

Seminar organised on pollution of Yamuna

228. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the views expressed at a seminar organised by the Delhi Medical Association recently to the effect that Yamuna is the most polluted river;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in regard thereto;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have carried out a survey of the various rivers of the country in this regard;

(d) if so, the results of the survey; and

(e) what are the details of the plan drawn to clean up the rivers'?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The river Yamuna has been identified as a grossly polluted river and a scheme for abatement of pollution in the river Yamuna is under formulation.

(c) to (e) A National River Action Plan for abatement of pollution in the polluted stretches of some major rivers identified on the basis of surveys by the Central Pollution Control Board is under formulation. Details in this regard are being worked out.

Degradation of environment and pollution

229. SHRI BHADRESWAR GOHAIN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the, large scale degradation of environment and pollution in the paddy fields due to unabated pouring of crude-waste and wanton flaring up of natural gas in Assam;

(b) what action has been taken by Government to prevent such nuisance in this regard;

(c) whether any directions have been issued by Government to the ONGC and Oil India in Assam; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) yes, Sir. Effluent water containing oil escaping from the flarepits to the surrounding fields has affected soil quality.

(b) to (d) Guidelines have been issued and standards have been laid down for industrial operations. The Assam Pollution Control Board has directed the industries to comply with the prescribed standards within a time-frame.

Killing of one horned Rhino at Kaziranga, Assam

230. SHRI BHADRESWAR GOHAIN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is regular killing of one horned Rhino at Kaziranga, in Assam by the poachers in collusion with the forest officials; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to prevent such crimes and to protect the rare species?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Although several cases of poaching of Rhinos in Assam take place every year, there is no specific report about collusion of forest staff in such cases.

(b) Steps taken to protect the Kaziranga National Park and the rhinos include:

(i) Stringent measures against poaching, encroachment, etc., in the Park are taken under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

- (ii) Assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Conservation of rhinos in Assam" have been provided for strengthening measures in the Kaziranga National Park against poaching, floods, fires and encroachment and for acquisition of land to expand its area. Under this scheme, additional protection squads, equipped with arms, wireless sets, vehicles, boats, etc., have been created. This scheme covers all the natural habitats of the rhino in Assam. The scheme along with budgetary provision has now been transferred to the State Government of Assam.
- (iii) The rhino is included in Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thus giving the species maximum possible legal protection. Under this Act, there is a complete ban on hunting of this animal.
- (iv) India is a member of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES), under which international trade in rhino and its products is prohibited.
- (v) A number of zoos in India have been successfully breeding the Indian rhino.
- (vi) With a view to provide an alternate home for the rhinos, a number of them were translocated from Assam and Nepal to the Dudhwa National Park in Uttar Pradesh. The project has proved to be successful.

पर्यावरणीय दृष्टि से स्वीकृति हेतु महाराष्ट्र की सिंचाई परियोजनाएँ

231. श्री विश्वासराव रामराव पाटिल: क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि महाराष्ट्र सरकार ने कुछ सिंचाई परियोजनाएँ पर्यावरणीय दृष्टि से स्वीकृति हेतु केन्द्र के पास भेजी हैं;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो उनका ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) इन परियोजनाओं को कब तक स्वीकृति प्रदान किए जाने की संभावना है; और

(घ) इन परियोजनाओं को स्वीकृति प्रदान किए जाने में विलम्ब के क्या कारण हैं?

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री (श्री अर्जुन सिंह):

(क) और (ख) जी, हाँ। महाराष्ट्र से अब तक कुल 33 सिंचाई परियोजनाएँ पर्यावरणीय मंजूरी के लिए प्राप्त हुई हैं जिनमें से 12 परियोजनाओं को पर्यावरणीय मंजूरी दी जा चुकी है और 20 परियोजनाओं को अपेक्षित पर्यावरणीय आंकड़े और कार्य योजनाएँ प्रस्तुत न किए जाने के कारण नार्मल कर दिया गया है।

(ग) और (घ) केवल एक सिंचाई स्कीम अर्थात् ऊपरी वर्षा परियोजना पर्यावरणीय मंजूरी के लिए शेष बची है क्योंकि परियोजना प्राधिकारियों से संशोधित पर्यावरणीय प्रबंध योजनाएँ अभी प्राप्त नहीं हुई हैं। जैसे ही परियोजना प्राधिकारी योजनाएँ प्रस्तुत कर देंगे, इस परियोजना के संबंध में निर्णय ले लिया जायेगा।

दुधना नदी में पानी के रंग का हरा हो जाना

232. श्री विश्वासराव रामराव पाटिल: क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि महाराष्ट्र के परभणी और जालना जिलों में दुधना नदी के पानी का रंग हरा हो गया है;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(ग) नदियों में बढ़ते जा रहे प्रदूषण को रोकने के लिए सरकार क्या कदम उठाने का विचार रखती है?

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री (श्री अर्जुन सिंह):

(क) जी, हाँ।

(ख) राज्य प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड के अनुसार तेज वर्षा के कारण कृषि बहाव जिनमें उर्वरक अवशेष होते हैं, नदी में प्रवेश कर गए। इससे रैखाल पैदा हो गई