

Cleaning of Ganga

138. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in the cleaning of Ganga (Hooghly) passing through West Bengal;

(b) when the project is likely to be completed;

(c) the expenditure incurred on the Ganga Action Plan in West Bengal; and

(d) the role assigned to the Government of West Bengal under the Ganga Action Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b). Out of 110 schemes of pollution abatement of River Ganga sanctioned for West Bengal, 65 schemes have been completed so far. The remaining schemes are in various stages of completion. All the schemes are likely to be completed by December, 1993.

(c) An amount of Rs. 113.70 crores has been spent so far on the Ganga Action Plan Schemes in West Bengal.

(d) The Department of Environment, Govt. of West Bengal is the nodal Department for implementing the programme.

The schemes are being executed under the overall coordination of the Calcutta Metropolitan Development Authority. The responsibility of operation & maintenance of the assets created under the Ganga Action Plan has been assigned to the State Government.

"Water pollution by detergents/Soaps"

139. SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH:
SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUÉ:

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

(a) whether detergents/soaps etc. are a source of water pollution;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a common standard of detergents not harmful to environment for qualifying to the ecomark label has been evolved;

(d) whether Government are aware that a Japanese scientist has developed a washing machine which fully eliminates the use of detergents/soaps;

(e) whether Governments propose to import this latest use of detergents/soaps;

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The detergents contain phosphatic compounds which promote growth of bacteria and algae thereby causing eutrophication in water bodies.

(c) A draft criteria for labelling detergents as environment friendly products has been evolved.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f). Do not arise.