

Non-Payment of Wages to work under National Rural Employment program

2702. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of RURAL RECONSTRUCTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the people employed under the National Rural Employment Programme could not be paid their wages in foodgrains as food-grain releases for the National Rural Employment Programme was with-held by the Agriculture Ministry; and

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BALESHWAR RAM): (a) and (b). Foodgrains have been released and their delivery expedited keeping in view the progress in the utilisation of foodgrains already made available to the States/UTs.

Construction of Bitho Dam and Panchanpur Dam

2703. SHRI RAM SWARUP RAM: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for the construction of Bitho Dam over Phalgu river and Panchanpur Dam over Morahar river;

(b) if so, what is the progress in the work; and

(c) how soon the project will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) The State Government have intimated that presently there is no proposal to construct Bitho Dam over Phalgu river and Panchanpur Dam over Morhar river.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Pollution in River Ganga

2704. SHRI ZAINUL BASHER: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recent researches have revealed that the river Ganga is most polluted river in the world;

(b) if so, whether any steps are being taken for the extensive researches to find out the truth; and

(c) the details of the researches and the proposals of Government to stop further pollution?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). In order to ascertain the level of pollution in the Ganga river the Central Board for the Prevention and Control of Water Pollution has undertaken a "Comprehensive pollution Survey of the Ganga River Basin" with the cooperation of the concerned State Boards for the Prevention and Control of Water pollution. The survey work is yet to be completed.

Department of Environment has also funded the following three research projects relating to the pollution status of river Ganga:—

1. Agricultural pesticide residues and their degradation in soil, water and a few biota of river Ganga from Allahabad to Patna.

2. Limnological Survey and impact of human activities on river Ganga.

3. Investigations on the Ganga river to determine biological indicators of water quality.

The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 is in force in the various States, through which the river Ganga passes. The concerned State Boards are implementing the provisions of the law. All the industries,