

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:116  
ANSWERED ON:19.11.2001  
CLEANING OF RIVERS  
RAVI PRAKASH VERMA

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

- (a) whether there has been an increase in the dirt and filth due to pollution in the river Ganga, Yamuna, Gomati and Ghagra;
- (b) if so, the name of the States from where maximum complaints have been received in this regard; and
- (c) the comprehensive steps taken by the State as well as Union Governments to check the same?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS ( SHRI T. R. BAALU)

(a) & (b) The pollution in rivers Ganga, Yamuna, Gomati and Ghagra is due to the discharge of untreated or partly treated domestic and industrial effluents. Governments in the States, through which these rivers are flowing have been sending proposals of pollution abatement which are considered on merit and the availability of funds.

(c) The following schemes of pollution abatement have been undertaken by the Government to check pollution in these rivers under the National River Conservation Plan:

- Interception and diversion works to capture the raw sewage flowing into the rivers through open drains and divert them for treatment.
- Sewage Treatment Plants for treating the diverted sewage.
- Low Cost Sanitation works to prevent open defecation on river banks.
- Improved wood crematoria to conserve the use of wood and help in ensuring proper cremation of bodies brought to the burning ghats.
- River front development works such as improvement of bathing ghats etc.

Monitoring and control of Industrial pollution is done under the existing environmental laws.