

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask the question.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV : I want to ask two or three questions about the facts stated in Part (c) of the answer. First, the period for which this amount of Rs. 25 crores has been allocated is not clear—whether it is for one year, two years or more.

Secondly, the programme will be implemented by the Central and State Government agencies. A major part of Ganga passes through Uttar Pradesh but it has been our experience that there is no co-ordination between Water Corporation and Sewage Board and there has been often confrontation between them. Keeping this fact in view, if only one agency is created for the purpose, it will be possible to successfully accomplish this task.

Thirdly, it has been stated in the reply that the project will consist of three components—renovation, installation of sewage treatment plants in selected towns, etc. But there is no mention of the fact that many other major rivers like Yamuna and Gomati joins the Ganga before it reaches Patna and thus creates Pollution in the Ganga. I want to know the arrangements to be made to check it? Moreover, the drainage system has been totally blocked due to excessive silting. Flow of Water in the Ganga beyond Patna is low not only in summer but in winter also.

Fourthly, Pollution Control Board has been unable to control the pollution caused by discharge of effluents from industrial units situated on the banks of Ganga. This Project should, therefore, include measures to control it and steps should also be taken to remove silting. Hence it is suggested that several agencies working at present should be abolished and in their place a Central agency should be created to implement this project.

SHRI BIR SEN : The Hon. Member has first of all asked about the estimated cost. As far as this amount is concerned, it is for five years and it will be spent on those cities which have a population of more than one lakh.

Other points raised by the Hon. Member are in the form of suggestions. As far as industrial pollution is concerned, treatment plants are proposed to be installed for the purpose, standards are being laid down and every industry is being instructed to check pollution according to the norms fixed in this regard.

As regards implementation, a steering agency is being constituted in every State which will oversee the working of the State pollution Boards and in case any flaw is detected, it will get the same rectified.

[*English*]

SHRI V. SOBHANEDREOSWARA RAO : Will the Hon. Prime Minister show the same kind of interest in the work of another Ganga namely Telugu Ganga Project which is awaiting his clearance and which is going to quench the thirst of millions of people in Rayalaseema and Madras city?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : As a matter of interest, we are looking at the rivers in the south. We have not yet decided which river to take up. We will consult you on that and we will be taking up the river in the south as soon as possible.

Reorganisation of N.T.C.

*61. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal

to reorganise the National Textile Corporation;

(b) if so, whether such reorganisation will entail closure of the mills which cannot be saved; and

(c) details of mills which have been considered beyond salvage ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c). At present, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to reorganise the National Textile Corporation.

SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : I want to know the number of mills which are sick and the total amount of losses incurred so far ?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : Sir, National Textile Corporation has about 125 mills and out of these 125 mills, only 18 mills have been making profit so far, and the loss has been to the tune of Rs. 131 crores.

SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Sir, I would also like to know from the Hon. Minister whether there is any plan which the Government has considered in the national interest, to keep these losing mills going and, if so, how long will the Government take to come to a final decision about these mills ?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : We have been taking several steps to improve the functioning of these mills. A couple of years back, we had made an extensive review of the working of the NTC mills and out of that intensive review that had been undertaken at the level of the Commerce Minister himself, we have identified 22 mills which have been constituting the largest share of the total losses being incurred by the National Textile Corporation. After that we have categorised these 22 mills into three groups and we found that eight mills were really doing very bad.

We had appointed a Committee to go into the working of the sick mills which had been doing very bad in January last year, and the report of that Working Group has just been submitted and is under the examination of the Government.

[*Translation*]

SHRI JAI PARKASH AGARWAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir the mills under the National Textile Corporation are incurring losses to the tune of crores of rupees. The reason therefore is that the officials running these mills have no expertise in regard to this industry unpopular varieties of cloth are produced in these mills and the cloth so produced is sold in the market at cheap rates. I want to know whether the trading community will be represented in the advisory Committee constituted for the purpose and whether any steps have been taken to check the recurring losses.

[*English*]

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : Sir, I do not think the contention of the Hon. Member is correct. In fact, the National Textile Corporation is producing only those varieties of cloth which we found necessary after studying the market needs of the people. In fact, we have now tried to identify certain mills which will be producing cloth exclusively for export purposes. As the Hon. Member is aware we are also producing the cloth known as 'Janata cloth' which is for the requirement of the common people.

SHRI ANANDA GAJAPATI RAJU POOSAPATI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know whether these mills are being reorganised because they are undergoing terrible losses and their technology is outdated. Not only that, they are not producing cloth for the poor consumer. Poor consumer has been hit very badly. So, I want to know, firstly, whether they are going to reorganise these mills and, if so, how.

Secondly, how much cloth are they going to produce for the poor people of this country ?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : The main question pertains to the reorganisation of the NTC mills and I have said that at the moment we do not have any proposal to do so. But last year, in 1984, when the Planning Commission had reviewed the working of the National Textile Corporation, they had suggested that we should look into the structure of the National Textile Corporation and see what should be the relationship between the holding company and the subsidiaries at the mill level. Therefore, the holding company has gone into the suggestion of the Planning Commission. NTC have accepted the suggestion of the Planning Commission and, therefore, they have entrusted this work of looking into the structure of NTC to an independent and outside consultant in October last year. We have given him five months time and we hope that by the end of March this year we will get the report.

SHRI DINESH SINGH : One of the functions of the National Textile Corporation was to reconstitute the mills that they had taken over. So, I would like to know whether the National Textile Mill Corporation have reconstituted any of these mills and, if so, what has been the result of the reconstitution. I am not talking about the restructuring of the NTC but of the reconstitution of the mills that you have taken over.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : I agree with the Hon. Member, Sir. In fact, we have asked the Committee I referred to earlier, to specifically go into this aspect also. It may be necessary that some of the mills are amalgamated and weaving section is shifted to another weaving section or to spinning section. This reorganisation will have to be done. We are aware of the problem and we are looking into that.

Anti-India Propaganda by Pak Media

***62. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR :** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any protest has been lodged with the Government of Pakistan over the malicious propaganda carried on by the Press/other media in Pakistan regarding the treatment of minorities in India during 1984-85;

(b) if so, the nature and the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether any protest would be lodged?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN) : (a) to (c). Government have on several occasions conveyed to the Pakistan Government our serious concern at the negative reports in the Pakistan media on the treatment of minorities in India, which are not only blatantly false, but also constitute an unwarranted interference in our internal affairs.

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : May I know what has been the effect or response of the Pakistan Government to our protest, whether they have lessened the intensity of their propaganda, or our protest had no effect ?

SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN : Well, there are signs of encouragement, but we still await a positive response from them.

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : I would like to know whether our own media, specially the External Services Division and other media under the I & B Ministry have been utilised to counteract the propaganda because certain areas bordering Pakistan in our country are used to the reports given by the TV and radio from the Pakistan side. Has there any step been taken to look after that aspect also ?