

### Ganga Cleaning Authority

2714. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

- (a) the existing status of Ganga Cleaning Authority;  
 (b) its specific achievements with respect to its role and functions; and  
 (c) the details of specific areas where it has achieved success vis-a-vis the problems solved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) The Central Ganga Authority, set up to oversee the implementation of the Ganga Action Plan has since been merged with the National River Conservation Authority which oversees the implementation of the Ganga Action Plan as well as the National River Conservation Plan

(b) and (c). Of the 261 schemes of pollution abatement taken up under the Ganga Action Plan Phase I, 248 schemes have since been completed. With the completion of these schemes, there is discernible improvement in the water quality of river Ganga in terms of both the bio-chemical oxygen demand and dissolved oxygen.

[Translation]

### Projects from Gujarat Minorities Finance and Development Corporation and Gujarat Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation

2715. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state

(a) whether the National Minorities Finance and Development Corporation and the National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation have received projects from the Gujarat Minorities Finance and Development Corporation during the last three years.

(b) if so, the details thereof.

(c) the details of the projects out of those approved by the Central Govt. and

(d) the time by which the remaining projects of the State would be accorded approval?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The details during the last three years are as under :

	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
No. of projects received by National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation from Gujarat Scheduled Castes Economic Development Corporation.	18	13	4

No. of projects received by Nil - Nil 8  
 National Minorities  
 Development and Finance  
 Corporation from Gujarat  
 Minorities Finance and  
 Development Corporation

All projects received from Gujarat Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Cor. and Gujarat Minorities Development Cor. till 1995-96 have been cleared by National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Cor. and National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation respectively.

(c) There is no system of Central Government approval for National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation and National Minorities Development Finance Corporations' schemes.

(d) Does not arise

[English]

### Programme for Pollution Control

2716. SHRI DINSHA PATEL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation has recently launched a programme to check the growing air and water pollution in the city.

(b) if so, the details of the programme and the quantum of Central assistance for the programme, and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to encourage similar programmes in the country and other parts of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b). Yes Sir. A study on environmental risk assessment of the city of Ahmedabad was conducted by the Centre for Environment Planning and Technology Ahmedabad sponsored by the USAID New Delhi with the assistance and participation of the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation. Based on the recommendations made in the study, the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation has initiated the following measures to reduce air pollution levels in the city and prevent water pollution.

1. The Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation has procured emission testing meters for transport buses of Ahmedabad Municipal Transport Service.
2. The Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation in association with the Directorate of Transport and the State Government Ministry of Transport has taken up the issue of setting up of vehicle emission testing centres in various parts of the city through private sector participation.

3. City Environment Monitoring Cell headed by the Municipal Commissioner has been set up.
4. A drive has been undertaken to check the emissions in the auto-rickshaws using kerosene and punitive measures are taken by the Regional Transport Authority against the polluting vehicles.
5. Traffic improvement scheme and construction of road bridge and fly-over has been taken up to ensure the flow of traffic in the city to reduce air pollution.
6. For improving the air quality, the solid waste management systems are being modernised and completely containerized system is being introduced with a concept of zero garbage on road and handle wastes once only.
7. Remediation measures in the hazardous industrial estates have been taken up at the disposal sites with the help of National Productivity Council and the Gujarat Pollution Control Board.
8. Under the City Greening Programme, roadside plantation with public participation has been taken up.
9. For preventing water pollution, the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation has taken up a major programme of replacing rusted domestic pipelines.
10. Water quality monitoring is carried out on day-to-day basis by the Central Laboratory of the Corporation. The incidence of water-borne disease is monitored on day-to-day basis by the Health Department of the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation.

No Central Government assistance is given for these programmes.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to check air and water pollution in the country and in the State of Gujarat include the following :

1. Environmental Guidelines have been evolved for siting and operation of industries.
2. Fiscal incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment and also for the shifting of industries from congested areas.
3. Custom and excise duty exemptions are provided to the industries for pollution control/monitoring equipment.
4. A scheme for setting up of common effluent treatment plants in clusters of small scale industrial units is under implementation.

5. To promote pollution prevention in small and medium scale industries, a project on establishment of waste minimisation circles in cluster of small scale industries including Surat in Gujarat has been taken up.
6. Effluent and emission standards have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
7. 24 problems areas have been identified in the country including Vapi and Ankleshwar in the State of Gujarat for abatement of pollution.
8. A network of ambient air and water quality monitoring stations throughout the country has been set up.
9. Tighter emission standards were introduced on 1-4-1996 for all categories of petrol and diesel vehicles and is to be made stricter from 1-4-2000. This would help introduce cleaner vehicles involving upgradation of technologies to reduce emissions from vehicles.
10. The Central Government has advised the various States to enforce the standards for emissions from on-road vehicles and create awareness amongst the general public on various aspects such as maintenance of vehicles, health effects of vehicular pollution.
11. Low-lead petrol had been introduced in the four metro cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai with effect from June, 1994. Subsequently, unleaded petrol was introduced in the above mentioned four cities on 1-4-1995.
12. The Government is implementing a major plan of action for introduction of unleaded petrol and catalytic converter vehicles, introduction of low sulphur diesel for cleaner diesel vehicles in a phased manner. Fuel quality standards for petrol and diesel have been notified.

#### Referring of Babri Masjid Dispute to Supreme Court

2717. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have committed to refer the Babri Masjid dispute to the Supreme Court under article 138 (2) of the Constitution;

(b) if so, the steps taken or being taken in this regard; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be referred to the Supreme Court?