

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1544
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2009
NATIONAL GANGA RIVER BASIN AUTHORITY
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Government has set up the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA);
- (b) If so, the composition and terms of reference;
- (c) the fund allocated/released to NGRBA;
- (d) the steps taken/being taken to ensure accountability of these funds;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to constitute such Authorities for other rivers in the country also;
- (f) if so, the details of such rivers identified; and
- (g) the significant improvement in water management achieved or likely to be achieved as a result thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) The Central Government by a Notification dated 20.02.2009, has set up the 'National Ganga River Basin Authority' (NGRBA) as an empowered planning, financing, monitoring and coordinating authority for the Ganga River, in exercise of the powers conferred under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The Prime Minister is the ex-officio Chairperson of the Authority, and it has as its members, the Union Ministers concerned, and the Chief Ministers of the States through which Ganga flows, viz., Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal, among others. The functions of the Authority include all measures necessary for planning and execution of programmes for abatement of pollution and conservation of the river Ganga in keeping with sustainable development needs.

(c) & (d) An outlay of Rs. 250 crore has been proposed for NGRBA in the Union Budget for 2009-10. Funds will be released to Project Implementing Agencies in the States as per prescribed procedure viz. based on physical and financial progress of the works, utilisation certificates, etc.

(e), (f) & (g) At present, there is no proposal to constitute River Basin Authorities for other rivers in the country.