

ing their protests.

'Orders not followed in the right spirit'

HT Correspondent

New Delhi, December 18

THE LAGHU Udyog Bharati has alleged that the orders of the Nodal agency for closure of industries in the Capital were not been carried out in the manner and spirit which the Central Government had communicated through media.

The association has condemned the closure of industrial units on several accounts including sealing of vacant premises.

President of Laghu Udyog Bharat Gopal Krishan Arora, alleged the premises where there had been a change in the type of industry in past were being sealed and power connections disconnected. Even the residences have been sealed, he added.

He said there was a clear order to focus on 27 types of industries but the enforcement teams have spared none of the industries as they are going by some old list. "The enforcement teams have no competence and training and were

carrying out implementation in a haphazard manner. They have gone to the extent of closing units involved in manufacturing moulds and dies for plastic industry," he added.

Mr Arora said that even in case of confusion the teams have not cared to consult their senior officials. 'Industries involved in making attache case falling under category E in Master Plan have been closed saying that they fall under the category of plastic goods which is mentioned in today's public notice published in the newspapers.'

In spite of a separate list in other category the same treatment is being accorded to footwear industry," he said.

Even power load was being taken as criteria for identifying the units under F category and thus they have been closed. And, the aggrieved parties are not being given a proper hearing by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate heading the teams.

14-12-2001

Day 1 of crackdown: 141 polluting units shut down

HT Correspondent
New Delhi, December 18

FORTY-TWO teams headed by sub-divisional magistrates went to Keshavpuram and Rohini and, till 6 pm, had visited 734 units and sealed 141 of them that fell under specified categories.

This is following the Supreme Court order on polluting industries. The affected North West Delhi areas remained tense, though no violence was reported.

The process was undertaken in accordance with the latest order issued by the Nodal Agency yesterday, wherein it was stated that industries that fall under a specified 27 categories would be sealed

in the first phase. The units sealed today fell under these categories.

However, the Nodal Agency's order provides only temporary relief. Today, the SDM teams have begun sealing the industries in the 27 categories as the first phase of the operation, but all the industries that fall under the 80 categories in the F category of the Master Plan will be closed down later.

Yesterday's order by the Nodal Agency further supercedes the previous order by the Lt-Governor wherein he had directed that the SDM teams would lift samples from the polluting industries and send them for analysis before sealing the units.

More than 7,000 industries fall under the 80 categories. Of these 4,000 are in Keshavpuram and 300 are in Rohini. Thirty-six teams went to Keshavpuram and six to Rohini. The teams also included a sub-inspector and about five policemen. They worked from 10 am to 6 pm.

The teams will begin sealing units in the same areas tomorrow as Keshavpuram has a concentration of about 4,000 industrial units falling in the F category.

Meanwhile, Delhi BJP MP Madan Lai Khurana alleged that there had been instances of cars of owners being left inside after the sealing process.

Reprinted reports on page 5

Factory owners in search of new pastures

By Our Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI, DEC. 18. With realisation having seeped in that the Government was determined to implement the Supreme Court directions to close down all units in the Capital's non-conforming areas, industrialists have started scouting the neighbouring States like Haryana, UP and Rajasthan for alternative sites.

It looks as if the factory owners are beginning to get reconciled to the fact that they would have to close shop in view of the firm stand by the Supreme Court. Sooner or later, they feel, they would be forced to shift out. There are more than one lakh polluting and non-polluting industries operating in non-conforming areas.

They are now looking at alternatives which could help them reduce the impact of the blow. "I have already had a round of some industrial areas near Delhi in search of an alternate plot. Presently, the rates as well as rents for industrial sheds are almost half of what we are paying in Delhi. We cannot live under uncertainty and have to shift out to survive", said an industrialist from Rithala in North Delhi. In fact, Rithala has been one of the first areas where sealing operations began this morning.

The most sought-after places are the Bahadurgarh industrial area, Rae and Kundli in Haryana, Meerut and its adjoining areas in UP and Alwar and Bhiwani in Rajasthan. This is because of their proximity to Delhi, but are also linked with the National Highways.

The Haryana and UP Governments have also shown keenness to allot readymade plots to these

displaced industrialists. In fact, it is understood Haryana would be holding a two-day camp in the Capital to give on-the-spot allotment of plots for those who desire to shift. But here also there is a catch.

The Haryana Government has made it clear that it would not allow setting up of polluting units. Interestingly, the factory premises and plots being offered are far cheaper than what they presently pay. This, officials felt, would save them a lot of investment funds and help them establish at lower cost.

Sensing the desperation of industrialists, property prices, both commercial and residential in the nearby towns like Bahadurgarh, Gurgaon, Rae and Ghaziabad have gone up. Not only this, rents for leasing out a property for factory premises has shown a reasonable jump and is expected to increase sharply in the coming days. "An industrial plot at Bahadurgarh which cost Rs. 10 lakhs last week is now available for Rs. 14 lakhs. Similarly, rents for factory premises which use to hover around Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 30,000 for 1,500 sq yard have gone up to Rs. 45,000 to Rs. 55,000," an industry owner said.

But what is worrying factory owners is that although they are willing to shift, it would be difficult to operate as the required infrastructure is not there.

Also, entrepreneurs are worried that some of the townships of the National Capital Region (NCR) are known to be notorious and the law and order situation is bad. Kidnappings for ransom, killings and murders over rivalries have become the order of the day. It is not really safe to invest or live in these areas. The local authorities have to take care of this aspect first, they said.

More units to face closure

By Our Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI, DEC. 18. Contrary to the impression that only 27 industries falling in the 'F' category would be closed by the enforcement squads, the truth, as it unfolds now, is that the rest of the 54 industries of the same category would also face closure for which sealing operations are expected to begin next week.

While the Delhi Government conveniently issued a list of 27 industries to be covered under the first phase, it remained silent on the fate of the other 54 industries which fall under the 'F' category.

What it failed to inform the affected people was that the Nodal Agency had given clear directions that the rest of the industries falling in this category would be taken up for closure after next week.

This has clearly been stated in the notification issued by the Urban Development Ministry on

December 17. It states that in the first instance, action should be taken for closure of the following 27 industries in category 'F' of the Master Plan which are considered most polluting.

In the next stage action for the closure of the remaining categories of polluting units could be taken up by the State Government after filing of compliance reports of the first phase.

Interestingly, the Delhi Government had tried to project that the rest of the industries in the "F" category would not be closed down.

However, this was a false impression created by the State Government. The Government has been trying to project as if the Nodal Agency was the one which was indulging in closure but the fact remains that it is the enforcement squads of the Delhi Government who are executing the job.

The Nodal Agency was only act-

ing at the behest of the Supreme Court and giving further directions to the Delhi Government.

According to the Delhi Manufacturers Federation president, Mr. Ajit Chaudhary, certain leaders were trying to use the relocation issue to gain political mileage.

"If these leaders are really interested in resolving the problems faced by factory owners and workers, they should take up collectively the issue with the Prime Minister and work for getting the Master Plan amended," he told newsmen today.

Stating that the matter concerned lakhs of workers and owners, Mr. Chaudhary said they would not give up the struggle for securing justice. Stating that there was nothing to rejoice from the fact that only 27 type of industries were being sealed, Mr. Chaudhary said their worst fears had come true as the sealing for the other

more than 50 types of industries would be taken up in the next phase. He charged the Nodal Agency with following a divide and rule policy, and taking on the industrial units in a phased manner so that there is no collective resistance.

The entire manufacturers and industrial workers' community stands unified and no political party or leader would be allowed to use the issue for personal political agenda, he added.

Stating that the court had at no stage objected to the changes in the Master Plan, Mr. Chaudhary said it had been amended on a number of occasions.

Mr. Chaudhary said the enforcement squads were indulging in indiscriminate closure and the affected parties were not being given hearing by the SDMs, as promised by the Nodal Agency.

MCD says survey of units is done.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 18

THE survey of industries in non-conforming areas ordered by the Supreme Court has finally been completed by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi. Including all 12 zones of the MCD in its ambit, the survey found that a total of 71,487 industrial units exist in non-conforming areas of the city, excluding the estimated 5,000 units which could not be counted in the final days in Trinagar and Haiderpur. Sources in MCD

say, these areas showed resistance to the survey and were hence not included in the survey total.

The zone-wise break-up of the figures (see box) corresponds clearly with the number of men employed in the survey. The west zone, which had the largest number of industries (11,638), also took the services of the largest number of staff employed in the survey — 250. While the city zone had the least number of industries (1,541), it also had a scant seven teams of 28 employees engaged in the survey.

Shahadra (North) and Sha-

The total: 71,487

- Sadar Paharganj Zone: 2761
- West Zone: 11,638
- Rohini Zone: 10,997
- Karol Bagh Zone: 4295
- Narela Zone: 1602
- Central Zone: 4921
- Shahadra (S) Zone: 9721
- South Zone: 2640
- City Zone: 1541
- Shahadra (N) Zone: 9542
- Civil Lines Zone: 4993
- Najafgarh Zone: 6836
- Grand Total: 71,487

hadra (South) zones as well as the Rohini zone had matching high number of industries in non-conforming areas.

The total number of industries which never had a license from the MCD numbers an astounding 40,672 units. The total number of MCD employees engaged in the survey was 1,258.

The survey was ordered by the SC after it found 'outdated and inadequate' the list furnished by the MCD and the Delhi government.

It had ordered the survey to fill the gaps in the scaling operations.

Day 1: 141 factories sealed

Staff Reporter
New Delhi

SQUADS ENTRUSTED with enforcing the Supreme Court directives swooped down on polluting industrial units in the city and sealed 141 factories in the North-west district on Monday. They visited 734 industrial units in the North-west district.

Union Urban Development Minister Jagmohan has also called a meeting of the states falling under the National Capital Region on Tuesday.

"I will ask the NCR states to extend as much flexibility as they can for the relocation," said Mr Jagmohan. According to Delhi Chief Secretary P S Bhatnagar the Supreme Court order is being implemented districtwise.

According to Mr Jagmohan, the figures of the total number of industries on ground are different from those being pro-

posed. There have been cases of multiple entries of the same industrial unit. The procedure of sealing the 27 types of polluting industries in the 'F' category will continue in the North-west district on Tuesday.

(In completion in this

district the 4 months will require us to seal about 1500 units.

Even though the sites of sealing remained peaceful, a few chords of dissent were heard. Udyog Bharati convener Ravinder Bansal said the enforcement teams were also sealing some units which did not fall under the 'F' category. In violation of the guidelines issued on Sunday by the Environment Secretary of Delhi government.

The nodal agency had directed the Delhi government to close down with immediate effect only 27 of the B2 types of trades in the 'F' category of the Master Plan.

Meanwhile, Delhi Manufacturers' Federation (DMF) has decided to file a review petition in the Supreme Court on the sealing of polluting units and demanded that the government suitably amend the Master Plan 2001.

DMF President Ajit Chaudhary told a Press conference that the federation has decided to file the petition in the apex court on the sealing of units in residential and non-conforming areas is directly related to the flood and shelter of lakhs of people working in these

Delhi court fines HSIDC

Rajan Singh
New Delhi

THE DELHI High Court came down heavily on the Haryana State Industrial Development Corporation (HSIDC) on Monday for its failure to check the flow of the chemical effluents discharged by the industrial units of HSIDC complex at Udyog Whar into the floodwater drains of Delhi. The High Court slapped a fine of Rs 5 lakh on HSIDC.

Castigating the HSIDC for its failure, a Division Bench comprising Justice Anil Dav Singh and O P Dwivedi said that the HSIDC allowed the discharge of untreated effluents without caring for the environment.

"Discharge of untreated effluents into the flood water drains, terminating in Delhi, infringes upon the fundamental rights of the citizen of Brijwasan under Article 21 of the constitution, which asks for a clean and healthy environment."

The HSIDC carelessness also violates the various Supreme Court orders regarding this," said the Bench.

"Haryana State Industrial Development Corporation should have taken the steps to prevent the environmental pollution. As an interim measure, the cost of remedy must be imposed on them for

their laxity.

The HSIDC must deposit the amount of Rs 5 lakhs in the HC registry by January 4, 2001.

The registry is being directed to keep the amount in FDR for six months. Later, the amount will be used by court for environmental upgradation purposes," the Bench said in its order.

The Bench also directed the HSIDC to file an affidavit listing the name of the polluting industrial units specifying the name and nature of units situated in the complex in Udyog Whar by January 14, the next date of hearing.

The Bench said it doesn't know whether the industrial units have consent from from the Haryana pollution control board (HPCB) under the Air and Water Act. We hereby also issue notice to HPCB.

The Haryana State Industrial Development Corporation is directed to issue notices to the industrial units telling them to stop flushing effluents towards Delhi within two month. If the industrial units do not respond positively, their allotments should be cancelled.

As the court had directed the Delhi pollution control committee (DPCC) on December to review the nature of effluent, the DPCC submitted its report.

The Bench in its order cited the Delhi pollution control committee

report, which said that the contents of iron, zinc, nickel and total suspended solids are found to more than the prescribed level.

However, the Bench noted a submission by the HPCB that a treatment plant treatment plan was commissioned on December 14.

The counsels for the petitioners DDA and CPCB were unanimous in their demand that the industrial units be asked to stop discharging the effluent in flood water drains, which terminates in Delhi.

The Bench directed HSIDC to file a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by the Green Foundation of 2,000 local residents of Brijwasan area in Delhi and Haryana, where the flood water drain terminates.

These drains were created to absorb the excess rain water during the monsoons.

The Bench directed the HSIDC to ensure that the clean water is discharged and effluent discharged is stopped.

The PIL had alleged that untreated effluents in floodwater areas along the national highway under Brijwasan rail track have swelled into a pond.

As a result, groundwater is being contaminated and farming in nearby fields has been affected as the water is being used for the irrigation purposes. The Public Interest Litigation said.

FIRST PHASE OF SEALING OPERATION PEACEFUL; DELHI BREATHES EASY



One of the sealing squads at work in north-west Delhi *Pioneer*

Karuna M John

New Delhi

THE CALL sign Eagle buzzed over walkie-talkie sets as squads led by sub-divisional magistrates (SDMs) began sealing polluting industrial units at Keshavpuram and

Rohini areas of North-west Delhi on Monday. Despite the high tension buildup leading up to the massive crackdown on polluting industries, the city did not explode as expected.

Even the sensitive industrial zone of Tri Nagar said to be the homeground of the BJP leader

Madan Lal Khurana took Mr Jagmohan's line

Jagmohan's batters were a sore lot, as all the passionate speeches condemning the anti-pollution move as being 'anti-people' came to naught. Factory owners reconciled with the inevitable and stepped aside as the SDMs inspected their premises.

The law of the land proved supreme and the demonstrations, public outrage and other signs of resistance were conspicuous by their absence.

In the first phase of the crackdown, polluting units in Rohini and Tri Nagar areas were sealed. With the surprise factor missing, teams went about the sealing operation without any difficulty. The sealing operation began at around 9.30 a.m. on Monday in accordance with the directions of the Supreme Court.

Not ones to take chances, Delhi Police had deployed 22 companies

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Delhi Cong 'temporarily shelves' agitation

Khurana steadfast on opposition to closure

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE 19 Dec 1980

NEW DELHI, Dec. 18. — A defiant BJP leader, Mr Madan Lal Khurana, today continued to adopt a confrontationalist posture on the closure of polluting units, even as the Delhi Congress fell in line and "temporarily shelved" its agitation.

The former chief minister and Delhi Sadar MP, Mr Khurana, today suggested that he had already offered to quit his Lok Sabha seat if it would help resolve the crisis. Mr Khurana intends to meet the Prime Minister again to press for implementation of the decisions reached at a meeting between Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee, and Delhi MPs last week.

The BJP leader said the Delhi government was closing industries in a hurry to help the chief secretary's case in the Supreme Court, though there was no proper definition of "polluting industries."

Mr Khurana said he would announce his action-plan by this weekend. The former Delhi Industry Minister, Mr Harsharan Singh Balli, also criticised the government for trying to close non-polluting units too. "The situation in Tri Nagar would have gone out of hands had senior BJP leaders not reached the place on time this morning," he said, accusing the government's

teams of closing non-polluting units also.

The closure orders, he said, might lead to a serious law and order problem. To make his point, Mr Khurana cited two murders in his constituency where the accused were factory workers who had lost their jobs. There could be an increase in such crimes, he warned.

The Delhi Congress president, Mr Subhash Chopra, who had kicked off a "nyaya yudha" to protest closure of industries last week, today had a change of heart. The party has deferred its agitation, indefinitely.

"Taking into consideration the latest development, the second phase of the agitation has been temporarily shelved," said Mr Chopra.

The announcement was made hours after the Congress government in the Capital started the crackdown on polluting industries. The Delhi Cabinet had last week cleared the plan to close group F industries.

Mr Chopra said his party was closely monitoring the situation "arising out of nodal agency's directions to the Delhi government to close down industries under 27 'seriously polluting category'." The decision about the resumption of agitation will be taken tomorrow, after holding talks with the representatives of workers and factory owners, said Mr Chopra.

Polluting units' closure kicked off

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, Dec. 18. — The Delhi government kicked-off its drive to close polluting units with Monday and Tuesday teams in north-west Delhi, under heavy police presence but could seal just about 140 of the 734 units inspected.

This time round, however, it was not the factory owners or the politicians resisting the closure of industries, who were responsible for the slow pace. But incomplete lists which the 42 teams of the Delhi government, DDA and MCD, in the field had.

Like that the BJP leader, Mr Madan Lal Khurana, did not try. He reportedly met the Union Law Minister, Mr Arun Jaitley, but did not receive any specific assurance. Later Mr Khurana

said the government was closing industries without properly fixing the criteria of "polluting units".

The Delhi Congress, however, decided not to take a confrontationalist posture. It today announced it had "temporarily shelved" its plan to launch the second phase of 'nyay yudh' in view of the nodal agency's decision yesterday, to target only 27 categories of industries.

It was to take the sting out of the criticism against the government that the nodal agency, chaired by the Union Urban Development Minister, Mr J. S. G. Mohan, had last evening decided to initially target 27 categories of industries under group 'F' which were "undisputedly polluting" in north-west district.

"The idea was not to create panic and have people coming on to the roads like last time," a government official said, referring to protests which left three people dead in November, when the government started sealing industries.

The Delhi Chief Secretary, Mr P. S. Bhatnagar, admitted the teams might have been slow today, but was confident the pace would pick up. Officials in the field were, however, not as optimistic.

The teams in Rithala and Vijay Vihar just could not trace the addresses of many factories which figured in their lists. The team in Vijay Vihar had a target of 32 units but by 2 p.m., had only managed to close one. The residents, a team member said, were not helping them with

directions. "All the team members have been brought in from different areas. None of us are familiar with the area," he said. "People often gave the wrong directions, wasting a lot of time," he said, complaining, "we only have the lists to go by".

But that was not the only problem. The lists given to the teams — 25 of them headed by SDMs — did not specify whether the polluting units were among those which they were supposed to seal.

Mr PS Bhatnagar said a clear picture of the number of industries, which are "undisputedly polluting" would emerge in the next few days. There are about 38,000 units under the 'F' category.

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