

# Death sentence on industries

THE COURT has been saying consistently all these years since 1996 that the Delhi Government is inept at handling — and has, rather, proved to be a complete failure in — the relocation of industries working in non-conforming areas. The industry does not protest the relocation. It is willing to move to a planned industrial area; that was why nearly 51,000 units applied for relocation in 1996. Even today, the industry is waiting for the Delhi Government to allot it land and provide the necessary infrastructure. By not giving any further time to the Government for relocation, the Supreme Court has penalised the industry.

The Government has not been able to carry out the court's orders to provide necessary land and infrastructure to relocate industries. On the other hand, the industry is providing immediate livelihood to millions of workers, and contributing more than Rs 4,000 crore in revenue to the Delhi Government, though it is facing a testing time in business due to the impact of globalisation and sudden cheap imports. The industry is willing to be relocated, not decimated. We need to grow further and provide more job opportunities to our countrymen.



*RAHUL JAIN Delhi*

# Khurana on the warpath with Jagmohan

By Our Staff Reporter 16 Dec 1993

NEW DELHI, DEC. 15. The former Chief Minister, Mr. Madan Lal Khurana, is on the warpath with the Union Urban Development Minister, Mr. Jagmohan. At the same time, sharp differences have arisen between him and senior leaders of the Delhi unit of BJP over the issue of closure of industries.

Mr. Khurana today declared that Mr. Jagmohan would have to withdraw the notification issued on December 11 ordering closure of all industries falling under "P" category failing which he would have to face the wrath of the people. Also, he said he would not rest till the Master Plan of Delhi was amended and relief provided to factory owners and industrial workers. "If Mr. Jagmohan does not relent, lakhs of people would take to the streets in the coming days. So far the protest has been unorganised and a panic reaction. But now the protests would be led by me personally no matter what comes in the way. It is the question of honouring the undertaking given by me as Chief Minister of Delhi in 1993," he added.

Clearly annoyed with the adamant stand of Mr. Jagmohan, the former Chief Minister did not even spare his Delhi unit president, Mr. Mange Ram Garg. What was described as a major victory and relief by the Leader of the Opposition, Prof. Jagdish Mukhi, and Mr. Garg on December 13, in the shape of an assurance they had been able to extract from Mr. Jagmohan that the SDMs would give a hearing to the party before sealing their units was described by Mr. Khurana as a major setback which would lead to corruption and bribery.

"This modified order has also to be withdrawn immediately by the Union Urban Development Ministry. There is no question of these orders being

implemented. I strongly oppose this as it will breed corruption and lead to harassment of industrial owners. I do not want to go into what the other Delhi BJP leaders think of it", he remarked. He refused to go into details over the claims of Prof. Mukhi and Mr. Garg that this modified order would provide relief to lakhs of factory owners.

Interestingly, in what could be described as a major concession to the Delhi Government, Mr. Khurana went to the extent of stating that no power on the earth, be it the military or an elected Government, would be able to implement the notification issued by the Union Urban Development Ministry at such a short notice. The divide within the party was evident when Mr. Khurana indicated that the local unit was not being involved in the agitation being launched from tomorrow.

Mr. Khurana was at pains to explain that his agitation was not aimed at any individual, particularly Mr. Jagmohan. What is interesting is that the BJP vice-president had decided to take a different path from what his party was adopting. There is little doubt that Mr. Khurana is heading for confrontation with the Union Urban Development Minister. "If I demand removal of any individual, it would be conceived as if I want to get adjusted in the Union Cabinet. This is not my ambition nor my priority. It is the future of lakhs of people that bothers me," he said in reply to a question.

Officials in the Delhi Government were also of the opinion that it was not possible to implement the orders of the Nodal Agency in such a short time. "But the situation is such that we have to work under the instructions of the Nodal Agency as directed by the Supreme Court. What will be the outcome of this exercise remains to be seen," an official remarked.

# Jagmohan rules out arbitrary closure of units

HT Correspondent  
New Delhi, December 15

**I**N AN effort to clear apprehensions in the minds of industrial unit owners about closure of their units, Union Urban Development Minister Mr Jagmohan has clarified that there will be no arbitrary closures.

In a written statement issued today, the Urban Development Ministry, which is the nodal agency appointed by the Supreme Court to supervise implementation of its orders, said that units would be closed only after the SDMs, leading the teams, hear the affected parties.

The Ministry has said that the decision with regard to closure, or otherwise would be taken keeping in view the present position at the site, and not merely as per the list prepared earlier.

The Ministry has also said that further provision has been made wherein cases can be referred to the Delhi Pollution Control Committee and three experts if there is any doubt about a unit being polluting or non-polluting. Any suggestions, therefore about specific numbers of units to be closed down automatically and immediately is erroneous, the Ministry said in its Press commu-

Regard apprehensions expressed by political leaders about non-polluting units being closed down the Ministry pointed out that auto chakkis, cycle/scooter repair shops and laundry units etc. do not fall within the closure categories per se.

Further, the Master Plan clearly provides that such activities are permitted in convenient shopping centres and service centres etc., which are invariably in close proximity to residential areas. As per the MPD-2001, convenient shopping centres are provided per 5000 population and local shopping centres per 15,000.

The Ministry has also clarified that as the nodal agency, it has only issued directions in the Delhi Government to ensure implementation of the Supreme Court orders. It would be a misnomer to call these directions a notification, which implies that it can be withdrawn, which is not the case, the Ministry has clarified.

**Training for sealing teams:** Administrative officers heading the teams which will effect closure of polluting industrial units, will be given a one-day training at the Players Building tomorrow. The team leaders will be familiarised with sealing procedures.



Congress leaders Jagdish Tytler, Sagar Kumar and Subash Chopra leading a demonstration against the closure of polluting units at Jantar Mantar in the Capital on Friday. Photo: Prakash Singh

# Vajpayee to discuss issue with BJP MPs today: Khurana

HT Correspondent  
New Delhi, December 15

**FORMER DELHI** Chief Minister Madan Lal Khurana today announced that Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee would meet BJP MPs from Delhi tomorrow to discuss the contentious issue of polluting industrial units in residential areas of the city. Union Urban Development Minister Jagmohan will also be present at Mr Khurana, who was accompa-

Minister Harbans Singh Balli told newsmen here that he had met Mr Vajpayee this morning and apprized him of the need to relocate polluting industries rather than closing them.

Saying that he was in favour of making Delhi a pollution free city, Mr Khurana said that closure of industries was not the solution. Firstly, the proper definition of pollution causing industries should be worked out. In the 1



Kapoor's definition that pollution causing industries are those which emit gases, or acid or those which pollute water, he said.

"But even such industries should not be closed. They should be provided with alternate sites and relocated. This cannot be done by January 3, the deadline for sealing such industries," The Urban Development Minister should withdraw its order to that effect

plan during which these industries can be relocated," he said.

The BJP leader also underlined the need to change the Master Plan. "Our demand is that the Master Plan be suitably amended so as to provide for regularisation of unauthorised colonies, regularisation of shops in residential areas and industries well within specified parameters," he said. Mr Khurana reiterated that he would sit on dharna at Rajghat tomorrow, so demand relocation of industrial units. He expected these

on industries to participate in the dharna. "BJP national general secretary Sahib Singh Verma, MPs Vijay Kumar Malhotra, Lal Eshan Triwari and Mr Balli will all be present at the dharna. In addition, Ramvir Singh Bidhuri would participate in the dharna too," he said.

Referring to the proposed meeting of Mr Vajpayee with the MPs tomorrow, Mr Khurana said that he was optimistic that some acceptable solution would emerge. "We will announce the outcome of the meeting at Rajghat tomorrow," he added.

# Congress leads demo against 'anti-worker' policies of Govt

NT Correspondent  
New Delhi, December 15

A LARGE number of industrial workers led by Delhi Congress leaders held a peaceful demonstration at Jantar Mantar today to protest against the 'anti-worker' policy of Union Urban Development Minister Mr Jagmohan who has said that all polluting non-conforming units will be closed by January

Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee president Sebbash Chopra, who addressed the demonstrators carrying flags and banners, said that over 1.5 lakh industrial units will be closed down and 20 lakh workers rendered jobless due to the short-sighted policies of the BJP Government.

Senior party leaders Jagdish Tytler, Sajjan Kumar, Deep Chand Bandhu and a number of MLAs and councillors were also present and addressed the gathering.

Mr Chopra said that even those industrial units that have spent lakhs of rupees on installing effluent treatment plants are also facing closure.

He said that rather than announcing a compensation package for workers and implementing a prop-

er relocation programme, the BJP Government had turned a blind eye towards the future of lakhs of workers and their families, who are facing starvation.

While demonstrators shouted slogans against the Union Urban Development Minister, Mr Chopra said that all BJP leaders in Delhi were showing false sympathy towards industrial owners and their work-

He said that when Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit had gone to meet Prime Minister, A.B. Bihari Vajpayee none of these BJP leaders had bothered to accompany her.

Tyler said that while former political stalwarts like Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru emphasised on the growth of small-scale and cottage industries, Mr Jagmohan was only interested in closing them down.

Sajjan Kumar said that when the Constitution was amended, why not the Master Plan.

The factory associations led by councillor A.R. Chaudhary and Virmani demanded in situ regularisation of industrial units by charging the Master Plan. They accused the Union Government of colluding with multinationals to close industries of Delhi.

## Confusion still persists over definition of polluting units

Soni Sangwan  
New Delhi, December 15

ALTHOUGH THE countdown for the closure of polluting industries is drawing near, no wing of the official machinery is clear about the definition of polluting industries.

Apart from the conflicting orders being issued by the Nodal Agency on the one hand and the Lt Governor on the other, further confusion is being created by absence of any clear-cut instructions on which industrial units should remain and which are to be shut down. Even Delhi Industries Minister Dr Narendra Nath, till late today, was unable to state exactly when the process of sealing polluting industrial units would begin. Officials are also in the dark about whether they are expected to seal polluting units or collect samples from units, send them for analysis and seal the units only on receipt of the analy-

sis reports. On top of the confusion is the existence of a government notification dated December 20, 1999, wherein 17 industries, earlier in the F category of the Master Plan, are now listed as Green. The

Confusion is being created by absence of clear-cut instructions on which industrial units should remain and which are to be shut down.

Ministry of Environment had issued the notification.

The industries which have been listed as Green, include those units manufacturing automobile parts, aluminium products, large-scale dures and carpets, leather

and rubber footwear, hand press where casting is not involved, lathe machines, blending and mixing of paints and varnishes.

Then there are plastic products, paper products, rubber products, electric fans, saw mills and wood work, small machines, machine tools, sheet bending press used for making trunk and suitcases, spice factory, surgical goods and utensils.

While one wing of the government machinery is ready to seal all polluting units, this list shows that the definition of polluting as stated in the Master Plan may not be completely correct given the Environment Ministry notification.

In the midst of this confusion, neither the government nor the bureaucracy is certain of what the next course of action should be. And industry owners are existing on a day-to-day basis, uncertain of whether they will be allowed to operate from tomorrow or not.

# Delhi Cong begins agitation

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, Dec. 15. — The Delhi Congress today began its agitation, demanding an amendment in the Delhi Master Plan to allow continuation of the non-polluting industries in the Capital.

The Congress workers today held a demonstration at Jantar Mantar. They were arrested after they tried to proceed towards Nirman Bhawan, headquarters of the Union Ministry of Urban Development.

Earlier, addressing party workers, the Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee president, Mr Sukhash Chopra, said, "The move to relocate the industrial units from non-conforming and conforming areas would adversely affect more than 1.5 lakh industrial units."

He blamed the erstwhile BJP government in Delhi and the present government at the Centre for the situation.

Mr Chopra said hundreds of people would lose their means of livelihood, if the Master Plan is not amended. "The Master Plan has been amended 220 times in the past, so there is no reason that it could not be amended one more time," said Mr Chopra.

Mr Chopra demanded that a compensation package for the affected workers should be worked out.

"The Congress party is not against shifting of polluting units from the Capital but

any policy which will displace lakhs of workers and factory owners cannot be supported," said Mr Chopra.

Terming today's demonstration as beginning of the "Nyaya Yuddh", senior party leaders including former Chief Executive Councillor, Mr Jag Pravesh Chandra, and former MPs, Mr Sajjan Kumar, and Mr Jagdish Tytler said that the Congress will continue to fight for the poor people.

The Congress will not maintain silence if the poor are displaced, said Congress leaders.

Hastnagar legislator Mr Mukesh Sharma alleged that a large number of party workers and supporters were prevented from reaching Jantar Mantar by Delhi Police.

A large number of Congress legislators and municipal councillors participated in the demonstration including president, Manufacturers' Federation, Mr Ajit Chaudhary.



Activists of the Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee protesting against the relocation of polluting industries in the Capital on Friday. — The Statesman.

Visit

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# BJP MPs to meet Vajpayee on Master Plan issue

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, Dec. 16. — The BJP MPs from the Capital will meet the Prime Minister, Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee, tomorrow to press for their demand of amending the Delhi Master Plan.

Addressing a Press conference today, the vice-president, BJP and Delhi Sadar MP, Mr Madan Lal Khurana, said the PM informed him about the meeting when he met him this morning to discuss the issue of shifting and closure of the small-scale industrial units operating in the non-conforming areas in the Capital.

The meeting is likely to be attended by the Union Urban Development Minister, Mr Jagmohan, also, said Mr Khurana. Mr Khurana today reiterated his stand that the 12 November order of the Urban Development Ministry should be withdrawn. He said the shifting of the small-scale industrial units operating in non-conforming areas will not be possible by

the 3 January deadline set up by this order. The former Delhi chief minister said he pointed out to the Prime Minister about the difficulties in implementing this order. Mr Khurana said he will lead a one-day token dharna by the industrial owners and workers at Rajghat tomorrow after the meeting.

The dharna has been organised by the recently launched organisation, Laghu Udyog Sangharsh Samiti.

The BJP legislator and former Delhi Industry Minister, Mr Harsharan Singh Balli, is the convener of this organisation.

Mr Khurana said he will continue to lead the agitation till the orders of 12 November are withdrawn. He said the Delhi Master Plan should be amended to ensure that workers are not displaced and only polluting units are relocated within a reasonable time-frame.

His party colleague and Leader of the Opposition, Mr Jagdish Mukhi, today said that there is a consensus in the party

about amendment in the Master Plan.

"An exhaustive list of necessary services should be prepared and they should be allowed to operate in the Capital," said Mr Mukhi. He said there is a need to go a step further after implementing the Jagdish Sagar Committee report.

The number of workers that have been allowed after implementing the Sagar Committee report is five in the Sagar Committee report, it should be increased to 10. If this change is made, the BJP will ask the Delhi government to allow three phase connections for the units which are using power load up to five kilowatts, said Mr Mukhi elaborating upon the BJP's demand for an amendment in the Master Plan.

If these measures are implemented, this will provide relief to more than 50 per cent of the factories, said Mr Mukhi. The industrial units employing a large number of workers can be relocated in the National Capital Region, said Mr Mukhi.