

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:646

ANSWERED ON:28.07.2010

CLEANING OF RIVER GANGA

Angadi Shri Suresh Chanabasappa;Choudhary Shri Bhudeo;Khaire Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao;Kumar Shri Vishwa Mohan;Meghe Shri Datta Raghobaji;Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada;Pakkirappa Shri S.;Pandey Shri Ravindra Kumar;Singh Shri Radha Mohan;Sugavanam Shri E.G.

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

- (a) whether the Ministry has signed an Memorandum of Agreement with Consortium of seven IITs for development of Ganga River Basin Management Plan;
- (b) if so, the salient features of the Agreement;
- (c) the action plan drawn up by the Government for cleaning the river Ganges;
- (d) the fund earmarked for the purpose; and
- (e) the external assistance sought for cleaning the Ganges river, country-wise?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) A Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) has been signed on 6.7.2010 by the Ministry of Environment & Forests with a consortium of seven IITs for the development of Ganga River Basin Management Plan. The Basin Management Plan will be the basis for NGRBA's Action Programme. The Plan would identify projects to be undertaken, policy interventions required and non-project investments. The Plan would include identification and estimation of present and prospective pollution loads from domestic, industrial and non-point sources, measures for maintaining water quality by providing a road map for control and prevention of pollution into the river and its tributaries, measures necessary for augmentation of river flow, catchment area treatment, public participation & awareness and assessment of technical and financial resources required for a time bound action programme.

(c) & (d) The Government has been implementing the Ganga Action Plan since 1985. The schemes taken up for pollution abatement of river Ganga under the Plan include interception and diversion of sewage for treatment in sewage treatment plants; sanitation works; electric and /or improved wood crematoria; river front development, etc. Sewage treatment capacity of nearly 1025 million liters day has been created so far under the Plan in towns along river Ganga.

The Central Government has set up the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) as an empowered planning, financial, 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. Projects worth about Rs.1400 crore have been sanctioned under NGRBA for conservation of the river. The Central Government has allocated Rs. 500 crore in the budget for the year 2010-11 for NGRBA.

(e) The Government of India has undertaken a pollution abatement project at Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh with the assistance of 11.184 billion Yen from Japan International Cooperation Agency. A Project Preparation Facility assistance of US \$ 2.96 million has been availed from the World Bank for preparation of a detailed project report for World Bank assistance for NGRBA.