

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5150  
ANSWERED ON:27.08.2010  
POLLUTION IN YAMUNA RIVER  
Rajaram Shri Wakchaure Bhausheb

**Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Hon'ble Supreme Court and Delhi High Court had given some directions regarding increasing pollution in the Yamuna river;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the corrective steps taken or being taken by the Union Government in this regard?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SAUGATA ROY)

(a) to (c): While hearing the Writ Petition Civil No. 725/1994 based on a Public Interest Litigation, the Hon'ble Supreme Court, on 4.8.2004, directed that a High Powered Committee should be constituted with the Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development as Chairperson and with members from various Departments/Organisations for preparation of an Integrated Action Plan for the abatement of pollution of River Yamuna. Accordingly, an Integrated Action Plan was prepared and was submitted to the Supreme Court in November 2004 with several agencies identified towards implementation of the Action Plan. Further, in order to improve the quality of water in River Yamuna a two pronged revised strategy was submitted vide affidavit dated 5.8.2005 by then Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development. In the first part of the strategy, Delhi Jal Board (DJB) should continue to complete the on-going works of enhancement of sewage treatment capacity by 100 Million Gallon per Day (MGD) and utilization of existing sewage treatment capacity of 512 MGD through desilting/rehabilitation of existing trunk sewer and sewerage of unsewered areas. In the second arm of the strategy, the installing of sewage treatment plant at the mouth of the major drains was suggested.

Subsequently, DJB prepared a scheme for laying interceptor sewers along the three major drains. The interceptor sewer concept had four broad features, namely, laying of interceptor sewers along three major drains, augmentation of existing capacity of sewerage treatment plants, intercepting of 13 small drains and construction of additional sewerage treatment plants. The concept was submitted to the Supreme Court and Supreme Court on 31.3.2007 directed constitution of an Expert Committee. As recommended by the Expert Committee, the project for laying interceptor sewers has been approved under Jawahar Lal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission for the abatement of pollution of river Yamuna at an estimated cost of 1357.71 crore.

The Government has also constituted a High Powered Committee for Yamuna River Development to be chaired by Lt. Governor, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi. The terms and references of this includes study on different aspects of the development of the river, viz. hydrology, ecology, environmental pollution, sustainable use of the river front, etc. to feed into the policy framework, develop a policy framework and prepare an Integrated Plan addressing issues of both quantity in terms of river flow and quality in the Yamuna River etc.