

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:258

ANSWERED ON:10.11.2010

POLLUTION OF RIVERS

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

- (a) the details of funds provided so far to different agencies for cleaning of various rivers in the country, river-wise, agency-wise and State-wise;
- (b) the funds allocated and spent for cleaning major rivers during the current Five Year Plan, river-wise and State-wise;
- (c) the names of rivers which have shown improvement in pollution level and those where there has been no marked improvement alongwith the reasons therefor, river-wise and State-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has consulted State Governments, NGOs and also conducted public awareness campaigns for making the rivers pollution free; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the further action the Government proposes to take for cleaning these polluted rivers?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) The National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) implemented by the Central Government presently covers 38 rivers spread over 20 States. An amount of Rs.3727.06 crore has been provided by the Central Government to the States under the Plan so far and a sewage treatment capacity of 4064 mld. has been created. An allocation of Rs.2065 crore has been made during the current Five Year Plan for NRCP, against which an amount of Rs.1154.38 crores has been released by the Central Government till October, 2010. Details are given at Annexure.

(c) to (e) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is monitoring water quality of rivers at 980 locations covering 353 rivers in terms of Dissolved Oxygen (DO), Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Fecal Coliforms. 150 polluted river stretches have been identified by CPCB.

The water quality in terms of BOD values for major rivers is reported to have improved as compared to the water quality before taking up pollution abatement works under NRCP, based on independent monitoring undertaken by reputed institutions. For example, in respect of water quality of the river Ganga, the BOD values in the year 2010 range between 1.48 to 5.51 mg./litre in major monitoring locations as compared to BOD values ranging between 1.7 to 15.5 mg./litre in 1986. However, the levels of bacterial contamination in terms of fecal coliform are reported to be exceeding the maximum permissible limit at a number of locations along the river Ganga.

The water quality in the stretch of the river Yamuna from Tajewala to Palla in Haryana is found to be within the prescribed limits. However, the stretch of the river in the vicinity of Delhi (downstream of Wazirabad barrage to upstream of Okhla barrage) and in parts of Uttar Pradesh does not meet the standards in terms of BOD. The water quality of Yamuna has not shown the desired improvement owing to large gap between the demand and availability of sewage treatment capacity and lack of fresh water in the river.

State Governments have been requested to involve youth, social workers and NGOs in monitoring implementation of projects and to enhance awareness. The Central Government has set up the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) in February, 2009 as an empowered 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. Schemes worth about Rs.1450 crores have been sanctioned under NGRBA so far.

Conservation of rivers is an ongoing and collective effort of the Central and State Governments. River conservation projects such as creation of civic infrastructure for sewage management and disposal 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 sector schemes.