

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:146

ANSWERED ON:07.03.2011

RIVER POLLUTION

Azad Shri Kirti (Jha);Reddy Shri Modugula Venugopala

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

- (a) the details of funds allocated to various States under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) for cleaning of river water during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has assessed the improvement in the quality of river water, in the aftermath of NRCP;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to include more rivers under NRCP;
- (e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (f) whether the Government is contemplating to seek any kind of foreign assistance for conservation of the rivers and making them pollution free in the country; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

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

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (g) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No.146 to be answered on Monday the 7th March, 2011 on River Pollution raised by Shri Kirti Azad & Shri Modugula Venugopala Reddy

(a) to (g) The Centrally sponsored scheme of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) covers polluted stretches of 39 rivers in 182 towns spread over 20 States. A statement indicating the State-wise details of funds released during the last three years under the Plan year-wise is at Annexure.

Under NRCP, the Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Government in river conservation. Sewage treatment capacity of 4064 mld (million litres per day) has been created so far under the Plan. However, the pollution load on rivers has increased over the years due to rapid urbanization and industrialization. Abstraction of water for irrigation, drinking, industrial use, power etc. compounds the challenge. Based on Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) analysis, 150 polluting river stretches have been identified by Central Pollution Control Board.

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. 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.

Proposals for inclusion of new rivers/towns under NRCP, received from the State Governments from time to time, are considered based upon availability of funds under the Plan, degree of pollution, scope of coverage of works under other Central Plan Schemes like Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission and the Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small & Medium Towns, State Governments' commitment for contribution of matching share of costs etc.

External assistance from bilateral/ multilateral agencies is availed of from time to time by the Government. For the Yamuna Action Plan (YAP) Phase-I, loan assistance of Yen 17.77 billion was provided by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Government of Japan and an assistance of Yen 13.33 billion is being availed for YAP Phase-II from the agency. JICA has agreed to provide a loan assistance of Yen 32.571 billion for the next phase of the Programme.

For pollution abatement of the river Ganga at Varanasi, an assistance of 11.184 billion Yen is being availed from JICA. Loan assistance is also being availed of from the World Bank for conservation of river Ganga and a Project Preparation advance amounting to US \$ 2.96 million has been provided for preparation of a detailed project.

