



Congress leaders Jagdish Tytler, J.P. Aggarwal, Jag Praveesh Chandra and Sajjan Kumar at a Press conference at the DPCC office on Sunday. Photo: Avind Yadav

DPCC plans agitation to highlight workers' plight

HT Correspondent
New Delhi, December 17

THE DELHI Pradesh Congress Committee plans to organise dharnas in all the 12 districts of the city on December 19. The dharnas, which are part of the 'Nyay Yuddh' campaign of the city Congress, would be addressed by party leaders and would focus on the plight of the industrial workers.

Addressing a Press conference here today, MIA and DPCC president Subhash Chopra accused the Bharatiya Janata Party of indulging in political double talk. He said that a delegation of BJP leaders had a meeting with Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee yesterday.

The delegation asked Union Law Minister Arun Jaitley to come out with a clear-cut definition of the

term 'polluting units'. But at the same time the party leaders Madan Lal Khurana and Sahib Singh Verma staged a dharna at Rajghat to press for the proper relocation of industrial units. He said the BJP leaders got no new assurance after their meeting with the PM.

"It is necessary that the problems of industrial units should be tackled in a phased manner starting with the 'most polluting' units and then moving on to the lesser pol-

Industries Issue

luting ones," Mr Chopra said.

He said there was great confusion on what constituted a polluting unit. "The categorisation carried out by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee, Central Pollution Control Board and Master Plan for Delhi-2000 differ from each other in varying

respects. We want to know from the nodal agencies that which are the types of polluting units they want to seal and their definite number," said Mr Jagdish Tytler. Also present at the conference was senior party leader Sajjan Kumar and MIA Mukesh Sharma, besides other party workers.

Mr Chopra said given the confusion prevalent in official circles with regard to categorisation of polluting industries and the impending law and order problem as jobs of lakhs of industrial workers were at stake, the Delhi government needs more time to comply with the orders, for which an affidavit has already been filed.

He clarified that though the Congress favours review of the MPD, it is not against closure of highly polluting units, which are potential health hazard for the residents of the city.

Polluting units' closure starts today

Congress to launch 'Nyay Yudh'

Staff Reporter

New Delhi

WITH THE deadline given by Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vijal Kapoor expiring on Sunday, nearly 50 polluting units will close across the Capital on Monday.

The Lt Governor II-GI had given an ultimatum last month, time till 11 Monday to voluntarily close operations in their polluting units.

According to a public order from Raj Nivas, "polluting units which fail to comply with this directive shall be forcibly closed by the Government without any further notice."

Delhi government on Sunday issued the final go-ahead for the enforcement, needed to start the massive closing operations in the Capital.

The closing squads are composed of Delhi government officials, assisted by officials from state-level Departments, Authority (DIA), Delhi Pollution Control and the 'Ministerial' Corporation of Delhi (MCD).

According to the order issued by the L-G, industrial units that emit sulfur, liquid or gaseous substances in excess of the standards specified in Schedules I and VI of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, must be closed down.

Industries that face closure include acid and chemical producing units, aluminum anodising units, auxiliary industries of slaughter houses and units producing non-sleeping used acetone.

Also, dyeing, bleaching, finishing, garmenting chemical and

refrigerating substitute soap manufacturers and those units producing vacuum flasks and nickel plating will be closed.

The Delhi government had on Saturday morning sought Delhi Directorate from the nodal agency — the Central Pollution Control Board — approval by the Supreme Court.

Explicit instructions had been awaited by the Delhi government to close all the polluting units from Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's 60th birthday in Delhi.

Delhi government had already requested the Supreme Court for the order upto December 2002 for the closure of all industries from the non-conforming areas.

From Monday the government will get other instructions to close the 'unpolluted' polluting units in the Capital's residential areas with immediate effect.

Other industrial units like factories processing clothes — mangle, pressing, dyeing, finishing — and electroplating units will also be closed.

The one will also fall on units which come under the 'F' category like plastic products, plastic film, PVC compounds, poly-urethane foam, stainless steel, varnish, stone and air-conditioning, table saw, fuel gases including biogas, gas production, green, metal re-rolling mills and steel casting units.

According to the Lieutenant Governor's directive, owners of such units who do not comply with the order face prosecution upto five years and a fine which may extend to Rs 1 lakh.

Staff Reporter

New Delhi

DELHI: PRASHANTH, Congress Committee (DPE) will start a 'Nyay Yudh' fight for justice on December 23 as all 71 Central of the state to give the Central government to close down on the operations of the polluting units. Sharma and speaking for the state leaders will start the activities.

Talking to the Presspersons on Monday, DPE, speaker Subhash Chandra said that they wanted to know from the Government how going to reduce the polluting units and all measures to be taken to clean up the state. They said that they would be demanding the Government to take steps to reduce the polluting units and all measures to be taken to clean up the state. They said that they would be demanding the Government to take steps to reduce the polluting units and all measures to be taken to clean up the state.

Mr Chandra said that Delhi government and DPCC had always been asking the Central government to define the meaning of polluting units.

Master Plan to recognise with 70 per cent industrial concentration in industrial areas.

"If we go by the Central Pollution Control Board, there are three categories of polluting units, yet there are no clear guidelines in the Master Plan. There are only categories of I, II and III, yet there are no clear guidelines in the Master Plan. There are only categories of I, II and III, yet there are no clear guidelines in the Master Plan. There are only categories of I, II and III, yet there are no clear guidelines in the Master Plan.



Subhash Chandra (l) with J P Agarwal (ll) and Sajan Kumar (r) with veteran Tyler, at a DPCC conference in the Capital on Sunday

Agarwal was in charge of the nodal agencies and "is very much in the know of things regarding tr-

ustment with a Delhi and a worker. They are saying that we are in no position to do the lot of polluting units in the Delhi government."

Mr Chandra said that there were 71 units of polluting units in Delhi. "We are in a position of closing these units down. In fact, asking for 71 units to be closed and

less than three lakh people would be rendered jobless. And if we don't think of their plight, they may create an unrest and other problem in the capital. He said that Nyay Yudh by the industrial workers would continue unless their problems were solved in their satisfaction."

Mr Chandra invited Sanjiv Kumar, Minister for Urban Management, Agriculture and Small & Medium

were responsible for the present plight of the industrial workers. "They are not concerned with the fate of their workers and were only interested in getting cheap industrial mileage out of it," he further added. He criticised the meeting of BJP leaders with the Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Minister Lal Kishan Shastri at Raj Ghat, a political gimmick and eye-wash to the workers of workers.

— Anand Singh's news

'Sealing of units may cause law & order problem'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, Dec. 17. — The president of the Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee, Mr Subhash Chopra, today said sealing all polluting industries might create a law and order problem in the Capital.

Addressing a Press conference, Mr Chopra said "the exact definition of polluting units has not been clarified by the agencies. The Central Pollution Control Board, Delhi Pollution Control Committee and now the nodal agency under the urban development minister, all have different definitions of polluting units."

He said people were still confused about which type of industries are going to be sealed by the nodal agency.

According to him sealing of polluting industries might create a law and order problem. "Lakh of workers and factory

owners might come again on the streets and stage violent protests," Mr Chopra said. He estimated that there were over a lakh factory workers who would be affected by the sealing. "Congress is not against sealing factories which are highly polluting, but at the same time the industries should be relocated in a proper manner as the Delhi government has done in Narela," he said.

He said according to CPCB there are three categories in which the polluting industries are classified, and the DPCC had a list of categories from A to F.

"The nodal agency on its part, has not made it clear which type of polluting units will be sealed. It has not come out with the list, on the basis of which it would seal polluting units. It has to remove the ambiguity about what type of

industries are to be sealed," Mr Chopra said.

On the issue of amending the Master Plan, Mr Chopra said "why cannot the Master Plan be amended and necessary changes be made to recognise those areas as industrial areas which have a concentration of 70 percent industries?"

Reacting to the dharna held by the former Union minister, Mr Madan Lal Khurana, and a meeting of BJP leaders with the Prime Minister, Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee, on the issue, Mr Chopra said, "all these are political gimmicks. They are not interested in solving problems of the people who will be affected by sealing."

He said the DPCC will continue to protest against the sealing of industries. On 19 December Congress workers will hold dharna, in all 12 districts in the Capital, he added.

Crackdown on polluting units

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, Dec. 17. Fifty joint teams of the Delhi government will crackdown tomorrow on non-industrial areas here, beginning with water polluting industries in North-West District.

The district has 7,500 polluting units. But tomorrow the teams will only target units which are "undisputedly water polluting".

Twenty-seven of the 80-odd types of industries in group F have been identified for the closure in the first phase. "Like nickel polishing, electroplating, steel rolling and pickling," a government official said. The government has to close about 38,000 units by 3 January and submit its report to the nodal agency under Union Urban

Development Ministry.

"It will be impossible for us to close all of the units in the next fortnight. But we will try to seal as many as possible," the official said.

The Delhi government had to withdraw its team last month after factory owners and

ENFORCEMENT TEAMS SET UP

workers took to the streets. The violence had left three men dead.

He said these 27 types are "undisputedly" water-polluting and would have to be closed down. "It has been found that most of the industries which fall under the first 27 types water polluting units were operating in this district."

The special teams will comprise of the sub-divisional

magistrates and officials from the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, Delhi Development Authority, Delhi Vidyut Board and Delhi Jal Board.

He said that separate lists have been given to all officials well in advance. Another official said that the squads were told to ensure that the residential part of the premises was not sealed. Instructions have also been given that places where there was "no industrial activity" were not to be sealed.

Further, the units should not be closed if the site inspection revealed the absence of 'F' category industrial activity. Instructions have also been

■ See UNITS: page 4

UNITS

(Continued from page 1)

given that installation of pollution control devices shall not exempt such units from being sealed.

Meanwhile, the Delhi Police has made adequate security arrangements for the special teams.

The Deputy Commissioner of Police of North-West District, Mr Sandeep Goel, said "we have deployed adequate personnel police force in the whole district to avert any untoward incident. Police teams would be assisting the officials in sealing the units."

A senior police officer said six companies of para-military forces have been deployed in the area and "more forces have been deployed in the area which witnessed violence and riots recently."

DELHI GOVT STARTS CLOSURE ACTION TODAY

Bells toll for polluting units

By A Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI: The Union urban development ministry on Sunday directed the Delhi government to close down all industries which fall in group F of the Master Plan with immediate effect. The orders mean a crack down on such units would now begin on Monday. Following the directive, the Delhi government said it has given the final go ahead to over 50 enforcement teams to act against units which are "undisputedly" the most polluting in the Capital's residential areas.

The government also released a list of industries which, it said, would be closed down in accordance with the directive given by the Union urban development ministry, designated as the nodal agency for the purpose by the Supreme Court. All the listed units fall under group F of the master plan.

The enforcement teams, headed by officers drawn from the city government, DDA and MCD, will target industries engaged in the following trades:

- Acids and small-scale chemical goods, aluminium anodising, ancillary industries of slaughter houses and auto electroplated accessories.
- Manufacture of battery boxes, batteries and accessories, dyeing, bleaching, finishing and processing of cloth, mercerising, calendering and glazing, large-scale electroplating of enamelware and fuel gasses.
- Manufacture of galvanised buckets, glass products, grease, oil, reinforced cement concrete pipes (small-scale), iron foundries, nickel polishing, plastic products,

plastic dye, PVC compounds, polythene bags, refrigerators and air-conditioners, steel re-rolling mills (small-scale), steel casting, toilet soap manufacture, vacuum flasks, writing inks and zinc polishing.

All these units are listed for immediate closure.

"Despite some confusion over the issue, the list does not include units like flour mills, shops which deal in just repair work and even laundry units. As such they do not fall under the category of the most polluting units, hence they shall not be included in the most immediate sealing drive," a statement by the city government said.

The Times of India News Service adds from Chandigarh: Seeing an opportunity for quick industrialisation, Haryana is opening its doors to units which will get thrown out of Delhi. On instructions from chief minister Om Prakash Chautala, the state government has announced a special scheme under which instant allotment of land will be made to such units.

A spokesman said all those who want industrial plots can walk into the office of the Industrial Assistance Group with their applications and walk out with plot allotment letters. The Haryana Industrial Development Corporation will hold instant allotment camps on December 21 and 22 in New Delhi. The corporation will offer plots of various sizes in industrial estates in Kundli (just on the border with Delhi), Harhi (70 km from Delhi), Manesar (50 km) and Bawal (90 km).

▶ Relocating polluting units - page 3

What a chance to win a new vote-bank!

How our leaders are playing to the audience, even if it's against their own parties

By Shivan Singh

NEW DELHI In the political battleground, one expects rival parties to be as each others' bitterest. But the issue of relocation of polluting industries in Delhi and the on-going war of words over it, has clearly established that Delhi BJP and Congress leaders are not only fighting rival parties but also factions within their own ranks. The result — a massive confusion over this emotional issue.

When Delhi Sadar M.P. Madan Lal Khurana led an agitation of the Laghu Udyog Samiti on December 16, he locked horns with the nodal agency implementing the relocation order (union urban development ministry) and revealed his tenuous relationship with his party colleague and Union minister Jagmohan. The Congress fared no better. The Delhi unit of the party, by

waging what they call a "nayay yudh" (a war for justice) against the sealing orders, actually proved to be the worst hindrance to its own party — the Delhi government, which is implementing the nodal agency's order.

Explains a Delhi BJP leader: "The Delhi BJP is speaking in different voices because each leader wants to gain political mileage out of this vexed issue. The relocation issue concerns one-third of the population. This cause means garnering a vote bank, even at the cost of being loggerheads with one's own party."

The fissures in the BJP appeared immediately after Khurana decided to start an agitation against the nodal agency's order to seal all polluting industries. The order had been passed by the union urban development ministry.

Despite Prime Minister Atal Be

han Vajpayee's assurance to the BJP delegation (comprising all seven Delhi MPs, including Jagmohan and Delhi BJP president Mange Ram Garg), whom he met on December 16, that only the most polluting industries would be sealed, Khurana went on to agitate against the order, and openly criticised the urban development ministry.

Mange Ram Garg, however, had a curious explanation to give for Khurana's move. "Khurana was not leading the agitation in capacity of a BJP leader but merely attending a meeting organised by Laghu Udyog Samiti." A clear indication that he was disassociating from Khurana's campaign.

After his last meeting with Jagmohan, Garg announced that the minister had agreed to give exemption to the less polluting industries and some other units like flour mills and cycle-repair shops would

be exempted. He said, however, none of these clarifications figured in the nodal agency's action plan that was announced on December 16.

The Congress has also decided to continue its nayay yudh against the sealing order. "For those opposed to Sheila Dixit in this faction-ridden party, this case has become yet another point to score against her," said a Delhi Congress leader.

An indication of how the issue of relocation has become a battleground to settle political scores, comes from a stand taken by one of the major organisations leading the factory agitation, "Certain Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha members from Delhi have ulterior motives. They are using the issue for their personal gains," said Ajit Choudhary, president of the Delhi Manufacturers Federation and a municipal councillor.

Cong accuses BJP of indulging in doublespeak

By A Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI Attacking the Bharatiya Janata Party for trying to gain political mileage out of the issue of closing polluting industries, Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee president Subhash Chopra pledged to continue his "nayaya yudh" against the nodal agency's order.

Brieling mediapersons on Sunday, Chopra said the BJP was indulging in double-talk and political one-upmanship while lakhs of industrial workers were living on the edge in Delhi.

Added Congress leader Sajjan Kumar, "Prime Minister Atal Behan Vajpayee is also adopting a paralytic attitude. Our party has not been able to get any support from BJP leaders. He could have visited the Rajya Sabha MPs from Congress as well."

Chopra said the BJP leaders did not get any new assurances even after meeting the prime minister. "In

Supreme Court for an extension in the deadline for relocation of industries was reiteration of the stand taken by the Congress party," Chopra claimed.

Accusing Union urban development minister Jagmohan and Delhi BJP leaders of "destroying the liveli-

hood of lakhs of industrial workers in Delhi," Chopra announced that he would begin the second phase of his "nayay yudh" by organising demonstrations in all the districts of Delhi on December 19.

He demanded a clarification from the nodal agency on the polluting in-

dustries list. "The nodal agency should clarify which industries would be classified as polluting units. And only when provision for relocation of these industries are made, should the agencies announce them," he said.

It's Dikshit's fault: BJP

By A Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI Reacting sharply to DPC's decision to launch an agitation against the Union ministry of urban affairs, Delhi BJP president Mange Ram Garg accused the Congress unit and the Delhi government of doublespeak. He alleged that the present stalemate on the issue was a result of the Delhi government's new policy. He said Sheila Dixit's government had done nothing to develop the land acquired for relocation, which had led to the present turmoil.

He accused that Union urban development minister Jagmohan had led it to the Delhi government to identify the polluting units.

"The ball is in their court. It is unfortunate that the DPC was stooping so low to mislead the people by organising dharnas," he said. He reiterated Delhi BJP's demand that the polluting units be relocated in a phased manner.

Printing out the confusion in the issue, he said he had been compelled to file a petition in the court but had declined polluting units differently. The Central Pollution Control Board listed three categories of polluting units. The Delhi Pollution Control Committee list which also figures in the Master Plan 2001 gives category A to B. However, the Delhi government match and an increasing list of exemptions. He added the Congress leaders also reiterated their demand for amendment in the Master Plan 2001. Chopra said that this was the only solution to the problem as it would allow the polluting industries to be relocated.