

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:177

ANSWERED ON:15.07.2009

POLLUTION IN RIVERS

Muttemwar Shri Vilas Baburao;Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai

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

- (a) whether pollution in various rivers of the country including Ganga, Yamuna, Damodar, Swarnrekha, Karkai and Ghaggar has increased over the years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of the difficulties being faced by the Government while depolluting these rivers;
- (d) whether any time-frame and priorities have been fixed by the Government to make these rivers pollution free;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check release of effluents from industries and discharge of sewage into these rivers?

Answer

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

(a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (f) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No.177 to be answered on Wednesday, the 15th July, 2009 on 'Pollution in Rivers'

(a) to (f) According to water quality monitoring undertaken by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), 139 polluted stretches in different rivers of the country including Ganga, Yamuna, Damodar, Subarnarekha and Ghaggar have been identified. A statement indicating the polluted stretches of these five rivers is enclosed.

The pollution load on major rivers has increased over the years due to industrialization and urbanisation. Abstraction of water for irrigation, drinking, industrial use, power and other purposes compound the challenge.

River conservation is an ongoing and collective effort of the Central and the State Governments. Pollution abatement works are implemented under the centrally sponsored National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) to improve the water quality in rivers. The NRCP covers identified polluted stretches of 37 rivers, including Ganga, Yamuna, Damodar and Subarnarekha, spread over 20 States in the country. Sewage treatment capacity of 3926 million litres per day (mld) has been created. River conservation activities 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.

Implementation of river conservation plans is constrained by factors such as land acquisition, inadequate provisions for operation and maintenance of assets created, irregular power supply, under utilisation of sewage treatment plants, non-point sources of pollution etc.

The Central Government, by a Notification dated 20.2.2009, has set up the 'National Ganga River Basin Authority' (NGRBA) 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. The functions of the Authority include all measures necessary for planning and execution of programmes for abatement of pollution in the Ganga in keeping with sustainable development needs.

Pollution from industries on the banks of rivers is monitored by CPCB and State Pollution Control Boards. Action is taken against defaulting industries under relevant provisions of Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.