

(c) The Food Health Authorities of States/U.Ts. have been requested to keep a vigil on quality of food items including tea.

Badagara Maha Canal

1741. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:
SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scheme for the excavation work of Badagara Maha Canal was approved by Union Government in 1965;

(b) if so, the details of the project and the work undertaken so far in this regard;

(c) whether the State Government of Kerala has submitted a modified project report at a total estimate of Rs. 1639 lakh together with the schedule of rates of 1996 for the approval of the Union Government and assistance under 50% Centrally sponsored scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal for excavating Badagara Mahe Canal at a cost of Rs. 68 lakhs was approved by the Central Government in 1965 under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme. A sum of Rs. 57 lakhs has been spent on excavation of the canal in different reaches and for its repairs and upkeep of certain completed structure.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The project will be approved subject to the viability of the scheme and also availability of funds.

[Translation]

Pollution by Vam Organic Factory

1742. SHRI DABOGA PRASAD SAROJ: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Vam Organic Factory is polluting the river Ganges for the last twenty five years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the officers found guilty of this negligence and punishment given to them by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) M/s. Vam Organic Chemicals Ltd. (Distillery Unit) was commissioned in 1982 in Gajraula Industrial Area, Moradabad. The industry has primary and secondary facilities for effluent treatment since a long time. However, the problem of Biochemical Oxygen Demand and colour in the effluent remains even after secondary treatment. Directions have been issued from time to time by the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board to the industry for upgrading the effluent treatment plant to meet the discharge standards. The industry has also been directed to refrain from discharging effluent into the Bagad river. As a result, to store the treated effluent during dry weather, the industry has constructed lined lagoons which are in operation since October, 1997. The industry is allowed to discharge treated effluent from these lagoons into Bagad during monsoon months only when there is adequate flow available in both Bagad and river Ganga. Bagad river carrying treated effluents of M/s. Vam Organic Chemicals Ltd. meets the river Ganga upstream of Kachla Ghat at a distance of about 192 Kms. from Gajraula.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Irregularities in Procurement of Laser Printers

1743. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any complaints from the officials and engineers of Calcutta Telephone, Computer centre regarding irregularities in the procurement of Laser Printers by Calcutta Telephones Computer Centre, and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) Pseudonymous letters, said to have been written by officers and staffs of Calcutta Telephones Computer centre, were received. Through investigation was carried out by Vigilance Wing of Calcutta Telephones. No irregularities were found in the purchase procedure.