

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1766  
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2008  
POLLUTION IN DAMODAR RIVER  
Mahto Shri Tek Lal

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

- (a) whether Damodar river has become highly polluted due to the discharge of effluents from dozens of coal mines, coal washeries, thermal power plant, fertiliser and chemical units situated along its banks stretching from Khelari in Jharkhand to Durgapur in West Bengal;
- (b) if so, the measures taken by the Government to check the increasing pollution in the Damodar river including the details regarding the funds allocated and the actual amount spent during the last three years in this regard; and
- (c) the time by which Damodar river would be made completely pollution free?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c) As per the information provided by Central Pollution Control Board, the coal mines, coal washeries, thermal power plants, chemical factories, located in the vicinity of the river Damodar, discharge their wastewater into the river Damodar after necessary treatment. The effluent discharged by these industries is regularly monitored by the respective State Pollution Control Board of Jharkhand and West Bengal to check compliance with the prescribed standards. Action is taken against the defaulting units as per the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

The Government of India is implementing the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) for abatement of pollution of river Damodar from domestic sewage in the towns of Bokaro-Kargali, Chirkunda, Dugdha, Jharia, Ramgarh, Sindri, Sudamdih and Telmachu in the State of Jharkhand and Raniganj, Asansol, Andal and Durgapur in the State of West Bengal. The various schemes undertaken include Interception & Diversion (I&D) of sewage, installation of Sewage Treatment Plants (STP), Low Cost Sanitation (LCS) Units, Improved Wood Crematoria (IWC) among others. Four projects relating to LCS at Bokaro-Kargali, Ramgarh, Sudamdih and Telmachu towns in the State of Jharkhand have been completed. An expenditure of Rs. 6.31 Lakh has been incurred in the State of Jharkhand during the last three years out of earlier funds provided to the State for the implementation of these projects. No further requirement of funds has been received from the State Government. In the State of West Bengal, ten projects have been sanctioned, out of which eight projects consisting of LCS and IWC each at Raniganj, Asansol, Andal and Durgapur towns have been completed. An expenditure of Rs. 2.23 crore has been incurred in execution of these projects during the last three years out of the amount of Rs. 3.0 crore allocated for the period.

Conservation of rivers is a dynamic activity with the ever increasing pollution load due to rapid urbanization and increase in population. Review of the strategies of conservation policy and identification of additional towns and rivers is a continuous process. Due to continuous increase in the population of the towns located along the banks of the rivers resulting in increased pollution load, and gap in the availability of financial resources to take up works commensurate with the requirements, there is likely to be persistent divergence between the tackled pollution load and the actual pollution load.