

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5415
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2010
ACTION PLAN OF NGRBA
Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun

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

- (a) the details of action plan initiated by National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) since its inception;
- (b) whether the NGRBA has received priority projects from all the concerned States in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the success achieved by the Authority in management and conservation of river Ganga?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): The first meeting of the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) held on 5th October, 2009 resolved that by the year 2020, it will be ensured that no untreated municipal sewage or industrial effluent flows into Ganga. Currently, sewage treatment capacity of 1025 million litres per day (mld) is available against about 3000 mld being generated in the towns along Ganga. The investments required to create the necessary treatment and sewerage infrastructure, are to be shared suitably between Centre and States.

An Empowered Steering Committee has been constituted to appraise and sanction project proposals on fast track mode. States have been requested to prepare priority projects for critical pollution hotspots and major towns on Ganga and fast track the implementation of ongoing projects.

In the first phase, project proposals of around Rs 1400 crores have been sanctioned under the NGRBA, which include sewer networks, sewage treatment plants and sewage pumping stations, electric crematoria, dhobi ghats, community toilets, development and beautification of river front, etc in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Uttarakhand.

Tripartite Memorandum of Agreements (MoA) are being signed between Centre, States and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) for the projects under NGRBA to ensure improvement in implementation to avoid time and cost overruns, and to ensure proper operation and maintenance of assets by the States/ULBs. The State Ganga River Conservation Authorities have been constituted in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar and West Bengal for coordination of river conservation efforts in the States.

Conservation of rivers is a collective effort of Central and State Governments. 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.