

The A to F of polluting units

NEW DELHI: Foam manufacturing industries have been categorised as one of the most polluting industries in terms of air as well as water pollution. These have been placed under F category by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee as these release highly toxic metals and poisonous gases during various stages of manufacturing. The industry manufactures foam from latex rubber which is brought from Kerala in a semi-liquid form. Though latex rubber is hard, ammonia is mixed in it to give it a semi-liquid form.

Stage one: In a foam manufacturing unit, this semi-liquid latex rubber is stirred slowly so that ammonia which had been mixed earlier, is released. A highly toxic gas, ammonia is released into the air because of the stirring. Ammonia is a gas which mixes instantly and very well with water. It also is used in teargas shells because it irritates the eyes as eyes comprise of water.

Stage two: Here, certain chemicals including zinc are added to latex, which is vulcanised by heating. Zinc is added to the latex to make it spongy. Because of heating, fumes come out and the latex releases a lot of carcinogenic gases. Rubber has a lot of hydro carbons, which release these gases. Finally, latex is put into moulds and mattress are made.

Stage Three: After this, the mattresses are cooled and washed thoroughly. A large quantity of water is used in this process which brings out zinc in the form of white particles

The final word: Foam manufacturing is listed under 'F' category industries which are one of the most polluting industries. Such industries are listed just below the 'H' category industries, which are banned in Delhi, even in industrial areas. And as far as 'F' category industries are concerned, these can only be put up in industrial areas. If found anywhere outside an industrial area, it is in a non-conforming area. The master plan has categorised industries on the basis of their polluting activity:

Category A: Manufacturing agarbatti and biscuits, carpentry, photocopying, toys and dolls and batik work.

Category B: Manufacturing cycle chain and locks and small engineering works. AC parts, ice cream and elastic products are categorised in this category.

Category C: Brass fittings, lamps, polishing plastic, utensils and glass work.

Category D: Brief case, bags, metal containers, tyre-retreading, denting and painting and ice factories.

Category E: Battery charging, dry-cleaning, dyeing, metal polishing with machines, fluorescent light fittings, manufacture of thermometers, razor blades, wax polishing, printing, moulding of aluminium fittings and paper cutting machines.

Category F: Foam industries, manufacture of PVC products, electroplating, dyeing, aerated water and fruit beverages, iron foundries ink making, washing soap, coal fired boilers.

-RG

A village where the factories have no name

Rahul Gupta travels to Hastal village where he has an unpleasant brush with residents.

NEW DELHI: The moment a person enters Hastal, one can make out it is an area teeming with industrial units. People can be seen ferrying gunny sacks bulging with pieces of foam and sponges in rickshaws. The village is, in fact, dotted with factories.

Every fifty yards there is a factory. Black soot, grease and large drums are sure shot giveaways for the factories. Some units have been lying closed for a fortnight now. But others are still running. There are ones which are still working behind closed doors and huge locks.

None of the factories has a name. There are no sign boards. It is the noise, the gates and chemical drums which indicate a unit's presence. Delhi chief minister parliamentary secretary Ajay Maken also has a factory in the area — in a colony called Vidya Vihar, carved out of land from the village.

Passions are still running high over the closure of units in non-conforming areas by the government. People are guarded and do not reveal the address or the locations of the foam manufacturing units in their village.

The Times of India team still man-

aged to reach the factory and take photographs. But as the car wound its way out of the village, it was overtaken by youth on scooters and motorcycles and the car stopped. They pulled out the car keys. One of them shouted, "Who are you and why are you taking photographs. Whose permission did you seek. Give us the film."

Some more people gathered. Some threatened. Others shouted and others opened the door of the car. Two more people on a scooter came. One shouted, "Burn the car, burn the car. Take away the film. You have no permission to shoot photographs." The car was totally surrounded by people. By this time the small road was jammed with vehicles.

One of the youth who had opened the car door tried snatching the camera. He could not do, but finally the team had to give away the film. The people were still not satisfied. They wanted all films. It took time to convince them that the right film was with them. They still threatened, noted the registration number of the car and finally handed over the car keys.

A cunning master plan

H.T. 25 Nov, 2006

INDRAJIT HAZRA

IT'S A relatively cold day and the coffee machine has broken down. So the best way to keep myself warm and active, I figure, is to cogitate on what all of Delhi is talking about: the Master Plan.

Correct me if I'm wrong, but to my untrained ears, the phrase 'Master Plan' has a sinister ring to it. It smacks of world domination, Orwellian terror — cousin to Darth Vader's Death Star and Ronald Reagan's Evil Empire. No whiff of Master Card or masterpiece or even Master Bedroom here.

To be honest, I should be the last person commenting on the on-going debate about the 'seal-up-these-polluting-units-and-send-'em-packing' ruling by the Supreme Court. For one, I come from Calcutta and the mingling of residential areas and stinky-poo terrain is the most natural condition for me to be in.

Also, I'm biased. A large part of my life was spent in the close vicinity of scrap metal units for which I owe my sympathy towards Beethoven's aural deficiencies and affinity towards heavy metal music. I have also very good memories of living next to a *khatal* (cow — or in my case, buffalo — sheds). Most importantly, I'm a heavy smoker who lives in a residential area, have a car (pollution sticker included!), suffer from indigestion and vent a lot of hot air in front of the right audience.

Despite all this, however, I can perfectly understand Mr Jagmohan's desire to play hardball in order to stop Delhi from turning into — dare I say it? — another Calcutta.

I came up with a 'solution' after watching a recent episode of the television comedy, *Black Adder Goes Forth*. Captain Edward Blackadder (fighting the hairy Huns in World War I) comes to know that there is a spy in the army hospital. While methods of

sniffing out the mole are being discussed, Private Baldrick, the un-washed underbelly of the underclass, speaks up: "I too have a cunning plan." His 'cunning' plan happens to be going around the hospital and asking everybody, "Are you a German spy?"

Although Baldrick's 'cunning plan' is shot down as coming from a person with the 'intellectual capacity' of a 'boiled potato', I registered his genius. I racked my brains a few days later, catalysed by the sheer simplicity of Baldrick's idea, and came up with my own cunning plan regarding the residential area-polluting

OFF TRACK

units tussle: turn all residential areas in Delhi into industrial areas. No relocation, no sealing up of units, no politicians bleeding their hearts out against the injustice meted out to the 'people' — as opposed to the Martians sitting with their legs up in living rooms.

To be fair, this is an opinion held for years by most of Delhi's cunning politicians. After all, it's not as if by shifting industrial units to the edge of the universe that the soot and the fumes and the noise will stop effecting the workers. They'll have to live with it anyway, won't they? By rendering all of Delhi as residential-cum-industrial terrain, workers won't be singled out as a class to face the grime and muck of factories and units. (Which, incidentally, was more or less how Delhi has been working all these years.)

But cogitating now without my mandatory cup of coffee, I can see that this plan is no half as cunning as the one I have just come up with. Why destroy the green, green villages that lie at the outskirts of Delhi by relocating all those stinky-poo units when one can shift all those environmentally-concerned residents there? Private Baldrick couldn't have come up with a more cunning plan.

Jagmohan to meet Delhi MPs, CM; but still against polluting units

Khurana threatens to launch agitation to protect workers' interests

HT Correspondent
New Delhi, November 24

URBAN DEVELOPMENT Minister Jagmohan today assured the Lok Sabha that he would call a meeting of members of Parliament and Chief Minister of Delhi, besides other concerned parties for a solution to problems faced by industries in residential areas after the Supreme Court's hearing in the case on November 28.

Responding to yet another call-attention motion, this time in the Lok Sabha moved by Madan Lal Khurana and three others, Jagmohan said the Government had an "open mind" and was keen to find a solution, which would be "just and fair to all concerned."

Stating that polluting units should not expect any leniency and would have to shift out of the residential areas, he said the Government could not possibly reward the wrong-doers at the cost of law-abiding citizens.

Earlier, moving the motion, Khurana threatened to lead an agitation to protect the interests of hapless workers engaged in units if changes were not brought about in the Master Plan. He said 1.5 million people were hit by the move to close down all units in residential areas.

Khurana said newspaper reports about the Government's move to seal 38,000 industries in the city and deploy large contingents of paramilitary forces caused "tension."

He warned if redressal measures were not

taken, it would become very difficult to control the people.

Ramjilal Suman (Samajwadi) said the Centre, particularly the PM should come out clearly on proposed steps to mitigate the problems of industries and their employees. Kamal Nath of the Congress said the Government should not shy away from amending the Master Plan since it was a "dynamic concept."

Another Congress member, P R Dasmuni, suggested that anti-pollution gadgets be provided to industrial units to solve the pollution problem. TDP's MVVS Murthi said the Government should have a 'human face' and not act ruthlessly against "poor workers."

Motion on industries' relocation

Former Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar, supporting Mr Jagmohan, said he should not be blamed for upholding the Master Plan, which was after all approved by the Government and Parliament. "Neither Mr Jagmohan nor Prime Minister A B Vajpayee are dictators to thrust a solution."

Mr Jagmohan said there were other parties in the case, particularly the people, who were living in residential areas, facing the problem of pollution posing a serious risk to their lives.

He said recent surveys by *The Hindustan Times* and *The Times of India* showed that 87 per cent of Delhiites supported the move to relocate the industries. "Even resident associa-

tions have moved the Supreme Court in this regard," he said.

Mr Jagmohan reminded the Lok Sabha that other regions close to Delhi under the National Capital Region scheme had not developed because of the tendency of industries to stay put in Delhi. "Thousand of industrial plots in areas located in Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh are lying vacant. We have to develop them to make a success out of the NCR concept."

He said the Government, however, had agreed in principle, subject to observance of safeguards in respect of pollution norms, to redefine "household" industries in terms of the recommendations made by the Jagdish Sagar Committee.

Accepting the plea of BJP members for action against the bureaucrats, who allowed the crisis to reach this stage

Mr Jagmohan said the Government would also amend the Master Plan, if necessary, to acquire more land for relocation of industrial areas. It would also request the Supreme Court to give a little more time for relocation.

"I am not the final authority on the Delhi Master Plan. It was produced after a well laid down procedure after taking views of all concerned," he said.

Mr Jagmohan appealed to the members not to take a narrow view and settle for what serves the purpose for the present. Instead, they should ponder on what type of Delhi "do we want to live in, and what type of legacy do wish to bequeath to posterity and to our children."

Govt may turn to Supreme Court

AYSWARIA VENUGOPAL

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

THE Delhi government is considering a proposal to relocate industries in non-conforming or residential areas to the 16 industrial areas which were to be developed under the second Master Plan. It will also appeal to the Supreme Court for in situ regularisation of 11 other areas with more than 70 per cent industrial use which were identified in the Plan, due to expire in a few months.

The proposal was mooted at a Cabinet meeting on Thursday where an Action Taken Report on the closure of industries was also discussed. A meeting was called again today to discuss the affidavit to be given to the Supreme Court.

According to the Plan, "In the next two decades, to meet the expanding need of industrial units, 16 new light industrial areas would be

Master Plan (1981-2001)

■ **Light industries** (flatted factory and service industry): Jhandewalan, Birla Mill site on GT Road, near Shankar Market, DCM, Anand Parbat, Kirti Nagar near Pusa Institute

■ **Light industrial estates:** Motia Khan, Shahzada Bagh, Jhilmil Tahirpur, Kirti Nagar, Anand Parbat, GT Road (Shahdara), Keshopur, Badarpur, Gulabi Bagh, Hindustan Prefab (Bhogal), Okhla Industrial Area, Mathura Road, Naraina, Delhi Milk Scheme, Wazirpur, Lawrence Road, GT Road, Moti Nagar, Government of India Press, north of railway line to Rohtak and Rohini (two pockets)

■ **Extensive industrial estates:** Chilla, Okhla, Najafgarh Road, Mayapuri, Rohtak Road, Patparganj, South of Jehangiri, Mother Dairy and Samaipur Badli

required to be developed in Urban Extension...Extensive industrial activity in Urban Extension shall be confined within about 265 hectares area at two locations. These areas shall be mainly utilised for shifting of existing incompatible industrial units."

The Cabinet decided to close all water polluting industrial units, those units out of 1996 survey lists which had not applied for relocation or were found ineligible and had not appealed against the findings as also units which have come up after April 19, 1996. The government has set up a coordination committee under the chairmanship of Vivek Rae, Secretary, Environment, with representatives from DDA, MCD, DVB, DJB, Industries and Police departments and office of the Development Commissioner to supervise and coordinate the implementation of the Supreme

Jagmohan unfazed by Khurana's LS wardance

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

IT was the familiar spectacle of BJP versus BJP, this time in Lok Sabha. Resisting all pressure from Khurana and Co. Urban Development Minister Jagmohan stood firm over the demand for revision of the Delhi Master Plan.

As the Opposition benches watched in glee, BJP veteran Madan Lal Khurana sought to put Jagmohan on the mat by calling attention motion on the issue.

The irrepressible former Delhi

weird party, in which a member threatens to launch an agitation against his own government.

Jagmohan refused to yield. "If present trends continue, Delhi will be ruined if we do not take a fair and just stand. The entire national capital region will be destroyed," he said, adding, "Prudence requires that we should not forget the fundamentals in the heat of the moment."

The government, he pointed out, had agreed in principle to redefine the household industries in terms of the recommendations of the Jagdish Sagar committee, sub-

MASTER PLAN REVISION

Jagmohan: The issue is what kind of Delhi are we looking forward to, what kind of legacy do we wish to bequeath to posterity



Khurana: Come midway. Don't close down industrial units which employ four-five people and which are non-polluting

CM even threatened to launch an agitation against his own government if it did not intervene in the matter.

Arguing in favour of the industrialists, Khurana cautioned the minister against sending a wrong message. He pleaded for "a midway" to break the deadlock.

"Don't close down industrial units which employ four-five people and which are non-polluting," he said. As Khurana railed against the union minister, he was joined in by his party colleagues from Delhi, Vijay Goel and Lal Bihari Tiwari. They sought to put Jagmohan in the dock, prompting Suman to remark sarcastically that the BJP was a

ject to pollution norms.

"But I cannot allow polluting and hazardous units to continue functioning in the residential areas," he asserted. "The issue is what kind of Delhi we are looking forward to, what kind of legacy do we wish to bequeath to posterity and to our children and grandchildren?" he said.

On the issue of Master Plan revision, he said that it could be amended "if public interest is involved, if there is a sense of fair play".

"I have an open mind. I can meet anyone after the matter comes up for hearing in the Supreme Court on November 28," Jagmohan observed.



Employees of a PVC unit in Vishwas Nagar working behind downed shutters. Photo by RENUKA PURI

Work resumes behind shutters

SANGEET KUMAR
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

THERE'S a factory in every second building in east Delhi's Vishwas Nagar. After a five-day shutdown, factories here have begun operating behind downed shutters.

"We are all waiting for the December-28 deadline (Chief Secretary will reply to Supreme Court's contempt notice) and until then we have no choice but to operate behind closed doors," says a factory owner in the area.

Asked if operating their units in spite of the termination of their licence by the government was illegal, he said: "Absolutely not, if

the government chooses to shut all the factories, we along with all the workers will be out on the streets again."

Most factory owners have fudged the number of workers in their units. If the official figure is 10, the unit probably has 50 workers. For the workers here, the Supreme Court order sounds a deathknell.

Manoj looks much younger than the 18 years he claims his age is and shares a room with six others: "I have been working here for the past six months but each day now seems uncertain."

Meanwhile, factory owners have started talking openly about the huge payments they have been making to various govern-

ment agencies to keep their factories running have also started tumbling out.

"Just last year every unit owner had to shell out between Rs 50,000 to 1 lakh to the DVB in order to get our power load upgraded," says Rakesh Gupta, who owns a PVC pipe manufacturing unit.

"When the government knew that we would have to be relocated why were we asked to pay up such huge amounts of money?" he asks.

Narendra Mohan, a manufacturer of cable wires, says: "Most people here installed ETBs at the cost of Rs 1 lakh and paid bribes every year to get their licences renewed."

Friday sealing

- 22 polluting units in northeast
- 3 SDMs, 3 busloads of policemen oversee operation
- Problem areas: Welcome police station, Seelampur, Kabir Nagar

AT one particular unit in Kabir Nagar, the police were taken by surprise when acid fumes suddenly filled the air. A yellow liquid had been spilled on the factory floor. The police were taken aback and had to withdraw momentarily as almost everyone began choking and rubbing their eyes. They came back with handkerchiefs on their nostrils. The people inside the factory were arrested. At various places, sealing squads were misled by the locals and wrong nameplates put up. In some cases, even the addresses on the nameplates was wrong, alleged one of the SDMs.



A unit being sealed in north Delhi. Newsline photo

Petrol pumps to reopen

PETROL pumps which were closed following the Supreme Court order on industrial units in non-conforming areas will soon be reopened.

The Delhi Pollution Control Committee has written to DDA asking them to supply a list of petrol pumps located in conforming areas or land allotted by the DDA and have installed effluent treatment plants (ETPs).

'Are we ready to turn Delhi into a junkyard?'

PIONEER 25 NOV 2000

From Page 1

million gallons per day of industrial waste is going into the Yamuna and what is seen flowing in it today is nothing but sewer and industrial waste. In Okhla alone, for instance, during March, April 2000, the bio-chemical oxygen demand (BOD) level in the river was about 70 milligram per litre as against a standard of 3 milligram per litre, that is, 25 times more than the permissible level.

Mr Jagmohan was replying to a calling attention motion moved by Madan Lal Khurana of the BJP, Kamal Nath and Priyaranjan Dasmunshi of the Congress and Ramjilal Suman of the Samajwadi Party on the situation arising out of closure of various small and cottage industries due to non-revision of Delhi's master plan.

Sounding a note of caution, Mr Jagmohan said, "If the present attitudes and practices persist, Delhi would run the risk of having as many as 30 million people in the next few years and becoming an ugly, unhealthy, unworkable and unlivable city. In the process, a fatal blow would also be dealt to the development of National Capital region which comprises a substantial part of three important neighbouring states of Haryana Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

In the context of these stark realities, Mr Jagmohan asked, "should we rest our outlook on short-termism? Our thinkers always had an expansive view of time and space. We may be well advised not reduce every thing to the immediate, see things in their entirety, and project our vision into the future.

Expressing his firm resolve to correct the situation, he said the polluting industries would have to move out of residential areas and assured the House that it would convene a meeting of Delhi MPs and those concerned to find a way out regarding other units after the Supreme Court hearing on the issue on November 28.

He told the House he was prepared to find a "constructive and creative" solution keeping in view "larger and broader" aspects and subject to observance of polluting norms. He said he was willing to

"meet anyone" and would call a meeting of Delhi representatives after the views of the apex court were known on November 28.

Not satisfied with Jagmohan's reply, members from the Left Front and RJD staged a walk-out.

Earlier, moving the motion, Mr Khurana threatened to lead an agitation if changes were not brought about in the master plan saying relocation of the industrial units had hit 15 lakh people.

To a query from Vijay Goel (BJP), Mr Jagmohan said action had already been initiated by CBI against officials who have been found responsible for allowing the illegal industries in residential areas to flourish. The minister said "the Government will also amend the master plan, if necessary, to acquire more land for relocation of the industries in industrial areas."

At the same time, he said he would not allow every irregularity to be condoned and the wrongdoers to go scot free.

Taking exception to intemperate remarks against jagmohan by certain members, former Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar said by calling the minister as a "shaitan" (devil) and "garibo ka dushman hai" (an enemy of the poor) would not resolve the issue. "I have nothing to do (politically) with Jagmohan. But the minister alone cannot change laws which have been passed by various authorities including Parliament," he said adding steps had to be taken since 10,000 people were migrating into the city each day.

Mr Jagmohan said the present situation had arisen due to failure of the government of Delhi to develop plots for relocation of the industries in Bawana and other such areas.

"In this connection, it needs to be underlined that while the Supreme Court started passing orders from February two, 1996, up to December 9, 1999, no one talked of amending the master plan," he said. Mr Jagmohan said as per recent surveys by certain leading dailies, 87 per cent of Delhiites supported the move to relocate the industries. Even resident associations have moved the Supreme Court in this regard, he added.

WEATHER



Forecast: Mist/fog in the morning. Hazy sky. Fall in minimum temperature and it will be around 12 degrees C.

The maximum temperature in New Delhi (S'jung) on Friday was 26.8 degrees C, normal and the minimum 14.3 degrees C, 3 degrees C above normal.

Rainfall: Nil.

The maximum relative humidity was 96% and the minimum 56%.

Sun sets today at 5-24 p.m.; rises tomorrow at 6-52 a.m., Moon rises today at 5-59 a.m., sets at 5-12 p.m.



Nov Moon

tomorrow. Lighting up time 5-54 p.m.

ALOKE TIKKU STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, Nov. 24. — The Chief Secretary, Mr P S Bhatnagar, may have a tough time in the Supreme Court next week. The Delhi Cabinet has had a change of heart and will not have thousands of industries closing down.

Never mind if that is not how it always felt. On 6 September, the Cabinet reportedly approved the closure of industries in non-conforming areas which were not eligible for relocation. Yesterday, it reversed its own decision.

But that is not the only reason why the chief secretary may be in a spot. The chief secretary

had filed an affidavit before the court in September on the basis of the Cabinet decision.

"There is nothing to say about the 6 September decision. The government had filed its stand in its affidavit before the court," the Delhi Industry Minister, Dr Narendra Nath,

CLOSURE OF INDUSTRIES

told "The Statesman".

Another meeting of the Cabinet was convened today, reportedly to reconsider a request by the chief secretary to review the decision. Dr Nath suggested it had been turned down.

"The Cabinet met in the morning for a brief meeting," he said. "We decided that only

water-polluting units should be closed."

The Cabinet has also apparently diluted its decision on water-polluting units. Asked about the units which had installed Effluent Treatment Plants, the minister said it had been decided that the Supreme

Court would be asked to allow the government to permit these units to operate as they are non-polluting.

The Council of Ministers apparently could not afford to take a decision contrary to their public posture. Specially, when the Assembly is in session. The government has practically refused to close

We support the use of recycled newsprint

Jagmohan unfazed by criticism

CBI directs Jagir Kaur to reappear today

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

FACTORY WORKERS BLOCK ROADS

NEW DELHI, Nov. 24. — The Union urban development minister, Mr Jagmohan, has again made it clear that polluting units have to pack up from the residential areas of Delhi even though the government would request the Supreme Court to give some time for relocation.

Refusing to relent before the pressure tactics and criticism of his own party MPs from Delhi, Mr Jagmohan, however, clarified that he was ready to consider amending the master plan, without diluting its spirit.

Mr Jagmohan is also not against holding discussions with leaders, Delhi MPs and MLAs and even the members of the affected lot, but preferably after the Supreme Court hearing on the matter next Tuesday.

Mr Jagmohan said CBI has been instructed to deal with the complaints about officials harassing innocents in the name of the court direction by indiscriminately sealing factories.

Mr Jagmohan reminded Lok Sabha members that the Master Plan and its contents were formulated by Parliament and it is for them to protect the

NEW DELHI, Nov. 24. — Factory workers blocked roads at Khayala, Motinagar and others places in West Delhi this afternoon to protest against the sealing of factories. Eight units were sealed today in Uttam Nagar.

Police lathicharge the protesters at a few places after they pelted stones at passing vehicles. Five men were arrested on the charge of rioting.

Police said hundreds of factory workers from Harinagar and Qutub Nagar gathered at Keshopur Depot on the Outer Ring Road fearing their units would be sealed.

Traffic became normal in the area by about 5 p.m. Large number of policemen were deployed as tension prevailed till late in the evening. The DCP, Mr Kewal Singh, admitted the "situation will remain tense till the sealing continues."

He said police had requested Delhi Municipal Corporation officials not to seal any factory on 26 November, when a religious procession will be organised in the area. — SNS

spirit of it. He is ready to redefine the household industries according to the Jagdish Sagar Committee. Otherwise, the disturbing trends can not only damage the plan but the concept of a National Capital Territory.

Mr Madan Lal Khurana, in his speech sought "relief for the affected". He narrated how "indiscriminate sealing of factories" had brought many down to the street. He attacked Mr Jagmohan for insensitive and impractical ways and reminded him how the BJP manifesto had

promised to amend the Master Plan by facing new realities.

Mr Khurana's statement was vehemently attacked by Mr Chandra Shekhar. "Do not talk about your party manifesto. Parliament is not governed by your manifesto, dump it in the dustbin," he said.

The former Prime Minister said the House should take note of the violation of basic rules over the years, necessitating such strong action now. The Congress chief whip in the House, Mr Priya Ranjan Das Munshi, while fully sharing Mr Jagmohan's



Mr Jagmohan and (below) Mr Madanlal Khurana



concern for a better Delhi, pleaded with him to keep in mind the plight of thousands for poor migrants who have been affected by the move.

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, Nov. 24. — The Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee president, Bibi Jagir Kaur, who appeared before the CBI today in connection with her daughter, Harpreet Kaur's murder case, was directed to reappear tomorrow.

CBI sources refused to divulge information, but said the legal cell was examining the Punjab & Haryana High Court order granting bail to her.

"The possibility of filing a petition to quash the order cannot be ruled out," they said. The court had granted her bail on 15 November.

Bibi Jagir Kaur, one of the main accused in the murder case, appeared before the CBI for the second time today. She was accompanied by her supporters.

The agency, which has interrogated 20 witnesses so far, changed the charge against her and six other accused, named in the FIR, from Section 304 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) to 302 IPC (murder).

Jagmohan sidesteps Master Plan issue

The Times of India News Service

NEW DELHI: Lok Sabha MPs, cutting across party lines, demanded that the government suitably change Delhi's Master Plan. But Union urban development minister Jagmohan — who was under severe attack — stood his ground and committed himself only to convening a meeting of MPs to discuss the issue after the next hearing of the case in the Supreme Court on November 28.

While pointing out that if something drastic was not done soon, Delhi — which had the dubious distinction of being the third most polluted city in the world — would become unlivable, he stressed it was up to the cabinet to take a decision.

Jagmohan came under fire not just from Congress, RJD, Left and BSP MPs — who eventually staged a walkout against the government stand on the demolition drive and relocation of industries — but also from his own colleagues in the BJP

— particularly Delhi MPs Madanlal Khurana, Vijay Goel and Lal Behari Tewari.

Responding to a calling attention notice given by Khurana and four others, Jagmohan said the government was ready to amend the Master Plan and, if necessary, to acquire land for relocation of industries, provided it ensured fairplay and justice.

The minister also agreed to hold an inquiry to fix responsibility for non-compliance of the Supreme Court order of 1996 on shifting of polluting industries from Delhi. He said 8000 industrial plots in Rajasthan developed for the National Capital Region were lying vacant as there were no takers. Moreover, about 6000 plots were available in Narela where polluting industries — fitted with anti-pollution devices — could be located.

The government would also request the Supreme Court to give it more time to relocate industries.

Every Master Plan is routinely violated by the rich and powerful. Only 'ordinary citizens' are victimised

Plan for the Masters

By DUNU ROY

CITY PLANNERS plan cities, they do not make them. Cities have their own organic logic of growth. Different interests compete with each other to make the city the way they want it to be for their own survival. Those planners who fail to see this central truth eventually end up catering to the needs of those whose interests are most powerful. Nothing illustrates this better than the history of the city of Delhi, the area where the Pandavas possibly built their Indraprastha on the banks of the Yamuna river, with the aid of the demon 'Maya'.

The emergence of colonial rule changed the notion of towns as livelihood spaces. City walls were demolished and an Officer on Special Duty was appointed in 1908 to "plan the future expansion of Delhi on an orderly basis". This officer promptly recommended the westward 'expansion' of the city across the Ridge and the 'improvement' of the older areas along commercial lines. Those concepts prevail to the present day.

Thus, in 1948, there was a mass exodus and 4.5 lakh refugees arrived almost overnight in Delhi which then held about 10 lakh people. The Ministry of Rehabilitation set up a circle of completely unanticipated colonies around the periphery of the city within the Inner Ring Road, which acted as a spur to profitable commercial development. But this huge unplanned expansion had its corollary effect on the city.

In 1955, there was an epidemic of jaundice and 700 people died. In the subsequent investigation, it was discovered that untreated sewage from the new colonies was being discharged into the Najafgarh *nala* which was contaminating the city's water supply at Wazirabad. In response to the disaster, the Ministry of Health, instead of removing the polluting colonies, constructed a barrage across the river to separate the effluent discharge from the water intake.

The actions of the planners of the time reveal that they themselves were aware of the failures of planning and were searching for solutions. For instance, the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) was constituted in 1957 by an Act of Parliament "to check the haphazard and unplanned growth of Delhi... with its sprawling residential colonies, without proper layouts and without the conveniences of life", and to develop the first Master Plan for Delhi in 1962. Several new industrial areas were declared

for accommodating the 8,000 industries in non-conforming areas. But by 1971 itself, it was becoming clear that the city was going to grow far beyond the conceptions of the planners.

The total number of 'non-conforming industries' had increased to about 13,000. Instead of trying to accommodate this growth (as in the case of the refugee colonies), the administrative machinery changed targets and 1.5 lakh squatter families were forcibly moved into resettlement colonies, on the city's periphery. Curiously, at the same time, the Government regularised 567 unauthorised colonies, which had come up in contravention of the Master Plan, in order to make them eligible for minimal civic services.

A new Master Plan should have been ready by 1982. But instead, the entire city was geared to host the completely unplanned Asiad Games that year. Huge stadia, roads, hotels, flyovers, offices, apartments and colonies were constructed to cater to the needs of the Games and the anticipated commercial spillover. All these were in complete violation of the First Master Plan. It was only in 1985 that the first draft of the Second Master Plan was published for comments.

This draft came in for severe criticism within the Government as being "conceptually defective" and the Delhi Urban Arts Commission (DUAC) was asked to prepare another plan, known as DMP-2001. This plan was passed in 1986 but actually came into force in 1991. It called for limiting the urban population by 'de-industrialisation' though it

had nothing to offer for the estimated 24,000 non-conforming industrial units existing then.

It is worth noting that the 'environmentalist' lawyer, M.C. Mehta, filed his petition on polluting industries in 1985, just after the Asiad Games. This petition could have logically focused on the viola-



tions of planning by the Government itself, such as the refugee resettlement of the Fifties, the select regularisation of unauthorised colonies in the Seventies, and the Asiad boom of the Eighties.

It could have discussed the root causes of environmental degradation, such as the deliberate non-provision of space for industries and workers in the Sixties, the forced eviction of squatters (and the subsequent death of 1,500 of them in a cholera epidemic) in the Seventies, and the huge growth of private vehicles in the Eighties. Instead, this petition highlighted the existence of hazardous industries

in the city — many of which pre-dated the First Master Plan itself.

It is also curious that the Supreme Court sat silently on this petition for ten long years, from 1985 to 1995.

A category of hazardous industries had been defined in 1961, and stipulations made for their removal from the city. In 1995, only 1,220 hazardous units could be identified. Nevertheless, the Central Pollution Control Board issued notices to 9,164 units to show cause why they should not be shifted from Delhi. As many as 2,225 objections were filed to this notice and the Delhi Pollution Control Committee was forced to agree that only

171 units could be classified as hazardous. Again, this list grew to 1,226 units, all were given notice, and 433 objections received. Finally, in 1996, the Supreme Court held 168 units to be hazardous and ordered them to be moved out of Delhi.

What is interesting is that, at the same time, the Court shifted focus and set up a high-powered committee to look into the matter of regularisation of industries in non-conforming areas. The high-powered committee received 43,045 applications for regularisation but was able to certify only 376 as eligible for this purpose. The others would, therefore, have to be relocated to conforming areas.

The Government of Delhi then invited applications for relocation and received 51,846 applications, of which 22,399 were short-listed by the Delhi State Industrial Development Corporation on the basis of advance payments received. Almost 15,000 of these are to be relocated at Bawana where a new industrial area is to be developed on 1,065 acres of land (giving one-tenth the space stipulated in the First Plan). Three things must be noted for this proposed relocation.

- Non-conforming industry is not, by definition, polluting. It has been located on premises not meant for industrial purposes because of the lack of availability of conforming land areas.

- All plans for relocation are on paper. There has been no development on the site and no infrastructural facilities exist for industry.

- As of now, the plans do not contain any provision for the housing and services of the workforce. In other words, even these plans do not pretend to understand the real problems of industrial growth.

This brief review reveals three significant trends.

- Every Master Plan has been routinely violated, mainly by the Government and its agencies.

- When these violations have benefited the affluent or yielded commercial returns, they have been 'erased'.

- Whenever the poor and the middle class have had to 'violate' the Plan because no provisions have been made for their livelihood, they have been victimised and evicted.

Clearly, therefore, the Plan is for the Masters and all the posturing about environment and pollution and the rule of law is just a cloak to hide this blatant truth.