

Closure of polluting units trigger rush for Haryana

Aruna P Sharma
New Delhi, December 20

THE CLOSURE of polluting industrial units in non-conforming areas has triggered off a rush for industrial plots in Haryana. The staff of the Haryana State Industrial Development Corporation (HSIDC) at the emporia complex in Connaught Place are a harried lot these days. They are unable to cope with the heavy rush of industrial unit owners wishing to buy application forms for alternate plots. The forms are in short supply. The telephones never cease to ring.

"The rush is beyond our imagination and we have sold 3000 application forms in just four days," said Rajesh Sharma, Additional General Manager in charge of the HSIDC office in the Haryana Emporium building. Most of the applicants want plots in Kondli Phase IV which is nearest to Delhi, Mr Sharma informed while handling the crowd clamouring for forms.

For the Haryana Government, the imminent closure of all non-conforming industries in the city was a golden opportunity to invite industry owners to set up shop in various districts of Haryana including Rewari, Sonapat and Gurgaon. Incentives offered in the past to industries to shift out to the National Capital Region has evoked little response.

Now the commencement of closure of industries has achieved what incentives could not. The HSIDC has just 790 plots with it. The Haryana Urban Development Authority is separately processing applications for the 1565 plots available with it.

Applicants who queued up at the HSIDC office today told The Hindustan Times that there were too few plots and too

many aspirants. Rajesh Arora who has his socks manufacturing unit in Karol Bagh, while pointing to the Kondli layout plan displayed at HSIDC office, said that there are just 442 plots in Kondli which will take at least two years to develop. "This would mean that even if we get a plot in Kondli, we will have to close our units and sit idle for the next two years," Mr Arora said.

Rajesh Bhatia whose family owns an industrial unit in Trinagar pointed out that most of the applicants need only 100 square metre plots or less while the HSIDC is offering minimum plots of 450 square metres. He said that this would require a minimum investment of Rs 10 lakh to start a unit which many units facing closure could ill afford. "And where will the polluting units go since Haryana is not ready to accept them," inquired Gulzar Ahmed from Shahdara.

Applicants like Ashok Batra from Najafgarh said that there was no guarantee that the rates for the alternate plots will not be hiked up by the Haryana Government as happened with the plots in Bawana.

The HSIDC staff said that the instant allotment of plots in Kondli, Manesar, Barhi and Bawal will be made over a period of four days starting tomorrow. The Managing Director



Industry owners aspiring for plots in Haryana at the HSIDC office in the Capital on Wednesday. Photo: Sanjeev Sharma

of HSIDC, the MD of Haryana Financial Corporation and Director of Industries, Haryana, are expected to arrive in Delhi tomorrow. These officials will screen the applications and make allotments on the spot. So far around 60 completed applications with demand drafts have been deposited with HSIDC.

Owners complain of applying wrong criteria to seal units

HT Correspondent

New Delhi, December 20

THE SEALING of polluting industries continued today with 46 teams led by Sub-Divisional Magistrates visiting the Narela and Sultanpuri areas. The teams inspected 603 units and sealed 205 of them. The main categories of industrial units sealed today include plastic goods, PVC goods, batteries, dyeing, chemicals and electro-plating.

Several industrial unit owners complained of the criteria for sealing on the grounds of the confusion created by the 'PVC compounds' category in the 27 categories being sealed in this phase. "This means that even though a particular industry is not manufacturing PVC compounds but is using plastic for another purpose, they are also closed down," said an industry owner.

However, most industry owners are resigned to their fate and have

accepted that they would have to close down their units. Making good of this opportunity, both the Haryana and Uttar Pradesh governments have set up information dissemination centres from where they are publicising their respective industrial policies and other schemes for industrialists.

Meanwhile, Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit met the Union Urban Development Minister Jagmohan yesterday. Delhi Urban Development Minister Dr A K Walia and Delhi Industries Minister Dr Narendra Nath had also accompanied her.

The Chief Minister impressed upon Mr Jagmohan the need for more time to shift these units. She reportedly informed him that the immediate sealing of so many industrial units would lead to large-scale unemployment. She urged the Union Minister to plan something for the labourers on humanitarian grounds.

Mrs Dikshit further asked Mr

Jagmohan to reconsider his stand on the amendment of the Master Plan.

"The residential areas where industries have come up today used to be the urbanised villages. Industries came up here because no licences were needed for setting up units within the *lal dora*. Now you are disallowing the same industries because the villages have become colonies. There is a need to view the issue from a wider perspective and not take a rigid stand," said a senior official.

Mr Jagmohan reportedly refused to make any changes in the Master Plan and the only concession he was willing to make was with regard to house-hold industries. He said that house-hold industries utilising 5 kw of power and employing nine persons would be allowed to function.

"But this provides a very limited concession. There are very few house-hold industries where 5 Kw of power is used," said an official.

Cong demands amendment in Master Plan

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, Dec. 20. — As Delhi Government teams continued the sealing of polluting factories in non-conforming areas, the ruling party leaders held a demonstration at Jantar Mantar against the sealing of industrial units.

Several Congress leaders including the president, Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee, Mr Subhash Chopra, the former Chief Executive Councillor, Mr Jag Parvash Chandra, and Haatsaal legislator, Mr Mukesh Sharma, demanded an amendment in Delhi Master Plan to save industrial units in the non-conforming areas from closure. They also blamed the Union government for the closure of industrial units operating in

non-conforming areas.

The Congress workers raised slogans against the Centre and tried to break the police cordon.

Addressing the party workers, Mr Chopra said the Delhi BJP should explain its silence on this issue.

Mr Sharma said the Delhi Congress will intensify its agitation and continue to protest against the closure of industrial units in an arbitrary manner.

Meanwhile, the state Bharatiya Janata Party's state executive and council member, Mr Jagdish Mangain, today mooted the idea that the National Capital Region Planning Board may be asked to play an effective role in the rehabilitation of industrial units which are fac-

Union Urban Development Minister, Mr Jagmohan, and the Delhi Chief Minister, Mrs Sheila Dikshit, urging them to discuss the possibility of shifting the units to the National Capital Region areas surrounding Delhi.

Mr Mangain in his letter has urged the PM to intervene on this issue by directing for the rehabilitation of the polluting and other industries operating in non-conforming areas.

Mr Mangain demanded that the NCR Planning Board should immediately hold a meeting to chalk out a plan for the rehabilitation of these units.

He said as per the direction of the Supreme Court the industrial units which have to be relocated can be taken to the NCR as the number of industrial plots developed so far in the Capital for relocation are not sufficient.

Mr Mangain said as the neighbouring states of Haryana and U P have already shown keen interest to provide facilities for the industrial units which are to be shifted, the NCR Planning Board can play a pivotal role in the smooth implementation of the relocation scheme.

Mr Mangain suggested that to avoid displacement of factory workers on a large scale, some of the industrial zones can be developed near the areas where industrial units are being closed.

The industrial units operating in East Delhi can be shifted to NOIDA, industrial units in the South and West Delhi can be shifted to Najafgarh or Gurgaon and the factories in North Delhi can be relocated at Bawan and Narela, according to the draft proposal which Mr Mangain has sent to the authorities concerned.



Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee members holding a demonstration against the relocation of industries and demanding amendment of the Master Plan in the Capital on Wednesday. — The Statesman.



Shiv Sena activists hold a demonstration against sealing of industries in the Capital on Wednesday. — The Statesman.

SEALING DRIVE CONTINUES

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, Dec. 20. — The sealing of "undisputedly polluting units" in non-conforming areas continued today with enforcement teams closing 205 of the 603 units inspected.

Sealing was carried out by 31 teams in Narela and 15 teams in the Saraswati Vihar sub-division in Sultanpuri. A Delhi Government spokesman said factory owners and workers did not put up any resistance and no law and order problem was reported from any area. The main categories of industrial units sealed today included plastic and PVC goods, batteries, dyeing, chemicals and electroplating. The enforcement teams, however, reported that most of the premises they visited were vacant. No industrial activity was carried out in many of the factories.

But even as the government continued its drive against polluting industries, the Delhi Industry Minister, Dr Narendra Nath, clarified that it did not imply that the government had given up its demand for amendment to the Master Plan.

The government, he said, will continue to seek the amendment of the Master Plan to allow non-polluting industries in non-conforming areas where the concentration of industries exceeded 70 per cent. "We will ask Mr Jagmohan to review his decision," said Dr Nath. The Union Urban Development Minister, Mr Jagmohan, who met the Chief Minister, Mrs Sheila Dikshit, Dr Nath and the Delhi Environment Minister, Dr A K Walia, yesterday, had again rejected the proposal to amend the Master Plan. Dr Nath said the Delhi Government had sent a proposal to the U D Ministry to extend the list of household industries.

ing closure.

In a statement issued today, the former national spokesman of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha, Mr Mangain, said that he has written to the Prime Minister, Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee, the

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Closure seals fate of migrants

SANJAY K SINGH
STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, Dec. 20. — They came as migrants in search of an opportunity to make their fortune. Now they have decided to return to their homes, their fate having been sealed along with the unauthorised-polluting factories in the Capital.

This is particularly the case with the workers whose villages form part of the new states of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Uttaranchal. They feel that with statehood has come the prospects of brighter employment prospects.

Quite a few families have already left Delhi, many others are preparing to do so. At least 10 families from Vishwas Nagar in east Delhi, left Delhi on Sunday, so did 40 families of Sanjay Colony, JJ cluster in Samajpur Badli in north



A family of factory workers, who face an uncertain future with the government ordering closure of polluting industries in the Capital, moving bag and baggage. — Prahlad Mahato/The Statesman.

Delhi. According to one of the affected workers, Mr Shyam Prasad, "some said they were going back home while others said they were leaving for Calcutta and Ahmedabad."

Striking a personal note he added, "I have sent my family to my village in Sitamarhi, Bihar, and I am trying to decide what to do."

The plastics unit where he had worked has been shut down.

There are approximately 400,000 people who migrate to Delhi each year seeking employment in industrial units. A senior official in the Sales Tax Department said the current exodus could be because "the majority of them will not be eligible for compensation".

He explained that "over 60 per cent of the factories are not registered and their workers will not be entitled to any compensation."

Ayodhya, Kishan, Shankar Yadav and Ram Bachau are "vendors who push barrows loaded with consignments from the factories in Samajpur Badli to nearby areas where the goods are to be delivered. All four have decided to return to their village in Gorakhpur.

"We have been here for 16 years, but now if all the factories are closed what work will be get? It is better to go back," said Kishan.

In Vishwas Nagar, many workers have already sent their families home. "I have contacted my cousin who works in a paper mill in

Calcutta. He has assured me that he will get me a job there by next month," said 46-year-old Naresh Yadav.

Ajay Shanker Singh, a native of Palamau, Jharkhand has decided to go to Ranchi. "There are lots of opportunities for jobs in Jharkhand right now. I can take my family also," he said.

Jabri Devi in Jaffarabad in east Delhi has been working as a maid-servant after the factory where her husband worked was sealed. "We are saving up to return to our village in Ballia," she said.

While many families are returning to their home states, a substantial number are also trying to migrate to Delhi's satellite towns in search of a living.

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NOTICE

Notice is hereby given under section 154 of the Companies Act, 1956 and Clause 16 of the listing Agreement that share transfer book of the Company will remain closed from 27th Dec. 2000 to 30th Dec. 2000 (both days inclusive).

Notice is further given that the 27th Annual General Meeting of the Company will be held at 10 A.M. on Saturday the 30th Dec., 2000 at 111 Km. Stone, Delhi-Jaipur Highway, Village Shahjapur, Tehsil-Bekror, District-Alwar, Rajasthan to transact the business as detailed in the Notice already issued to the Members individually.

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