

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6442

ANSWERED ON:05.05.2010

CLEANING OF RIVERS

Bais Shri Ramesh;Chavan Shri Harischandra Deoram;Mishra Shri Mahabal ;Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada;Paranjpe Shri Anand Prakash;Ramasubbu Shri S.;Singh Kunwar Rewati Raman;Singh Shri Radha Mohan;Singh Smt. Meena;Venugopal Shri K. C.

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

- (a) whether the Government has reviewed the progress made in the cleaning of rivers Ganga, Yamuna and other major rivers in the country;
- (b) if so, the outcome thereof including the expenditure incurred so far to clean these rivers;
- (c) whether the Government has undertaken any fresh initiative to clean these rivers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof including the estimated funds required/earmarked and the targeted date fixed for the purpose;
- (e) whether the Government has also sought the help of World Bank/International agencies for the cleaning of these rivers;
- (f) if so, the details thereof including the funds received from these agencies, agency-wise; and
- (g) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (g) The Central Government initiated the river conservation through launching of Ganga Action Plan in 1985. The scope of the river cleaning programme was increased with the launching of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) in 1995. NRCP now covers 167 towns along polluted stretches of 38 rivers spread over 20 States. The objective of the plan is to improve the water quality of the major rivers in the country through implementation of various pollution abatement works.

An expenditure of Rs.3955 crore has been incurred so far and sewage treatment capacity of around 4000 million litres per day (mld) has been created so far under the Plan. Based on the independent water quality monitoring undertaken by reputed institutions, the water quality in terms of BOD (Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand) values is reported to have improved in major rivers as compared to the water quality before taking up pollution abatement works.

The Central Government has set up the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) in February, 2009 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. NGRBA will combine regulatory and developmental functions.

The first meeting of the 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. Sewage treatment capacity of 1025 mld has been created so far under Ganga Action Plan against sewage of about 3000 mld being generated in the towns along Ganga. An estimated investment of Rs. 15,000 crore over the next 10 years will be required to create the necessary treatment and sewerage infrastructure, to be shared suitably between Centre and States. A budget provision of Rs 695 crore has been earmarked in the financial year 2010-11 for conservation of rivers, including Ganga.

Preliminary consultations have been started for seeking World Bank support for the activities of the NGRBA. Yamuna Action Plan Phase-II, an ongoing programme, is being implemented with a loan assistance from the Japanese International Cooperation Agency.

Conservation of rivers is an ongoing and collective effort of the Central and State Governments. 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.