

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:341

ANSWERED ON:24.02.2010

POLLUTION IN RIVERS

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

- (a) whether the quality of water of the major rivers in the country was subjected to any test;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether the river water is getting more polluted despite sizeable amount being spent by the Government in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action being taken by the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) along with State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) is monitoring the water quality of different rivers in the country at 810 locations covering 27 states and 6 Union Territories.

(c) to (e) The pollution load on rivers has increased over the years due to rapid urbanisation and industrialization. Abstraction of water for irrigation, drinking, industrial use, power and other purposes compounds the challenge. This problem is being addressed collectively by the Central & State Governments.

The Central Government is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in river conservation through the centrally sponsored National River Conservation Plan (NRCP). This Plan presently covers 38 rivers in 167 towns spread over 20 states. Pollution abatement schemes under NRCP include interception, diversion and treatment of sewage, low cost sanitation works on river banks, electric and/or improved wood crematoria etc. Sewage treatment capacity of nearly 4000 million litres per day has been created under this Plan, so far.

River conservation activities such as creation of civic infrastructure for sewage management and disposal are also being implemented under other central schemes, such as Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns,as well as under state schemes.