

Kamela and Meerut City

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ABSTRACT

Meerut city of Uttar Pradesh in India has slaughter houses locally called 'Kamela' which slaughter more than 5000 cattle per day, besides the permissible limit of 300, resulting in crisis of milk and milk products in the areas and pollution of land, water and air in the region making life of the habitants miserable.

The paper is based on primary data in which samples of water were collected and tested and secondary data taken from various Government Non-Government Organizations. Photographs show the eye view of Kamela and maps the location of area. The following paper highlights the impact of Kamela on land, air and water of Meerut City directly and its people indirectly.

I. INTRODUCTION

A slaughter house or abattoir is a facility where animals are killed for consumption as food products(1).

Slaughtering animals on a large scale possesses significant logistical problems and public health requirements. Public aversion to meat packing in many cultures influences the location of slaughter houses. In addition, some religions stipulate certain conditions for the slaughter of animals.

Slaughter house have existed as long as there have been settlement too large for individuals to rear their own stock for personal consumption. In London numerous stockyards in the periphery of the city, where slaughter occurred in open air called 'SHAMBLES' have existed.

In United States around a billion animals are slaughtered every year in 5700 slaughter houses and processing plants employing 5,27,000 workers in 2009. In European Union the annual figure is 300 million Cattle, Sheep and Pigs and 4 billion Chickens.

This year India will replace the United States as the World's third largest beef exporter, besides Brazil and Australia. In just first half of 2012, India exported \$ 1.25 billion worth of meat, and a 30% growth in revenue from 2010 exports is projected by the end of the year, according to a U.S. Beef Export Federation Study in April, 2012 while the bulk of Indian exports is Buffalo meat bound for Middle East and South-East Asian markets, the growing middle class in Arab countries have sparked a new craving for Cow beef(2). The rise in demand could make India the

world's king beef exporter by 2013, according to USDA estimates.



Source :Amar Ujala

In India 24 states outlaw the slaughter of Cows except under extenuating circumstances. And several states including Delhi and Rajasthan among others ban their sale and slaughter. The strict laws against Cow slaughtering in the majority of Indian States have forced the Lucrative Cow beef trade underground. An estimated 1.5 million Cows, valued at up to \$ 500 million Cows, valued at up to \$ 500 million are smuggled out of India annually, which provide more than 50% of beef consumed in neighboring Bangladesh.

In India, Meerut City of Uttar Pradesh is famous for Kamela, which contribute a lot in the economy as it has an annual turnover of exports 1.25 Arab Rupees from meat. These Kamela not only pollute the local environment including land, air and water but also make the life of the residents miserable. Affecting the local environment directly and health of the people indirectly. This paper progress keeping the following objectives in mind.

II. OBJECTIVES

The impact of kamela on Meerut city paper has following objectives :

1. To discuss the effect of Kamela on environment of Meerut City.
2. To throw light on the efforts of various Government Organizations, NGO's and common man in order to put a check on excessive unhygienic slaughtering at Kamela.
3. To examine the inter-relationship between the explained variable and explanatory variables.
4. To find out the impact of Kamela on economy of particular group associated with this occupation.
5. To propose policy implications for further planning to maintain sustainability.

III. METHODOLOGY

The following techniques have been used to understand the Kamela's impact on environment of Meerut city.

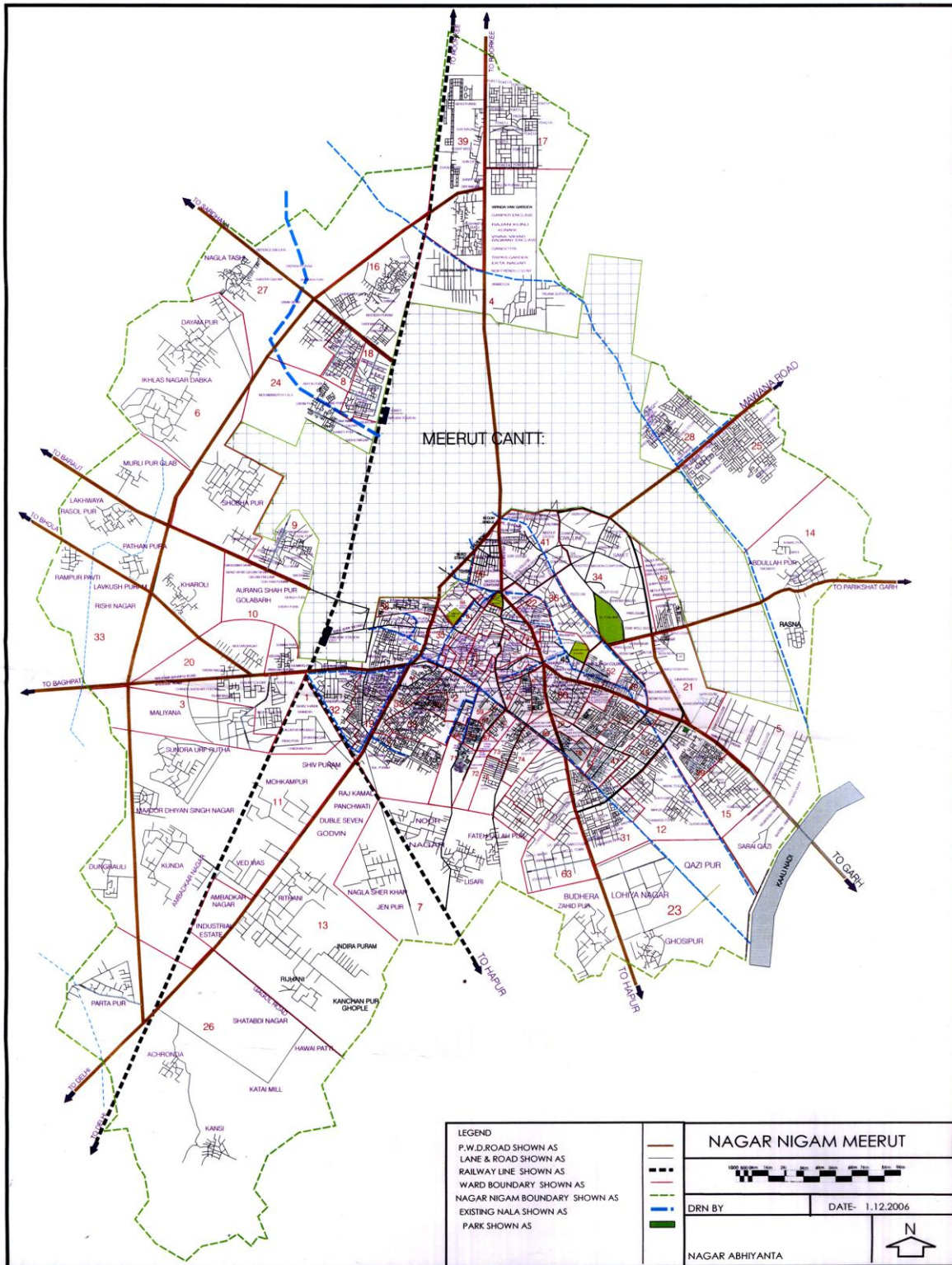
1. Field observation.
2. Sample study.
3. Secondary information collected from published and non-published reports of Government, Non-Government and Semi Government Organizations.
4. After discussion and compilation, analysis of data is done from which conclusions are derived and than suggestions given.

MEERUT CITY – A GEOGRAPHICAL INTRODUCTION

Meerut is a metropolitan city and has a municipal corporation. It is an ancient city located 56 km (35 mi.) North-East of New Delhi. It has 16th largest metropolitan area in India and is 17th largest city in India. It ranked 292 in 2006 in the list of largest cities and urban areas in the world. It is the fastest developing city of Uttar Pradesh and its metropolitan area spreads over 198 kms. which is third in Uttar Pradesh after Lucknow and Kanpur.

Famous for Scissors, Handloom Cloths, Gold Jewellery, Sports Goods (Cricket), Gazak and Rewri (Jaggery Sweet), Meerut is also known as the city of Scissors or the Sports capital of India.

Meerut has very hot summers and very cold winters. Temperature in summers can reach 48^oC summer last from April to July. Visibility is almost zero during November to June due to fog. Lowest temperature recorded is 0.5^o.(3) Rainfall is good i.e. between 80 to 100 cm per annum, which is suitable for growing crops.



Source :Nagar Nigam ,Meerut

Map:1

Location - Meerut lies between 28.2 degree latitude and 77degree longitudes in the northern plains of India. The region is plain lying between Ganga and Yamuna River. The region does not have water scarcity as underground water is present.

Demography - According to 2001 census, Meerut city ranked 17th in terms of population and 6th in terms of population density in Uttar Pradesh. Male constitute 53.43% of population and females 46.56%. The city has an

average literacy rate of 83.96, higher than the national average of 59.8%. Meerut has one of the largest Muslim population among the cities of India. As per provisional reports of Census India, population of Meerut in 2011 is 1,305,429; of which male and female are 688,118 and 617,311 respectively. Although Meerut city has population of 1,305,429; its urban / metropolitan population is 1,420,902 of which 752,893 are males and 668,009 are females. The population of the city has grown by 0.49944 million in the past 5 years. Therefore, on average, the population every year goes up by 0.099888 million.

Economy - Meerut is famous as an industrial city being in the proximity of Delhi. Existing industries are Textile, Transformer, Sugar, Distillery, Chemical, Engineering, Paper, Sports Goods Manufacturing, Prospecting Industries, IT, ITIS. Identified industrial areas are at Shatabadi Nagar, Delhi Road, Baghpat Road, Roorke Road, Mawana Road, Parikshitgarh (Kila) Road, Garh Road and Hapur Road. Hapur Road is the place in Meerut city where Kamela's are located. kal Uttar Pradesh pollution Control Board reported that near about 25 industries discharge their effluents in KALi river thus polluting its water. As per Environment (Protection) Rules 1986 that the standards should be maintained regarding Amount of heavy metals clearly indicates that the industrial effluents have failed to comply with the statutory necessities.

Most of these industries either do not have a properly working treatment plant or else they do not have it at all. The resultant of this is that untreated water waste is directly drained into the river and thus polluting the river to great levels.(4)

The effluents of all kind of industries from distilleries to alcohol manufacturing units, from sugar to paper have exploited the river to the unwarranted limits. Meerut witnesses successful running of various slaughter houses and the waste water has no other fresh water source to be drained into and thus finds a safe haven in the River Kali.

PROBLEM

Hapur road of Meerut city is densely populated region and is having a meat market where there are about 400 slaughter houses called 'Kamela', where Cattles are being slaughtered. As per rules about 300 animals can be slaughtered as per Meerut's population after medical examination whereas this limit had exceeded to 5000 in number. This increased number of slaughtering per day results in rise in prices of Milk in the region which is at present 30 to 38 Rs. per litre and other Milk products along with its crisis. The demand thus being met by synthetic Milk being prepared by homonizer which mixes the ingredients in Milk very well. Kamela is a matter of great concern because it carries with it good amount of blood and the chemicals being used for slaughter activities are dangerous to the river water. The water coming out of these consist of chemicals which are dangerous along with a good amount of bio-degradable products as well.



Source: Amar Ujala

IV. FINDINGS:

Kamela are property of Municipal Corporation which are run on tender basis. Therefore, the tender owners have to work under certain guidelines but drawback of tenders materialized is that they have dualistic language which is in favor of tender owners. The Municipal Corporation acts as a watchman to the tender owner.

Municipal Corporation has agreed that slaughtering still continues in Kamela. Very many times letter has been written to District Magistrate and DIG than also no Police arrangement have been made and slaughtering still continues disobeying the orders.

No action is being taken by local police despite of continuous complaints from the residents. District Magistrate had agreed that slaughtering continues in about 131 furnaces even after receiving orders from High Court. Where till October, 2009 about 544 furnaces have been demolished. Nigam wanted ETP to be installed in Kamelas.

In February, 2010 this matter was taken in petition Committee of Parliament. In April, 2010 there was mention by Urban Development's principal secretary that slaughtering continues in Kamela despite of expiry of contract. As per rules the licensed shopkeepers were to receive Rs. 50/- per annum as 'Mahsul Shulk' along with receipt which has been confined only to papers. Besides this under the 'Animal Cruelty Act', no antimortem or post mortem was done by any veterinary doctor. On June, 2010 Kamela existence has been verified by the team of petition Committee and it was presented in Lok Sabha. A Report regarding this was to be submitted till August, 2010 which was not done till April, 2011.

In March, 2011 the employees of Kamela blocked the area around it as inspection team from Municipal visited that area and did not allow the team to enter the area and gave misleading information. The report submitted by Committee said that closing of Kamela will give rise to unemployment in the region.

On an average Kamela had been receiving more than 300 vehicles loaded with Cattle from Morning to Evening at Hapur Road and Bijli Bamba Bypass.

Thus, although annual export is of 1.25 Arab of meat but due to unauthorized slaughtering pollution (land, water and air) is increasing in the region causing various kinds of diseases among the people residing in and around this region giving rise to various diseases and deaths of many in the form of Cancer, Tuberculosis and numerous types of skin diseases, Heart disease, Asthma, various allergies and old age before time.

V. ANALYSIS

The impact of Kamela on land is in area of 6 to 7 km as per available data but in reality, it is much more. The tests of underground water samples have proven this. The main head of Kamela is Municipal Committee, which passes tender and than the person who gets it has to work according the rules and regulations proved by the Municipal Corporation.

The rules and regulations are not clear and their language is misleading. Municipal Corporation act as guards for Kamelas and sometimes the condition is even worse than that. All administrative bodies have been unable to handle Kamela issue. This has been proven several times that Kamela's have completely demolished the Central Pollution Control Act.

The water quality and air has been tested several times and has proven that their quality has deteriorated and gone beyond permissible limits because the blood and waste material is left in open which seeps directly and pollutes the underground water forcing the local people to consume that water only.

Because of 5000 Cattle being slaughtered per day and 256 tones meat being packed daily whereas as per laws only 300 cattle could be slaughtered after medical examination. All these practices have resulted into milk crisis in whole of Western Uttar Pradesh which further results in increase of high-Cost Price of Milk Products and more production of synthetic milk with Homonizer. The export of frozen meat gets a subsidy of 20%. Meat is considered as agricultural produce. But how come it becomes an agricultural produce is not understood. Just because of Cattles' feed doesn't make them agricultural produce, if yes, then man also comes in this category.

In Kamela region of Meerut at about 53 places there are about 449 furnaces which consumes near about 900 Kl of water and produces near about 450 Kl of polluted slurry, which pollutes Kali River via Odiyan and Kali River polluting the region from Meerut to Kannauj. In final stages polluting the major rivers of our country and in the end polluting the oceans on meeting them indirectly effecting the food web of the oceans.

Some highly forested areas of Meerut have become deforested because of Kamela. Because of Kamela the air of Meerut city is also getting polluted.

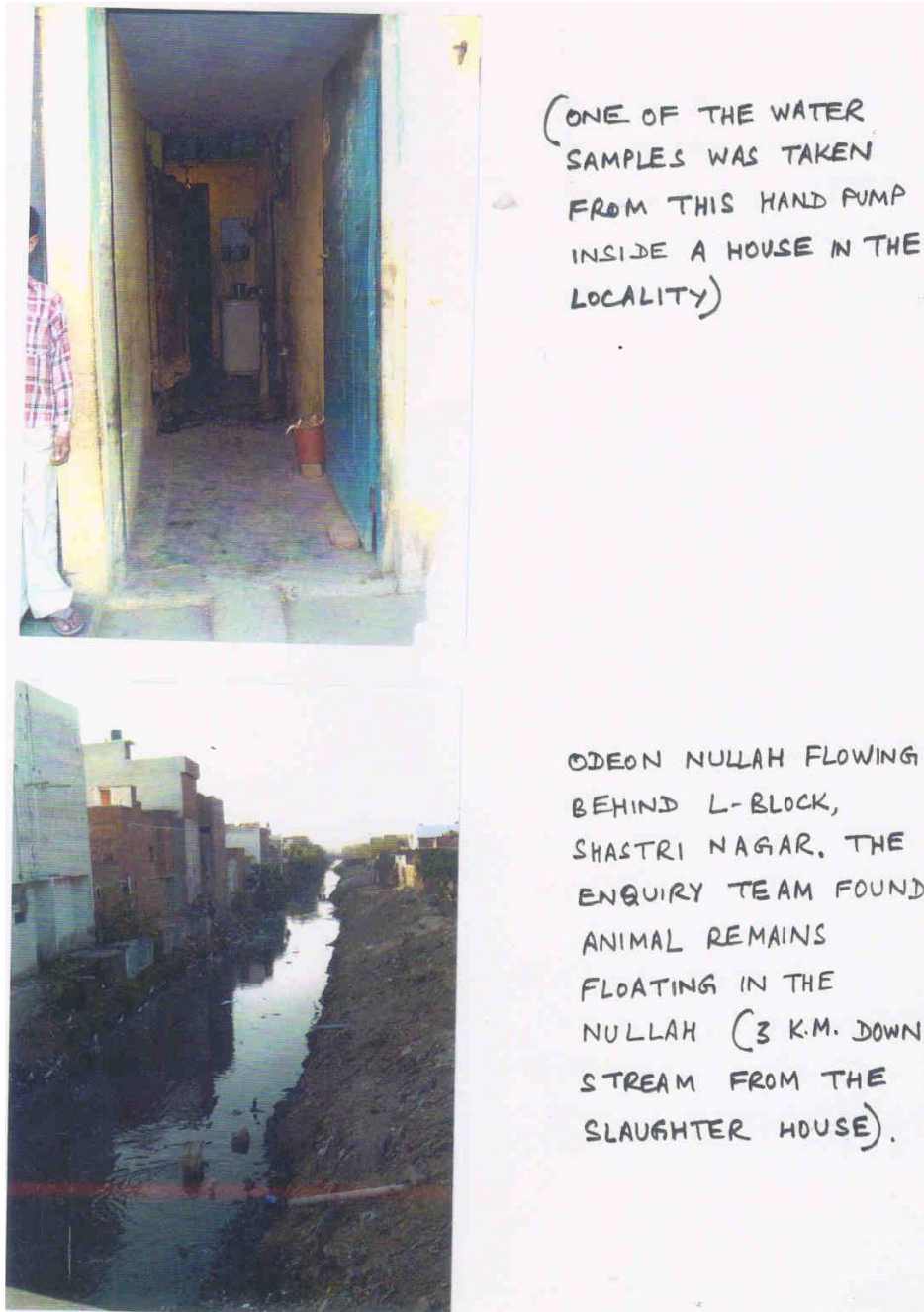
The reason of Kamela persisting till today is the beckoning of illegal sources. Despite of orders being passed to close them down they still persist. At one place the Snake Charmer, Bear and Monkey showman were forced to leave their traditional method of earning on the other hand slaughtering of 5000 animals per day is being done.

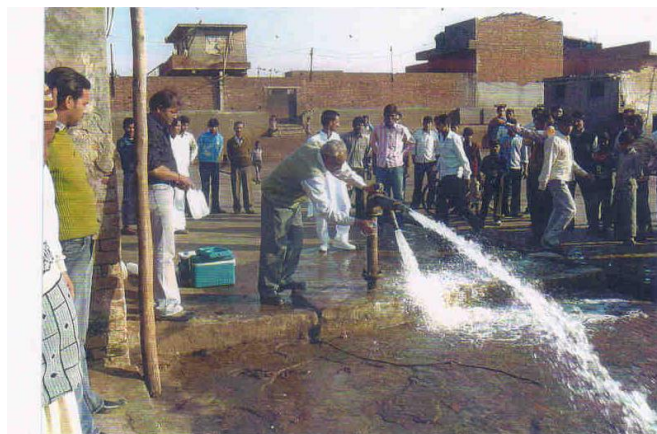
One more point of consideration is that why the tender of Kamela is given again and again to the same families and why meat export tender is given to the famous and rich companies only social and environment network tend to get disturbed.

A modern Kamela will be set at Ghosipur for which Nagar Nigam has supplied bank guarantee of 10 Lacs Rupees to Pollution Board for getting NOC but still it has miles to go . No work in progress has come in notice at Ghosipur where there are plans of bringing a Hi-tech Slaughter house neither the farmers from whom

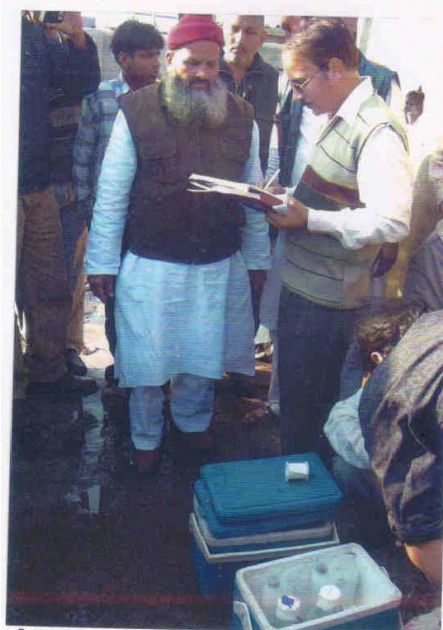
the land had been taken for the fore said purpose had been given the compensation. A team of people living in and around Kamela have made an appeal to give Kamela matter to Central force so that the slaughtering can be done only to meet the local demand of 350 animals in comparison of 5000.

The Kamela still continue to exist in residential areas of Meerut city thus polluting both underground water source and surface water sources of Meerut which is clear from the pictures given below



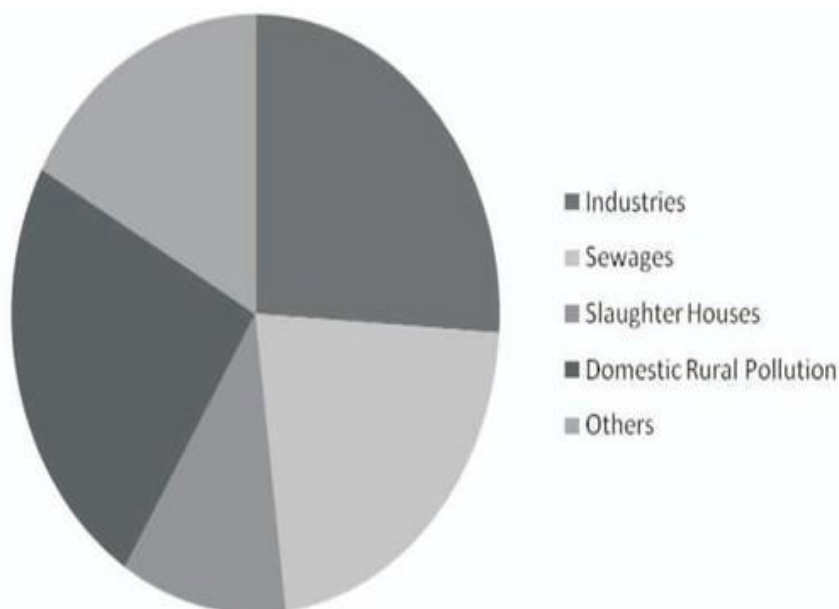


(ONE OF THE FOUR BORE WELLS BEING USED IN THE SLAUGHTER HOUSE)



(GROUND WATER SAMPLES BEING COLLECTED FROM THE LOCALITY)

The local meat demand of the people of Meerut city of 300 to 350 animals per day could be met by two licenses meat plant of Meerut. Meat is being sent to dozens of non licensed meat processing plants located at Nau Gaja Peer because of these meat packaging plant slaughtering of 5000 animals per day is taking place. The residue from these plants is disposed in open thus ignoring Central Water Act and Pollution Control Act resulting in pollution of surface water, underground water, along with air, land where there is blood and pieces of flesh as the slaughtering of animals take place in open.



VI. CONCLUSION

1. Milk Crisis and crisis of milk products is ever increasing because of population increase.
2. High cost on milk and milk products because of Cattle crisis.
3. More production of synthetic milk with the help of new machine, resulting into various health problems.
4. Pollution of air, land and water both surface as well as underground water.
5. Wrong means supercede the rules and acts related to slaughtering.
6. The citizens of Meerut, especially the common man are left with no alternative but to drink water which gives rise to various health problems.
7. The foul smell in and around Kamela in about 5 kms. area force the people to move with covered nose.
8. The Kamela's are source of employment for the people of Meerut city so a substitute should be looped out.
9. Animals especially Dogs becoming more aggressive.
10. People working in Kamela's are becoming physically abusive and switching over to alcohol or drugs.

VII. SUGGESTIONS

1. This matter should be given to Army.
2. Strict check on excessive slaughtering should be done.
3. The slaughter house at Ghosipur should quickly come into action providing people with employment opportunities.
4. Starting of Kamela at Ghosipur will put a check on pollution both air ,land and water.
5. A special mechanism or the effluent treatment plant best suited for such houses shall be installed at each of these centres so that the amount of pollution happening doesn't cross the set standards under the environmental legislations.

Therefore at one hand there is increasing pollution, increasing population, health crisis and reducing natural resources in Meerut city for the most and on the other hand is a turnover of 1.25 Arab for few some and employment opportunity for some more. It is we, who have to take a call to choose among the few more and the most.

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