

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:795

ANSWERED ON:06.12.2004

IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL RIVER CONSERVATION PLAN

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba

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

- (a) whether in a conference of State Environment Ministers on September 9, 2004 the Ministry of Environment and Forests has suggested public-private partnership in the implementation of National River and Lake Conservation Programmes and setting up of a mechanism to monitor them;
- (b) if so, the response of the States thereon;
- (c) whether the Union Government has prepared any scheme in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the State Governments have demanded for increase in the fund allocation for implementation of National River Conservation Programme ;
- (f) if so, the response of the Union Government thereto; and
- (g) the funds allotted by the Union Government to each State particularly Maharashtra for the purpose?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) to (d) During the State Environment Ministers Conference on September 9, 2004, the Ministry of Environment and Forests suggested various means to generate resources for completion of works and Operation & Maintenance of assets created under National River and Lake conservation Programmes and setting up of a mechanism to monitor them. Some of the means discussed were collection of cost of sewage, its conveyance and treatment in new urban centers through external development costs like price of land, surcharge on property taxes and stamp duty, levying user charges, sale of sludge and generation of power from biogas in STPs etc. The suggestions were generally supported by the States. In the meeting the State Governments were asked to raise the resources by employing these means.

(e) to (g) The Ministry releases funds to the Implementing Agencies of the States for carrying out works under National River Conservation Plan and National Lake Conservation Plan approved by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on the basis of progress of the scheme, submission of proper `Fund Utilisation Certificate` and projected funds requirement for implementation of these schemes in the States. The State Governments and Government of Maharashtra have specifically not demanded increase in the fund allocation for implementation of National River Conservation Plan.