

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : All right.

SHRI MANOJ PANDEY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as it has been proposed to clean river Yamuna, I would like to know if there is any proposal to clean the major tributories falling in Ganga, particularly in North Bihar, under the Ganga Action plan which has been drawn to clean river Ganga, because these rivers carry pollution during floods. We will remove the shortcomings of Ganga Action Plan at Patna, but I would like to know if any action plan has been drawn to clean these tributories ?

Will the hon. Minister assure the House if the Government is going to prepare any action plan in respect of these major tributories which experience floods for 4 months during the year ?

MR. SPEAKER : Reply has already been given.

[English]

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH : I want to restrict my question only to the pollution emanating from urban areas which require sewerage treatment. We know that about Rs. 250 crores have been allocated in the current five year plan; may be that it may be increased to Rs. 300 crores. Most of this investment will be going for capital investment in obviating pollution emanating from cities and industries. It is a good thing. All I want to know is what steps have been taken and what follow up has been made to see that the investments that have been made for pollution control from cities are continued because these have to be maintained by the municipalities themselves ? How will the municipalities keep on maintaining these investments once they have been made, because, at present, all the municipalities are in thread; they have no money to maintain them ? What has been thought out whereby the house tax will be raised or whereby further revenue can be accrued so that these investments are maintained ?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Sir, the Ganga Action Plan is being implemented with the help and assistance given by the Central Government. The hon. Member is very well aware of the fact that the sewerage treatment plants have to be maintained by the local authorities and the local autho-

rities have to be helped by the State Governments. Now, at present, we are setting up these sewerage treatment plants and they will be handed over to the local authorities and the local Governments and the State Governments will look after them. If it does not become possible for them to maintain them then this matter can be considered. But at present we have only to see that these plants are established and once they start working as to where the revenue is to be collected and as to how the money is collected for running them, can be considered at a later stage.

Merger of NREP and RLEGP

*26. SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK† :
SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any decision has been taken in regard to the merger of the National Rural Employment Programme and the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK : I want to know from the hon. Minister the cost of employment generation per manday both for NREP and RLEGP when the programmes started, and by how much it has risen, taking into consideration the upward trend of wage rise, the prices of foodgrains and other factors, and whether any study has been made to find out if a merger of these two programmes is likely to result in some cost economies.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : I am answering the last part of the question. the merger of these NREP and RLEGP programmes has been discussed since the creation of the RLEGP programme which was started in August 1983. Here, I may say, that most of the States have been persistently demanding the merger of the NREP and RLEGP programmes. Even the Plan-

ning Commission has discussed and come to the conclusion that there should be a merger. There was a meeting of the Secretaries of the Rural Development Department of the State Governments and there was a unanimous decision from them that there should be a merger. Here I may say that there is a proposal under the consideration of the Government of India to merge the NREP and RLEGP programmes.

And so far as the wages to be paid by the State Governments are concerned, minimum wages have been paid, but some of the States are not paying the minimum wages. Particularly, I can name Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat and Maharashtra. Karnataka Government is not paying the minimum wages; even though they have fixed minimum wage as Rs. 12, they are paying only Rs. 9.80 paise.

SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK : I want to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that many of the State Governments treat the funds meant for rural employment as a substitute for Plan funds and many a time they get them distributed to other departments from the State headquarters itself. Has the Government of India received any complaint about any State, with regard to this ?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : There are complaints and we have seen the shortcomings in implementation of the programme. Now, for example in the case of Andhra Pradesh, even though subsidised price of rice per kg. to be distributed under this scheme is Re. 1.85 paise and there is a subsidy of Re. 0.74 paise per one kg., I am told, and it has been brought to our notice that this quantum of rice is diverted for public distribution system for giving rice at Rs. 2 per kg. This is about the foodgrains given to the State Governments.

SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister has given a misleading answer which he has corrected afterwards. He has said categorically, No, Sir. He now answered that the proposal for merging NREP and RLEGP is under active consideration of the Government of India.

Sir, under these programmes, the main thrust is for production orientation programme like soil conservation, water harvest-

ing, minor irrigation, etc. I would like to know from the Minister, whether in this category of production orientation programme, the item of agro forestry will also be taken up because in agro forestry, there are small farmers who are holding dry or barren lands.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Sir, under this programme, social forestry could be taken up. Soil and water conservation works, minor irrigation works, even bunding of the areas for the conservation of water—all these items could be taken up under both the programmes.

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV : Sir, the implementation of the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme can only be successful when there are data relating to the identification of the beneficiaries. I would like to know whether the Minister is sure that all the States and the Union Territories have identified the families which are landless and need employment. At the same time, in some of the States, there are small farmers or the marginal farmers who are not in a position to produce to the maximum extent to feed their families and therefore, they are also out of employment. Therefore, this programme of 'Rural Landless' requires re-definition. It requires logical approach and rationale approach and those persons who are the marginal and small farmers must also be included in the landless labour. Therefore, it needs new approach and new dimension for solving this problem of unemployment. I would like to know, whether the Minister agrees that in these terms, the programme may be modified.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Sir, we have been identifying the beneficiaries under this programme. The suggestion that has been made, by the hon. Member has been implemented and I am thankful to the hon. Member for reiterating it. So far as priority is concerned, we are giving priority to the landless people who are poor and particularly, we are giving lot of preference to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people who are poorer class. Eighty per cent of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people are coming under this programme and we have been giving lot of importance to this category of people in the implementation of the programme.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : Sir, in Andhra tribal blocks, the Government of India intended to supply coarse rice at the rate of one rupee eighty five paise. The hon. Minister does not know that the Andhra Pradesh Government is supplying fine quality rice at the rate of two rupees. Nobody wants coarse rice in Andhra and that is why, we are supplying fine quality rice. The cost of expenditure is five to six rupees per kg. for fine rice and we are supplying it at the rate of two rupees. Except Andhra, no State, neither the Congress ruled States nor the other States, is supplying fine quality rice at the rate of two rupees to the poor people. Andhra is the only State in the country feeding the poor people. What is the source of information with which the Minister is misleading the House? I want a categorical answer from the Minister.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : I am thankful to the hon. Member for bringing to my notice this new thing. I will bring to the notice of the hon. Member that the distribution price from Food Corporation of India for fine rice is Rs. 2.84 and we are distributing to the States at subsidised price of Rs. 1.95. For his information, there is a subsidy of 89 paise...*(Interruptions)* I am sorry to state that the people of Andhra Pradesh are deprived of the benefit that is given under this programme and this is meant for the poorer people. It is the most unfortunate thing. We are not at all satisfied with the performance of the State Government...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR) : For the purpose of the tribals, the rice is supplied at the subsidised rate and you are saying all that...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The Question Hour is over,

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Working of Indian Council of Historical Research

*23. **SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA :**
SHRI SUBHASH YADAV :

Will the Minister of HUMAN

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have inquired into the working of the Indian Council of Historical Research during the last three years;

(b) if so, the nature of irregularities noticed; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to improve the working of this Council?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR) : (a) to (c). No inquiry has been conducted by the Government of India into the working of the Council during the last three years. However, a review on the various activities of the Council was conducted by the Audit from June to October, 1987 covering the period from 1978-79 to 1986-87. A para on the review by the Audit has been included in the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended 31st March, 1987 which was presented to the Parliament on 10th May, 1988. A copy of the report was received in the Ministry of Human Resource Development on 28th June, 1988 for furnishing 'action taken notes' in respect of the paras concerning the Ministry, which is receiving attention.

[Translation]

Shortage of Teachers for Navodaya Vidyalayas

*27. **SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT :**
SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a shortage of suitable teachers in Navodaya Vidyalayas opened under the new education policy;

(b) if so, whether any steps are being taken to ensure that studies in the Vidyalayas do not suffer on this account;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RE-