GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:340
ANSWERED ON:17.04.2000
POLLUTION IN GANGA
BRIJLAL KHABRI;CHINMAYANAND

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

(a) the total expenditure incurred to make Ganges free from pollution during the last three years;

(b) whether several factories are still causing pollution in the river Ganges and if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether desired results have not been achieved by the treatment plants installed under the first phase of Ganga Action Plan; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

(SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement in respect of parts (a) to (d) of reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 340 for 17-04-200 regarding Pollution in Ganga.

(a) The total funds released by Government on cleaning of River Ganga and its tributaries viz. Yamuna, Gomati and Damodar during the last three years is as under:

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1997-1998 Rs. 85.60 crore
1998-1999 Rs. 90.01 crore
1999-2000 Rs.89.05  crore
Total     Rs. 264.66 crore
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(b) Out of 187 identified grossly polluting industries along Ganga, effluent treatment plants are operating satisfactorily in 91 units, 32 units are closed and in 64 units effluent treatment plants are not operating satisfactorily which are facing action under the environmental law.

(c)&(d) In the first phase of the Ganga Action Planonly about 35% of the pollution presently generated in towns along the Ganga has been tackled. The remaining pollution has been taken up under the second phase of the Ganga Action Plan. Despite the problems of operation and maintenance of assets in Bihar and to a large extent in Uttar Pradesh, wherever the works of the Ganga Action Plan Phase I have been completed and made functional, the river water quality has shown improvement. However, full improvement in river water quality can be expected on completion of the Ganga Action Plan Phase -II.