

Closure of units: DPCC to skip New Year festivity

By Our Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI, DEC 30. The Delhi Pradesh Congress (I) Committee will not hold any functions in the city to usher in the New Year as a mark of solidarity towards the lakhs of people who have been affected because of the closure of industrial units in the non-conforming areas of the Capital.

Addressing a press conference here today, the DPCC (I) president, Mr. Subhash Chopra, said he along with his wife will sit on a 24-hour hunger-strike from Sunday at Teen Murti, near the Prime Minister's residence, as part of the "Nyaya Yudh" launched by the Congress (I) to secure justice for the lakhs of industrial workers being uprooted from Delhi.

Mr. Mukesh Sharma and his wife, and all 12 district presidents will also sit on the hunger strike. The district and block committees have also decided not to celebrate the new year as the Congress could not make a mockery of human emotions when about 20 lakh industrial workers were facing unemployment and poverty and draconian measures adopted by the BJP-led Government at the Centre, Mr. Chopra said.

The stony silence of the leaders of the NDA allies, Mr. Chopra said, was astonishing when lakhs of industrial workers and unit owners were facing unemployment and an uncertain future.

He said the main purpose of his 24-hour hunger is to compel the Prime Minister to call an emergency meeting of his Cabinet before the New Year, and

resolve the crisis arising out of the relocation of the industrial units in Delhi, and to teach the Union Urban Development Minister, Mr. Jagmohan, to function in a democratic manner.

Mr. Chopra said the issues raised by the Congress (I) as part of its Nyaya Yudh were for genuine causes, and wondered why the Central Government was reluctant to amend the Master Plan and declare areas with concentration of more than 70 per cent industrial units, as industrial areas.

Pointing out that the present situation had arisen because of the short-sightedness and an adamant stand taken by Mr. Jagmohan, Mr. Chopra said the Prime Minister should take a firm decision on the matter to protect the interest of lakhs of people.

Earlier, addressing a rally at Sadar district as part of its Nyaya Yudh and Jail Bharo Andolan, Mr. Chopra said the two campaigns will give a befitting reply to the BJP leadership for its "anti-people and anti-worker policies".

Mr. Chopra said the Nyaya Yudh started by the DPCC was with a specific purpose to secure justice for lakhs of industrial workers who have been rendered unemployed due to the draconian measures adopted by the BJP-led Government at the Centre.

He alleged that ever since the BJP Government had come to power, industrial units in the country, had been pushed to the verge of destruction as the Indian markets were flooded with foreign goods.



Mr. Ramvir Singh Bldhurl, president of Lok Janshakti Party, leading a demonstration outside the residence of the Delhi Chief Minister, Ms. Sheila Dixit, on Saturday to protest against the inadequate power supply in the Capital.

CINEMA

ENGLISH:

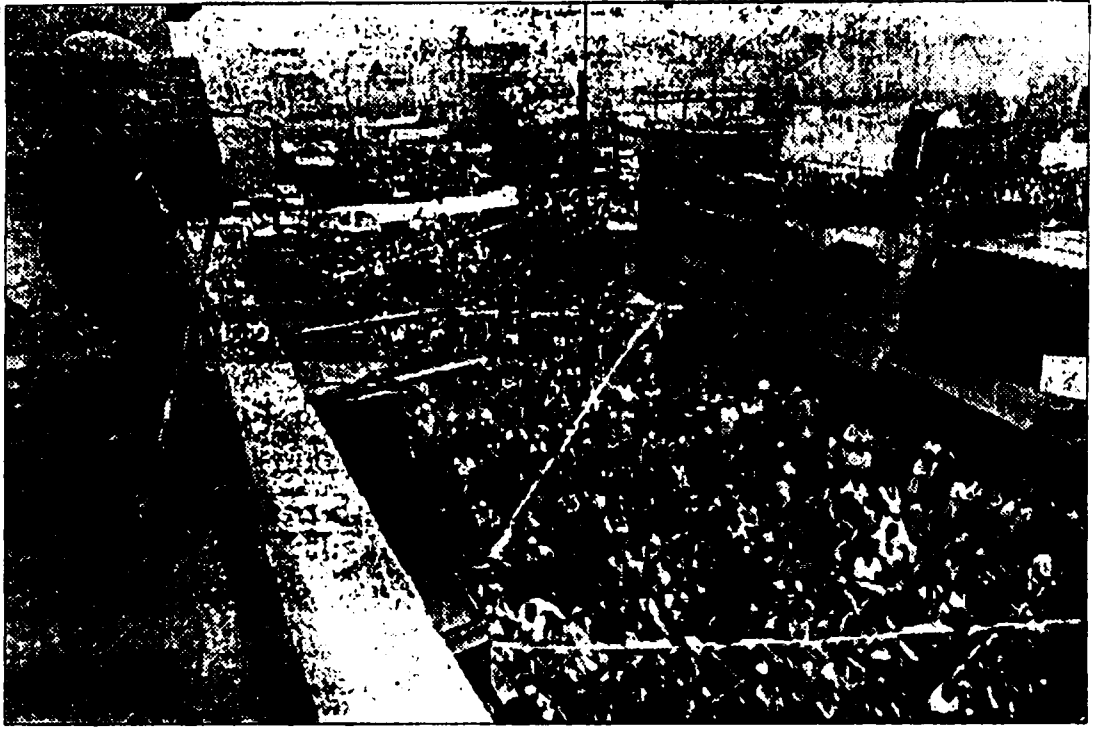
● ENGLISH FILMS FESTIVAL : Regal (Daily 5 shows)

HINDI:

● RAJU CHACHA : (Stg. Ajay Devgan, Kajol, Rishi Kapoor, Govind Namdeo, Shahbaaz Khan, Smita Jaykar, Johny Lever) — Delite, Chanakya, PVR Priya, PVR Anupam, Amba, Vishal, Filmistan, Paras, Samrat, Alpna, Rachna, Radhu Palace, Satyam, Moviepalace, Urvashi (G.Bad)

● KHILADI-420: (Akshay Kumar, Mahima, Gulshan Grover, Mukesh Rishi) — Shiela, Liberty, Milan, Sapna, Sangam, Virat, Swarn, Palace, Eros, Hans, Janak, Seble, Dharampalace, Meenakshi, Subhash, Pawan (G.Bad)

● CHAMPION: (Sunny Deol, Manisha, Rahul Dev, Kashmira Shah, Pramod Moutho, Surender Paul) —



A policeman looks on at the rally organised by the Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee against the relocation of industries at Azad Market, in the Capital on Saturday. — The Statesman

IB reports on DPCC rallies sent to PM

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, Dec. 30. — What really motivates the Delhi Congress to hold demonstrations on the issue of industrial relocation? The Intelligence Bureau reports which are forwarded to the Prime Minister, Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee.

Senior Congress leaders admit that the primary motive is "to make sure that the PMO gets the message through IB's independent report that there are more people at our rallies than those backed by the BJP".

Speaking to The Statesman, a dissident Congress leader said, "Today at every rally in the city, people from the IB are sent. They pose as policemen, they pose as local politicians and some of them even mingle with the crowds as factory workers."

A senior IB official confirmed that reports on every political demonstration in the Capital were prepared and "forwarded to seniors"

though he denied that these reports went as high as the PMO.

Another Congress activist at the rally said, "When the party leaders met to decide on how the agitation is to be planned for the industries issue, this business of the IB people coming to the rallies came up." "It was decided that since in any case they are making a report about us, let the report reflect the fact that the BJP's popularity in Delhi is going down," he added.

In fact, this morning at a rally in Azad Market in Sadar Bazar, the constituency of the former Chief Minister, Mr Madan Lal Khurana, Congress leader, Mr Jagdish Tytler, the crowd was told this.

"Aap ke beech me IB ke log baithen hain. Woh Vajpayee ko Kerala mein report denge ki dilli mein kya ho raha hai (The intelligence people are sitting among you. They will send a report to Vajpayee in Kerala about what is happening in Delhi)," Mr Tytler said.

Khurana tries to block sealing, detained

Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI: Former Delhi Chief Minister Madan Lal Khurana, East Delhi MP Lal Behari Tewari and former industry minister Harkishan Singh Balli were detained in Vishwas Nagar on Saturday when they tried to prevent officials from sealing polluting industrial units in the area. They were held in the Vivek Vihar police station till late evening.

The three leaders were detained at 1:25 pm when they confronted the teams of the sub-divisional magistrate, who were in the area to seal polluting units in Vishwas Nagar. Khurana alleged that the sealing operations being undertaken by the SDMs were "illegal". "We were successful in stopping the SDMs from sealing 12 factories, which had, in fact, agreed to shift to the newly-allotted areas and had even paid for their plots. Despite this, the SDM teams were ready to seal them," he alleged.

In the past few weeks, Khurana has been arguing that the Delhi Government did not have the right to seal the polluting units without

issuing a prior notice. He has been asserting that the sealing operations were against the fundamental right to work and to own property. However, the city government had retorted by saying that the sealing

Sealing on

NEW DELHI: Sealing of polluting industries continued on Saturday. Fifty-three teams led by SDMs, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi and the Delhi Development Authority officials, backed by Delhi Police, visited 814 units. Till 4:30 pm, the teams sealed 183 units in Vishwas Nagar, Gandhi Nagar, Kalyan Puri and Vivek Vihar areas. Officials claimed that there was no resistance or law and order problem, except in the Vishwas Nagar area.

operations were being undertaken as per the orders of the Supreme Court and the Union urban development ministry, the nodal agency for relocating and sealing polluting and non-conforming units.



BJP MP Madan Lal Khurana with supporters stopping MCD staff sealing factories in Vishwas Nagar in East Delhi.

On Friday, Delhi industry minister Narendra Nath had challenged Khurana to move court if he thought the sealing of polluting industries was illegal. Delhi chief secretary P S Bhatnagar said: "We have been following the 'F' category list to pick out units to be sealed. Everything has been meticulously

planned and there is no question of shutting down industries randomly."

Countering Khurana's claims that his tirade was able to stop the SDMs from sealing units in the area, officials said the enforcement teams were successful in meeting their target.