

obviously, not been briefed by the leaders of their respective parliamentary parties. When I met the leaders of the parliamentary parties, not last time because last time they refused to come and talk to me; but when they did agree to come, I indicated that I would like to carry all the parties with me in such measures. Such matters, I think, really cut across party lines and if we are going to achieve anything, we would like their cooperation also. But, if they refuse to come and see me, it is very difficult to talk with them about these things.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : It is not correct...*(Interruptions)*

#### Control on Vehicular Pollution

\*229. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK  
SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the pollution from vehicles in the metropolitan cities is increasing enormously day by day ;

(b) if so, the causes identified and the remedial steps taken including enlisting of public co-operation particularly of those owning vehicles in adhering to the emission standards prescribed under the Pollution Control Rules ;

(c) whether there exists any monitoring agency for ensuring proper implementation of rules and regulations in this regard ; and

(d) if not, whether such an agency is proposed to be set up ?

*(Translation)*

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BHAJAN LAL) :

(a) Motor vehicles constitute a major

source of pollution in the metropolitan cities.

(b) The causes are : increasing number of vehicles, high emission from certain types of vehicles, poor maintenance and driving. The steps taken include :

(i) Emission standards for petrol and diesel driven vehicles have been prescribed ;

(ii) The State Governments have been advised to enforce the standards under the Motor Vehicles Act ; and

(iii) Campaigns have been launched for public awareness and cooperation.

(c) Transport Directorates in respective States and Union Territories are the agencies responsible for the monitoring of vehicular pollution and its control.

(d) There is no proposal to set up a separate agency for this purpose.

*(English)*

SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have gone through the replies of the hon. Minister. Sir, you know, five big cities in India account for the bulk of the automobile pollution. Now, the total air pollution in the five metropolitan cities was caused by the vehicular traffic.

Sir, the hon. Minister has said that the bulk of pollution is caused by an increasing number of vehicles, high emission from certain types of vehicles, poor maintenance and also old and condemned vehicles plying on the roads.

Sir, most of the vehicles hardly exceed the limits, set by ISI for the emission of gases.

May I know from the hon. Minister whether any action has been taken or any case was registered against those who have violated the prescribed standard under the pollution rules ?

[*Translation*]

**SHRI BHAJAN LAL :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has rightly said that the pollution is mainly caused by the vehicles. For that we wrote in October, 1985 to all the States that they should amend their Motor Vehicles Acts, take all measures to check the pollution, create awareness among the people about this and enforce the provisions of the Acts strictly. We have prescribed some standards for this purpose and the same have been intimated to them requesting them to amend their laws accordingly. It will be our full endeavour to prevent pollution. There are 12 Metropolitan cities where pollution is caused by motor vehicles and Delhi has the maximum pollution. ...(*Interruptions*). Kindly listen to me for a while. We have written to all the States to enforce the measures. We have prescribed standards about the emission of gases and about the content of lead and oil in that. All these things have been standardised and the States have been asked to follow these norms. The States are going to implement them.

**SHRI V. TULSIRAM :** The emission of gases in this way is of course harmful but more harmful is the emission by the leaders in other ways. It is a matter over which the hon. Prime Minister should ponder.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Shri Tulsiramji, what are you doing ?

[*English*]

**SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK :** My second submission is, may I know from the hon. Minister whether Government is facing any difficulty in the enforcement of the Central rules to improve the country's environment and are they seriously considering the steps necessary for the protection and improvement of environment in the metropolitan cities.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI BHAJAN LAL :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given full details that we have

written to the States and there is no problem before the Central Government in this connection. It is a Central Act and if any State does not implement it, the Central Government will get it implemented.

**SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA :** Delhi is one of the metropolitan cities of India, where the hon. Minister has now come. Here 350 tonnes of poisonous gases are emitted daily. Vehicular traffic is the cause of the pollution. World Health Organisation has already stated that in Delhi there is large scale pollution and in this respect, it is third most polluted city. Here 20% people are the victims of respiratory diseases. I do not want that our Members may be affected with such diseases but they are. The hon. Minister has given a good reply. But the question is whether the emission standards have been enforced ? After the Indian standards Institution had prescribed the standards, an Act was enacted in 1981. Now it is 1986. In spite of the enactment of the Act in 1981, the States and the Union Territories are not framing the rules. Why all the emission standards fixed by the Government have not been enforced in respect of the vehicles ? The question is that when even after the enactment of the legislation, rules have not been framed, how will you enforce the law and how will you challan the people ? This is the position today. I agree that the hon. Minister has given the right answer but will he give a satisfactory reply ?...(*Interruptions*)...

**MR. SPEAKER :** How many times will you repeat ?

**SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA :** I am not repeating. Rules are not framed after the enactment of the law. That is why this cannot be enforced.

**MR. SPEAKER :** I have heard it four times.

**SHRI BHAJAN LAL :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, we had written to the States in 1985 for enforcing the law. I want to congratulate the Governments of Maharashtra and West Bengal that they initiated action

to enforce the standards. But Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Delhi, Karnataka have so far. ....

AN HON. MEMBER : What about Haryana...

MR. SPEAKER : This, Haryana Government may be knowing.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : The question does not relate to only Haryana ; it relates to the whole of the country.

As I told earlier, these States include Delhi also. These States are going to implement it very soon. Preliminary action has almost been completed and very soon it will be implemented.

Regarding emission standards, we have already fixed them and have sent them to the States so that these could be properly implemented.

[*English*]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : I would just like to add to that : Delhi is not the third most polluted city in the world. Sulphur-dioxide is within limits, and dust is slightly higher, because of the location, and the industrial activity. I would also like to tell him that the Environment Protection Act, 1986 will be enforced from today.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : It is a quick decision

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : A Statement is also to be made today.

[*English*]

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : In some countries, you minimise air pollution due to high emission from the transport vehicles in particular the transport buses and the trucks. The exhaust gases from the exhaust pipes are made to let off at a higher level that is above the cabin level. In our country also, to reduce air pollution in particular cities, will government advise the State

Governments to make necessary amendment in the Motor Vehicles Act as replied by you that it should be made compulsory on the part of these manufacturers to take this exhaust pipe at the cabin level instead of the present practice of leaving it near the ground level to reduce this pollution especially by transport buses and trucks ? I would like to have a categorical answer from the hon. Minister.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the suggestion given by the hon. Member is very good and we are considering it. These cars, jeeps, buses, trucks.

.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : It will not be possible to enforce it on the cars.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : There can be some difficulty regarding cars. Even then if something could be done, that will be better. But in the case of other vehicles like buses, trucks, mini buses, three-wheelers, if the silencers emitting smoke could be at a higher level that will improve the situation. In addition, we have tried to ply battery-run buses in Delhi. These buses can be run on short distance routes in cities because the cost of running these buses is more and speed is less. These cannot be plied on the highways. In metropolitan cities, specially in Delhi these have been started on experimental basis. We shall try to introduce battery run vehicles and we shall also see that the silencers are raised to higher level so that the common man or the people on the road are not affected by pollution and do not suffer from the resultant diseases.

[*English*]

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : The suggestion is perhaps good. It might work during some time of the year, but, normally in the winter when the pollution is worse, there is temperature inversion, and it is not necessary that hot gases go up. So, this might also be kept in mind

and also it might make a little bit of difference for most of us, members. I think it would not be very much different to you.

*(Interruptions)*

**Technology Import for Safety against Nuclear Radiation**

\*230. SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have sought any technology from the Soviet Union or the U.S.A. to avoid leakage from the Atomic Power Plants in the country as had happened in Chernobyl in the Soviet Union ;

(b) if so, the details thereof and when such technology is going to be deployed ; and

(c) if not, the steps proposed to be taken in the event of leakage of nuclear radiation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE. (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN) :  
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The design of our nuclear power plants provide multiple barriers to prevent escape of radioactivity. However, detailed emergency plans exist to deal with an unlikely event of leakage of radioactivity and these include, *inter-alia*, prompt communication, transport arrangements for evacuation, medical facilities, emergency shelters, quarantining of contaminated food articles etc.

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Tulsiram, kindly speak. You will keep us healthy by making us eat 'tulsi' leaves.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has given a very routine reply to such an important question. This reply has been prepared by his Secretaries and the hon. Minister has read it out. This is not going to serve the purpose. You are aware that in spite of the U.S.S.R. being so highly developed, gas has leaked there. When they could not do anything in the matter, what your routine reply is going to do ? The Hon. Prime Minister is sitting here. I congratulate him. Just now he had said that if someone attacked us, we shall prove Waterloo for that country. I congratulate him and want an assurance from him. And if he replies, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I shall not ask even another supplementary.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Shri Tulsiram, this promise for not asking another supplementary relates to this question only or to the entire session...

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : For this question only.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply given to the question is correct. There is nothing lacking in it. Even then I myself am not sure about our capability in this matter as to how we shall handle the situation, if some big problem arises. I have asked the Cabinet Secretary to look into the matter in consultation with the Defence Ministry and the Home Ministry. As soon as some note is prepared, we shall inform the hon. Members about that.

MR. SPEAKER : Earlier also this point has been replied to.

*[English]*

DR. V. VENKATESH : I wanted to know from the Government one thing, because, this import of technology as far as atomic technology is concerned, nuclear waste has been increasing now-a-days and I came to know that the nuclear waste is going to be dumped in my district, which is a very backward district without any irrigation facilities, without