

that various colleges affiliated to the Delhi University fix cut points beyond which they will not admit the students. That in my opinion is unconstitutional because various students come from different backgrounds. So, they should conduct admission tests. But connected to this there is another very important question to which the hon. Minister tried to come but due to paucity of time he could not do so. The question is that there is a lot of rush for admissions in colleges particularly in the Engineering and Medical Colleges. For every medical seat, according to some figures available with me, there are four hundred students competing for admission. That shows, there is terrible waste of resources in the country. More students are studying science than are required by the system. Therefore it is high time that we conduct a survey on the waste of our resources. Will the hon. Minister come forward for a review of the New Education Policy which has not dealt with this particular issue.

[*Translation*]

SHRI L.P. SHAHI : So far as the question of cut-out percentage in various colleges is concerned, as has been pointed out by the hon. Member, the colleges affiliated to Delhi University follow a specific procedure in this regard. The boys and girls in Delhi want to seek admission in the colleges of their choice, but admission in these colleges is stopped after a certain percentage. I am not talking about reduction here. When the admissions stop after a certain percentage in a particular college it begins in another college. When admission stops after a certain percentage in that college also, it starts in the third college. Hence no cut-out is fixed in advance. The cut-out percentage goes on reducing gradually on the basis of number of students who have applied and the marks secured by them.

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. B.L. Shailesh.

Shri T. Basheer.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Enough is enough.

[*English*]

Impact of Ganga Action Plan

*25. SHRI T. BASHEER† :
DR. B.L. SHAILESH :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the implementation of Ganga Action Plan for the last two years has brought about any qualitative change in the Ganga Water;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether several industries including Central and State Sector Undertakings situated along the banks of Ganga river have been asked to instal effluent and sewage treatment plants within a month's time or face closure; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of these units to the Government's order ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) and (b). The major interception and diversion schemes sanctioned under the Ganga Action Plan are expected to be completed within the Seventh Five Year Plan period. Impact of the schemes on the quality of the river can be measured only after the schemes are completed.

(c) and (d). Seventeen Central and State-sector Undertakings discharging effluents into the river Ganga have been asked to submit their time-bound programmes within a month's time for installation/augmentation of their effluent treatment facilities. While some units have sent interim replies, detailed schemes for pollution control are still awaited from these Undertakings.

SHRI T. BASHEER : The Ganga Action Plan is one of our prestigious, ambitious projects, with the objective of making the Ganga free of pollution. But it is very alarming that the Central and State sector undertakings have not implemented the programme; or, they have not installed the treatment facilities. Actually, two years of implementation are over. So,

this is a very serious lapse on the part of Central and State sector undertakings.

From the answer, it is seen that even now, they have not taken seriously the directions given by the Government, because the reply says : "...some units have sent interim replies...". They have sent only interim replies. They have not still submitted schemes for pollution control. Under the circumstances, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether Government proposes to take any action against these Central and State sector undertakings, any action under the new Environment Protection Act, to make them implement this scheme immediately, without further delay.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : There are about 264 industries which discharge effluents into the river. Sixty eight industries are supposed to be grossly polluting. Twenty-five treatment plants have been set up by 25 industries already. Eleven industries are in the process of setting up the plants. Five have been closed down. Out of 27 industries, 17 belong to the public sector of State Governments and the Central Government. We have asked them also to set up the plants. They are given a time-frame within which they have to set up the plants. If they do not set up the treatment plants, certainly they will also be treated on par with other industries. But they are preparing the plans, and within a month's time they have to send the plans. If they do not send the plans, naturally the law will take its own course.

SHRI T. BASHEER : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether, after completing this Ganga project, Government have any proposal to take up any other projects of this nature.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : We have surveyed the river basins in other areas also. In some cases, some detailed studies also have been made. The State Governments have now been asked to prepare the plans and also projects for the Yamuna—Haryana, U.P. and the Delhi administrations have been so asked. For the Krishna river also, the project has been prepared, and Action Plan has been prepared. After considering as to how this kind of an Action Plan can be implemented, and after examining all aspects relating to the imple-

mentation of this plan, other things also will be considered at a proper time, in a proper manner and when we find that resources are available.

[Translation]

SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has apprised the House about projects on many rivers. It is regrettable that no such plan of action has been prepared in respect of Yamuna, one of the most sacred rivers in the country. I have raised the issue of cleaning river Yamuna several times in the House and Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have also taken initiative in this regard on a number of occasions. The water of Yamuna is mainly used for drinking purpose in Delhi. The river water is getting contaminated because the entire sewerage of Delhi is being thrown into it after being treated at Badarpur plant. Besides, all the industrial wastes and effluents are also discharged into the Yamuna when it passes through the industrial areas.

Sir, the House would be pained to know that in Mathura, the birth place of Lord Krishna where lakhs of pilgrims from within the country and abroad come to take holy dip in the Yamuna for self purification Yamuna is stinking and not even a single drop of water is clean. In fact, it is the sewerage that flows into the Yamuna.

I urge the hon. Minister to pay special attention towards it and formulate a scheme at the earliest to purify this sacred river. I would also like to request the hon. Speaker to take every possible initiative in this regard.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : Please take measures to purify him also.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Sir, at the outset I have said that the State Governments concerned have been asked to prepare plans to clean river Yamuna. It is not possible to take up the projects in respect of all the rivers at the same time. We will have to see whether that much funds are available. Yamuna is also equally important. The Governments of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and the Delhi Administration have been asked to take action in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER : Others may also take action.

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-