

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:41

ANSWERED ON:28.07.2010

POLLUTION IN RIVERS

Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan;Sharma Shri Jagdish

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

- (a) whether major rivers of the country are getting polluted due to discharge of industrial and household wastes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the details of funds spent for cleaning of these rivers so far and the funds that are likely to be allocated/released for various rivers including Yamuna, river-wise;
- (d) whether the programmes launched earlier for cleaning of rivers have not achieved the desired results; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a)to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No.41 to be answered on Wednesday the 28th July, 2010 on Pollution in Rivers raised by Shri Jagdish Sharma and Shri Adhir Chowdhury.

(a) to (e) The pollution load on rivers has increased over the years due to rapid urbanisation and industrialization. Domestic sewage is the major source of pollution of rivers besides industrial and other non-point sources of pollution. Abstraction of water for irrigation, drinking, industrial use, power etc. compounds the challenge.

Based on the water quality monitoring, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has identified 150 polluted stretches of rivers in the country. A statement indicating the number of polluted stretches of rivers state-wise is given in the Annexure-I.

Conservation of rivers is a collective effort of Central and State Governments. The Central Government is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in river conservation through the centrally sponsored National River Conservation Plan (NRCP). This Plan presently covers 38 rivers in 178 towns spread over 20 states. Pollution abatement schemes undertaken include interception, diversion and treatment of sewage; low cost sanitation works on river banks; electric/improved wood crematoria etc. An expenditure of Rs.4085 crore has been incurred and Sewage treatment capacity of 4064 million litres per day (mld) has been created so far. Creation of infrastructure for sewage management and disposal is also being undertaken through other central schemes, such as Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission and Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns, as well as under state schemes.

A statement indicating river-wise expenditure incurred on pollution abatement works is given in the Annexure-II. For the Year 2010-11, Rs.500 crore has been allocated for the river Ganga and Rs. 195 crore have been allocated under NRCP.

Based on independent monitoring undertaken by reputed institutions on some of the major rivers under NRCP, the water quality in terms of BOD (Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand) values has improved at most locations as compared to water quality before taking up of pollution abatement schemes.