taken care of while bringing in the new Motor Vehicles Act, and whether any instructions would be given to the Minister of Transport, though it is not strictly the Environment Minister's portfolio.

MR. SPEAKER: He will refer it.

SHRI Z.R. ANSARI: Sir, the shortest answer to this question is 'Yes, Sir.'

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: The first part is longer than the answer.

[*English*]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Sir, I am sure the hon. Minister has noticed, as most of

us have done who live in Delhi, that there is a standing monument here to our lip-service to anti-pollution, and that is the Headquarters of the World Health Organisation. Its building is situated just next to the Indraprastha Thermal Power Station which is throwing out so much pollution everyday. So, it looks very odd in the capital city. Either something should be done to check this pollution from the power station or the WHO may be persuaded to shift their office from there. It looks very bad standing next to Indraprastha Thermal Power Station.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Then the situation would deteriorate further.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Please do something about it. Photographs of the Indraprastha Power Station situated just next to the WHO Headquarters and causing pollution are being released in the international press.

[*English*]

SHRI Z.R. ANSARI: Sir, as far as the air pollution caused by this thermal power station is concerned, an action has been taken. Actually, the Pollution Control Board had gone a long way to prosecute DESU for creating this pollution. We have taken up the matter with all the thermal power stations and they have given an assurance and have fixed a time-bound programme that by that time they will instal pollution control devices.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: By which time?

SHRI Z.R. ANSARI: Sir, I do not have the details of the time, but since the hon. Member is so much interested, I will certainly give the time-bound programme which has been given by them. Some of them have placed orders, some of them have fixed the deadline that by that time it will be completely installed.

PROF. N.G. RANGA: We all support Mr. Indrajit Gupta.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Sir, I would like to know whether the Government is prescribing any standard technological devices or machinery which compulsorily each industry must have for the purpose of preventing air pollution. Are you having any technological research cell with the Department to advise the industries as to what methods they have to devise and adopt for the purpose of preventing pollution?

SHRI Z.R. ANSARI: The Ministry is prescribing standards of the air quality and water quality. As far as the devices are concerned, it is being left to the will of the industries themselves. In what we are interested is that the omission which comes out from that industry should have this standard and not beyond that. If we just prescribe certain devices, certain burden may be on us.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

National Housing Bank

*840. SHRI JAGANNATH PATTHAIK:
SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN
SINHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposed National Housing Bank will have to borrow heavily from the capital market to raise fund;

(b) if so, whether the Bank will give loans at comparatively higher rates;

(c) the impact of higher rates on low income and economically weaker sections of society;

(d) whether Government propose to subsidise the Bank's rate of interest; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?