

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4421

ANSWERED ON:21.08.2000

POLLUTION IN YAMUNA RIVER

MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL;NIVEDITA MANE;RAMDAS ATHAWALE;SHRINWAS DADASAHEB PATIL;SHYAMA SINGH

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

- (a) whether the Supreme Court has recently issued directions to the Delhi, U.P. and Haryana Government to file an affidavit of the steps taken to improve the quality of Yamuna water;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Central Pollution Control Board have found dismal quality of Yamuna water;
- (d) if so, whether the State Governments have sought help from the Union Government to keep the Yamuna water free from any pollution; and
- (e) if so, the details of assistance the Union Government propose to render these States in this regard, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The Supreme Court, in its order dated 11th July, 2000 directed the state government of Uttar Pradesh to file an affidavit within four weeks indicating the effective steps taken or intended to be taken to ensure that the water quality in the drain ultimately reaching Yamuna was within the allowable discharge standards. The Government of Haryana had already submitted its affidavit on this matter. The Supreme Court expressed serious displeasure over the non-compliance of its repeated orders by the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi to control the pollution of Yamuna river. Adjourning the matter till 10th October, 2000, the Court directed the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi that if the water quality does not improve by then, not only the earlier penalty which was of fine would be directed to be realized but further action in that regard may also be undertaken.

(c) Yes Sir. The water quality of Yamuna river along Delhi and downstream is much below the desired standards. The Central Pollution Control Board have confirmed this fact in their monitoring reports which are filed regularly in the Supreme Court under a Public Interest Litigation.

(d) & (e) A scheme of pollution abatement of Yamuna which is known as the Yamuna Action Plan was approved by the Government in April 1993. The present approved cost of the Action Plan is Rs.509.54 crore. Under this Plan, works have been taken up in 21 towns out of which 8 towns are in Uttar Pradesh and 12 towns in Haryana besides Delhi. The approved cost of the project for the States of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi is Rs.226.28 crore, Rs.250.23 crore and Rs.19.94 crore respectively. The Delhi component of Yamuna Action Plan is small comprising 2 sewage treatment plants each of 10 million liters per day capacity and one electric crematorium. So far, an expenditure of Rs.431.87 crore has been incurred on this Plan. The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi is implementing the major part of pollution abatement programme of Yamuna out of their own plan funds. Under this programme, 14 additional sewage treatment plants along with allied works are to be constructed. Out of these, 7 treatment plants have already been completed and another 6 will be completed by March 2001 and tenders for the remaining one sewage treatment plant have been invited. An amount of Rs.496 crore has been spent on this programme so far. The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi submitted a proposal at an estimated cost of about Rs.435 crore for rehabilitation of trunk sewerage system of Delhi, which is responsible in a significant manner for the pollution of Yamuna river. The Government posed this proposal to Japan Bank for International Cooperation for allowing the savings of Yamuna Action Plan to be utilized for this purpose. However, Japan Bank for International Cooperation did not agree to the proposal. In addition, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi is also to construct 15 common effluent treatment plants to treat industrial effluents from 21 industrial estates of Delhi at an estimated cost of Rs.90 crore. This Project is under implementation.