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22.	Pavitar	Pavitar Entertainment P. Ltd.	26.6.2009	-Do-
23	Vedic	Vedic Broadcasting Ltd.	26.6.2009	-Do-

Nutrition delivery programme

*226.SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to revamp the Nutrition Delivery Programme, to check malnutrition; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) State Government/UT Administrations have been requested to give their suggestions to improve the nutrition delivery programme.

Price fixation of petro products

*227.SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to hand over the task of price fixation of petro products to oil P.S.U.s;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what would be the inbuilt regulatory mechanism to save the consumers from arbitrary fixation of prices by the companies; and

(d) what steps would be taken to insulate the domestic customers from volatile petro prices in the international market?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (d) With effect from 1.04.2002, the administered pricing mechanism in petroleum products was dismantled and it was decided that the pricing of all products, except PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG, would be market determined. However, in view of the steep increase and high volatility in the international oil prices since 2004-05, the Government has been modulating the retail prices of Petrol, Diesel, PDS Kerosene and domestic LPG, to protect the consumer from the inflationary impact of international oil prices. Oil PSUs fix the prices of other petro products.

Ganga Action Plan

*228.SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

SHRI O.T. LEPCHA:

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

- (a) how much amount Government has already spent on Ganga Action Plan project, to clean the holy river Ganga;
- (b) whether it is a fact that despite so much effort, the river still remains completely polluted;
- (c) whether it means that the entire Ganga Action Plan has proved to be a complete failure; and
- (d) if so, whether Government plans to take action against the erring agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) Ganga Action Plan (GAP) Phase I was launched as a centrally funded scheme in 1985 with the objective of improving the water quality of the Ganga to acceptable standards. Various pollution abatement schemes including Interception & Diversion of sewage and setting up of sewage treatment plants were taken up. GAP Phase - II which covered the tributaries of Ganga namely, Yamuna, Gomti, Damodar and Mahananda, besides Ganga, was approved in stages from 1993-1996. GAP Phase II was merged with the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) in December, 1996. The total expenditure incurred on conservation of river Ganga under the GAP Phase -I & II so far, is Rs. 816.47 crore.

Water quality monitoring carried out by reputed institutions such as, IIT, Kanpur, BHEL, Patna University, etc. indicates that, water quality of the river Ganga conforms to the prescribed standards in terms of key indicators, namely, Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Dissolved Oxygen (DO) at most of the locations, except in the stretch between Kannauj and Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh. However, the levels of fecal coliforms are reported to be exceeding the maximum permissible limit at a number of monitoring stations along the river Ganga.

Implementation and performance of river conservation plans is constrained by factors such as inadequate provisions for operation and maintenance of assets by State Governments and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), irregular power supply, under utilisation of sewage treatment plants, non-point sources of pollution, delays in land acquisition etc.

River conservation is an ongoing and collective effort of the Central and the State Governments. Sewage treatment capacity of 1007 million liters per day (mild) has been created so far under the GAP. Some treatment capacity has also been created under other central schemes, such as Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns, as well as State schemes. But there is still a large gap that remains to be bridged.

Several measures such as concurrent evaluation of schemes have been initiated to improve the performance of the River Conservation Plan. The Central Government has also set up the 'National Ganga River Basin Authority' on 20.2.2009 to ensure effective abatement of pollution and conservation of the river Ganga by adopting a holistic approach with the river basin as the unit of planning. The functions of the Authority include all measures necessary for planning and execution of programmes for abatement of pollution and conservation of the river Ganga.