

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:430
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2010
CLEANING OF RIVERS
Singh Smt. Meena

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

- (a) whether as per the recent study of Central Pollution Control Board, sewage disposal pattern shown that only 50% of sewage in major cities in the country is treated and rest flows untreated into the rivers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to revamp the existing schemes for cleaning Ganga, Yamuna and Narmada;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure that no untreated sewage is allowed to flow into the rivers?

Answer

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

(a) to (e) According to a recent report of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), out of about 15644 million litres municipal wastewater generated per day (mld) in 35 metropolitan cities in the country, treatment capacity of 8040 mld. is available. Conservation of rivers is an ongoing and collective effort of the Central and State Governments. Pollution abatement works for interception and diversion of sewage and its treatment are undertaken under National River Conservation Plan (NRCP). NRCP presently covers 38 rivers of the country including Ganga, Yamuna and Narmada. Sewage treatment capacity of about 4000 mld, has been created under the NRCP so far.

The Central Government has set up the 'National Ganga River Basin Authority' (NGRBA) on 20.2.2009 under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister as an empowered planning, financing, monitoring and coordinating authority to ensure effective abatement of pollution and conservation of the river Ganga by adopting a holistic approach with the river basin as the unit of planning. 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.