

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:299

ANSWERED ON:27.02.2008

FOREIGN EXPERTISE FOR CLEANING OF THE GANGA AND OTHER RIVERS

Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

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

- (a) whether some foreign countries have offered their expertise in removing pollutants from various major rivers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether U.K. has also expressed its willingness to extend help in cleaning of the Ganga and other major rivers in the country; and
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) Since launching of the Ganga Action Plan in 1985, financial/technical assistance have been availed from foreign countries/international institutions from time to time for pollution abatement activities in the rivers of the country. Presently, technical assistance is provided by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Government of Japan for the project "Capacity Building of Sewerage Works in India". Under this project, a number of training programmes are organized in India and Japan on strengthening the capabilities of technical personnel/officials of State implementing agencies as well as in Central Government in planning, design and especially, operation and maintenance of sewerage facilities (including Sewage Treatment Plants) set-up under the National River Conservation Plan. The project also includes preparation of draft plan of Human Resource Development on operation and maintenance of sewerage works in India for identifying the training needs in various States.

(c) No specific proposal has been received by the Central Government.

(d) Does not arise.