

# Units' closure to hit excise revenue

By Our Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI, DEC. 13. The closure of small and medium scale industrial units, under directions of the Supreme Court, is likely to have an adverse effect on Central Excise collections as the fall could amount to Rs. 180 crores per annum in that sector. Majority of the collections would stand affected from the trans-Yamuna area, where a large number of these units are concentrated.

Addressing a press conference to highlight the massive drive launched against evaders, which had resulted in detection of record evasion by the Central Excise (Delhi Zone), the Chief Commissioner, Mr. Someshwar, said the quantum of revenue likely to be lost due to closure of industries had not been calculated, but it could be substantial.

He said as a result of effective anti-evasion measures, the Department had been able to detect evasion of Rs. 174 crores by booking 681 people during the current financial year. Significantly, breaking past trends, the evaders themselves have agreed to deposit Rs. 68.93 crores towards their liabilities, a record by itself. Stating that while the drive would continue with renewed vigour, Mr. Someshwar said his Department had also ensured that the honest tax payers were not harassed. "We want to establish a tax-friendly regime for which various measures have been taken and could continue to be upgraded," he added.

He said a system has been put in place to ensure remedial action to redress quickly all grievances to the satisfaction of the trade and industry. Nearly 50 Excise officials had been transferred in recent

months and the performance of others was constantly being reviewed. If there is any grievance, the system provides that any person can approach any senior officer with his complaint.

The Chief Commissioner, who after taking over in March this year, has taken a number of innovative measures which has reduced the gap between the tax payer and the Department, said two directors of M/s. Skipper India Limited, Gurgaon and M/s. M.M. Electronics, Delhi had been arrested for their alleged involvement in largescale evasion. They have been remanded to police custody and the court has denied them bail. The evasion in this case is reported to be around Rs. 8 crores. These parties had failed to respond to nearly 10 summons and notices following which action was taken.

He said a major preventive drive was launched in East Delhi in the first fortnight of November during which 22 manufacturing units as well as residential premises were searched. The operation resulted in seizure of dutiable goods worth Rs. 66 lakhs. A case of duty evasion has also been made against a manufacturer of ayurvedic medicine. This unit was manufacturing medicine without obtaining Central Excise registration and clearing goods without payment of duty. The total evasion was estimated to be about Rs. 3.5 crores, of which Rs. 2 crore had been deposited.

Similarly, during a raid on the premises of a 100 per cent export oriented unit, it was detected that they had evaded Central Excise duty to the tune of Rs. 26 crores by selling the finished goods clandestinely in the DTA market without issuing any documents or payment of Government dues.

# Fresh directions on sealing issued

THE HINDU 14 DEC 1986  
By Our Special Correspondent

**NEW DELHI, DEC. 13.** Apart from appealing for the cooperation of the owners of the polluting industrial units in the implementation of the Supreme Court's regarding closure of these units, the Urban Development Ministry in its capacity as the Nodal Agency has issued fresh directions on how to go about the task of sealing them.

While maintaining that all the polluting units ought to be sealed by January 3 as stipulated by the Apex Court as the outer-limit for the purpose, the Union Urban Development Minister, Mr. Jagmohan, told a media conference that it was clear from the courts order that Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi and the Delhi Development Authority have to get all polluting units closed within four weeks and that the role of the Ministry as Nodal Agency was simply supervisory.

The Ministry had divided the polluting units into two broad categories to facilitate smooth implementation of the order. The first category comprise of 6586 polluting industries including 967 water polluting units which were self-confessed polluting units as their owners had applied for allotment of alternative plots in industrial areas of Narela and Bawana and their claims were accepted.

In case of this category, Mr. Jagmohan said that there was little scope for any dispute and the units in residential/non-conforming area would be closed

down straightaway by sealing the premises, canceling the ad-hoc licences if any issued by the MCD and withdrawing power and water connections in excess of normal limit for domestic use.

Similar action would have to be taken in the case of the second category of polluting industries as well. The industries that fall in this category are the ones which had either not applied for an alternative plots or their plea had been rejected by the Delhi Government. Falling under Group 'F' in the Master Plan, these polluting industries like acids, auto-electroplating, plastic dyes paints varnishing, nickel polishing units number around 38936.

Mr. Jagmohan said that these units were either of insubstantial nature and virtually do not exist or were engaged in job work or were additional units or extensions of the units whose case for alternative plots had been accepted.

Even as these units too would be sealed by January 3, the teams deputed to effect closure have been assigned the job of referring the cases those units which had been wrongly been treated as polluting units to a committee comprising the members of the Delhi Pollution Control Committee, Prof. M. Dutta and Prof. G.V. Rao of the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, and Prof. H. S. Bhatia, Dean, Delhi College of Engineering. Information about these reference would have to be provided to the Nodal Agency by submitting consolidated lists on Mondays and Thursdays.

## Khurana to launch stir against move on industries

By Our Staff Reporter

**NEW DELHI, DEC. 13.** Announcing his decision to oppose the decision of the Union Urban Development Minister, Mr. Jagmohan, to close down more than 38,000 polluting units in the Capital, the former Chief Minister, Mr. Madan Lal Khurana, said today he would launch an agitation against the move from December 16.

On a warpath with the Centre for its failure to effect a change in the Master Plan of Delhi, Mr. Khurana said there was nothing anti-party in what he was doing.

He would hold a massive dharna at Rajghat on December 16 to press for a change in the Master Plan and for proper relocation of industries.

If that does not change the stand of the Urban Development Ministry, he would launch the second phase of his agitation, hitting the streets. "I am not alone. I am backed by nearly 50 organisations and industrial workers who would be displaced. I will fight for their rights. I will also meet the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, and the Union Home Minister, Mr. L.K. Advani, in this connection and seek their intervention", he added.

However, Mr. Khurana's decision could embarrass the BJP as it could even mean directly opposing the directions of the Supreme Court.

The Sadar MP was also confident that his move would be backed by his party colleagues including the former Chief Minister, Mr. Sahib Singh Verma, and Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

# Polluting units' sealing deferred for time being

HT Correspondent  
New Delhi, December 13

THE SEALING of polluting, non-conforming industries planned by the Delhi Government in co-ordination with other agencies for tomorrow has been postponed for the time being.

This has been done in view of the revised orders given by the nodal agency under the Urban Development Ministry, supervising the closure. Delhi Government officials said that the new date for commencing action will be decided in a day or so.

Meanwhile, president of Delhi Pradesh BJP Mange Ram Garg, leader of opposition in the Delhi Assembly, Prof. Jagdish Mukhi and Mayor Shanti Desai met Union Urban Development Minister Jagmohan to apprise him about the hardships being caused to the industrial units being closed.

The Minister assured them that the closures would be done keeping in view the ground reality and not merely as per list prepared earlier. Mr Jagmohan also assured that SDMs would hear problems of unit owners before closing them.

Later, Prof. Mukhi said that during the two-hour meeting, the Minister had agreed to give a fair hearing to the owners. Prof. Mukhi said that this would mean lifting of samples from the industrial units and checking the same, which would give the unit owner sufficient time. He said that this is a major relief that has been given to the industrial units' owners. He said that his party is also pressing for letting service industries continue where they are, as shifting them would create large-scale dislocation of owners and workers.

On the other hand, the MCD, which is carrying out an independent extensive survey of industries in non-conforming areas, will submit a complete list of these industries before the Supreme Court tomorrow morning. It is learnt that

survey of 35,000 industrial units (polluting and non-polluting) was completed by Sunday itself. When contacted,

Municipal Commissioner S P Aggarwal said that all the 12 zonal Deputy Commissioners will compile individual compact discs (CDs). These will be merged into one CD which will be submitted before Supreme Court tomorrow, Mr Aggarwal said.

Factory owners associations too have pleaded for leniency. The Delhi Factory Owners Federation headed by J R Jindal has sought that polluting units with effluent treatment plants should be spared. The Delhi Manufacturers Federation led by Dilshad Garden councillor Ajit Singh said that the federation members will observe indefinite bandh from tomorrow and will not pay any revenue.

Meanwhile, former Delhi Chief Minister and Member of Parliament Madan Lal Khurana,

## Industries Issue

who has been protesting the closure of industrial units, today

announced that he would lead a dharna by industrial owners at Rajghat on Saturday.

In a press meet held today, Mr Khurana said that if the closure orders are not withdrawn in a week's time and the decision to amend the Master Plan is not taken, then one lakh industrial unit owners will observe a satyagraha and court arrest. He said that members of the Sangharsh Samiti, who will lead the agitation, would observe an indefinite hunger strike. Former DPCC spokesperson Ramvir Singh Bidhuri was also present at the press conference in support of Mr Khurana.

Mr Khurana said that the Urban Development Ministry should not have taken the stance before the SC that the Master Plan would not be amended. He said that a number of letters had been written to the Prime Minister to intervene and that assurance had been given that some solution will be found.

Pollution being relocated at Bawana common refrain

# Villagers protest shifting of units



Residents of Bawana are worried about the damage to the environment when polluting units are relocated in their village. — The Statesman

YOGESH KUMAR  
STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, Dec. 13. — "If they are too polluting to be kept in residential areas, why should the industrial units from Delhi be sent to pollute our environs?" asks a farmer in Bawana. He is not the only one and that is not the only concern.

Farmers in the area are demanding that industrial units which are relocated to Dr S P Mukherjee Udyog Vihar in Bawana, be compelled to follow pollution control norms regarding the levels of emission.

"All polluting factories which are to be relocated here will definitely pollute our village also. The Delhi government should make it clear that they have to follow the stipulated guidelines to keep pollution under control," asserted Mr Jilay Singh, a villager.

He demanded "if water polluting industries are harmful for the people in Delhi then aren't they going to harm us too?"

The residents of the area are up in arms about the proposed relocation of over 6,000 polluting units in their village. Most

of the villagers want the government to start industries in their area "but not relocate polluting units here."

This is one village in Delhi where every villager knows the term Effluent Treatment Plant and exactly what it

## LIST OF POLLUTING UNITS DEMANDED

NEW DELHI, Dec. 13. — The Delhi Factory Owners' Federation has said that the lieutenant-governor's order to close down all polluting units in residential and non-conforming areas has created confusion among factory owners because there has been no specific identification of polluting units.

A statement issued by the federation said it will be difficult for factory owners to comply with the order as the government will take time to determine pollution levels by individual units

The federation has suggested that to minimise harassment to factory owners, the Delhi Pollution Control Committee publish a list of polluting units. — SNS

means. A villager, Mr Rajveer Singh, said, "The government should make installation of Effluent Treatment Plants mandatory for all the industries which will be relocated in the village." He points out "or else this village will be more polluted than the whole of Delhi, as only polluting industries are coming here." Another villager, Mr Prem Singh, said, "We do want industries to come here. It will mean more work. But not if it means pollution all around."

Yet another alleged, "The government is not bothered about our needs. They have the court on their backs and the government is obviously worried about accommodating the factory owners who fund most of the political activity."

Echoing similar sentiments, a village elder, Chaudhary Tek Chand, said, "In the name of bringing industries to the villages, the government is shifting the worst and most polluting units to our village — this is unfair. These units will pollute our water resources."

The village depends on borewell water and Chaudhary Tek Chand contends "if polluted discharge from these units seeps into the ground, it will pollute the ground water. That will be end of our farming." Most of the villagers are still eking out their living from selling what crop they grow. Be it irrigation or drinking water — the villagers depend on borewell water. "And, if even the ground water gets polluted then we will be left with nothing" pointed out a farmer.

A primary concern of the villagers is that after relocation, the village will end up becoming a large slum. "Factories will bring labourers. They have no homes and like Delhi in no time there will be jhuggis dotting all the main roads," says Mr Fateh Singh, a retired government servant. Another is the fear that the arrival of factories will mean an increased demand for power. Mr Singh said, "As it is there are so many power cuts in summer and winter. Once the factories come, they will steal power, DVB will cut power to the area. Ultimately we will be the losers."

# 'Present position key to closures'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, Dec. 13. — The Union Urban Development Minister, Mr Jagmohan, today issued instructions to Delhi Government that the decision for "closure or otherwise" of the industrial units in the Capital should be taken keeping in view the position at present and not merely as per the lists prepared earlier.

Mr Jagmohan also said that the party concerned may be given a hearing before closure

by sub-divisional magistrate's team. He has authorised the Chief Secretary and the Municipal Commissioner to carry out the process of closure of industries in a manner "considered appropriate" by them.

The minister assured a BJP delegation led by Delhi Bharatiya Janata Party president, Mr Mange Ram Garg that "he would look into all aspects of the matter and ensure that no undue hardship is caused".

While the Delhi BJP presi-

dent lauded Mr Jagmohan for providing respite to a large number of industrial units by issuing these instructions, BJP's national vice-president, Mr Madan Lal Khurana, announced earlier that he will lead a agitation against the notification issued by the urban development ministry to close down all the polluting units in Delhi by 3 January. "If the order is not withdrawn in a week I will begin an indefinite hunger strike at Rajghat," he added.