

By the time, KSEB submitted its reply to the above show cause notice; a number of representations were also received from individuals and NGOs all of which were placed before the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) for River Valley and Hydro Electric Projects in its meeting held on 22nd March, 2010.

The EAC desired that the KSEB should submit replies to the issues raised in various representations submitted by individuals and NGOs. Accordingly replies to the various issues, as submitted by KSEB, are being placed before the EAC in its next meeting.

#### **Funds for cleaning of Ganga**

†3281. SHRI VEER PAL SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the funds provided by Government so far, for cleaning of Ganga;
- (b) the details of utilization of said funds;
- (c) whether Government is aware that worms have been found in Ganga water at Varanasi; and
- (d) the measures being taken to stop the mingling of dirty waters directly or indirectly from the nullah of Kanpur, Allahabad, etc. cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) The Government has been implementing the Ganga Action Plan (GAP) since 1985 for pollution abatement in the identified polluted stretches of the river Ganga. Pollution abatement works relating to interception and diversion of sewage for treatment in sewage treatment plants, low cost sanitation, electric and/or improved wood crematoria, river front development, etc. have been taken up under Ganga Action Plan Phase-I and II. An expenditure of Rs. 837 crore has been incurred till end of December, 2009. Sewage treatment capacity of 1025 million litres per day (mld) has been created under both the phases of GAP.

The water quality monitoring of Ganga done by reputed independent institutions generally shows improvement in river water quality indicators such as Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Dissolved Oxygen (DO) over the pre-GAP period. The level of fecal coliforms are, however, exceeding the maximum permissible limits of 2500 MPN (Most Probable Number) per 100 milliliter at most monitoring stations along the river, including Varanasi, except in the upper reaches of Haridwar. The coliform count has increased particularly at pilgrimage places due to mass bathing by pilgrims. The situation would have been worse without the sewage treatment infrastructure created under GAP.

The Central Government has set up the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) as an empowered planning, financial, monitoring and coordinating authority 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 first meeting of the NGRBA held on

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

5.10.2009 resolved that by the year 2020, it will be ensured that no untreated municipal sewage or industrial effluent flows into Ganga.

Conservation of rivers is an ongoing and collective effort of the Central and State Governments. River conservation activities such as creation of civic infrastructure for sewage management and disposal are also being implemented under other Central Schemes, such as Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns, as well as under State Sector Schemes.

#### **Customization of procedures for fruits and vegetables**

3282. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey would be conducted to find out preference of domestic users for fresh fruits/vegetables or processed material so that demand and supply syndrome could attract both foreign and domestic capital to give fillip for setting up of Mega Food Parks; and

(b) if so, whether the practices and procedures adopted by Amul Milk for processed/pasteurized products could be customized for fruits/vegetables to derive multi-purpose objectives of giving remunerative prices to the farmers, strengthening the marketability of perishable food/vegetable/marine raw material and popularizing its use by attracting foreign markets, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI): (a) Presently there is no proposal to undertake any survey to find out preference of domestic user for fresh fruits/vegetables or processed material. However, the Ministry has got conducted the techno-feasibility study at five locations in the States of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Punjab and North East for setting up Mega Food Parks in the country. The objective of the study was to identify potential clusters of agro/horti produce in respective States, assessment of surplus process able material, demand supply gap analysis and possibilities of forward linkages to major consumption markets. The mapping of potential consumption markets and its linkages with respective parks has also been undertaken in the techno-feasibility study. In addition to above, the Ministry has also got conducted the techno-feasibility study for setting up a strategic distribution center (SDC). The SDC is envisaged as distribution hubs which would have linkages with such parks. In this study, a detailed mapping of major consumption market (including some of tier-II cities) have been undertaken with respect to expenditure patters of domestic consumers towards processed and packaged food products. The future trend of domestic demand of processed food products is also covered in the study. The SDC will also cater to the export market based on the demand and will offer assured supply to potential export customers.

(b) As regards adoption of Amul Milk model for F&V Sector, currently there is no proposal under consideration of Ministry. However, the primary objective of the Mega Food