

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1758
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2011
SETTING UP OF NATIONAL GANGES RIVER BASIN AUTHORITY
Meghe Shri Datta Raghobaji

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to constitute a full time Commission Authority for the maintenance and cleansing of the Ganges and other rivers to save them from pollution;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (d) whether the polluted water of the subsidiary rivers of the river Ganges also pollutes the river Ganges;and
- (e) if so, the details of the plans for cleansing the subsidiary rivers of the river Ganges?

Answer

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

(a) to (e) The Central Government has constituted the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) on February 20, 2009 as a planning, financing, monitoring and coordinating authority for effective abatement of pollution and conservation of river Ganga with a river basin approach. The Authority is chaired by the Prime Minister and has as its members, the Union Ministers concerned, the Chief Ministers of the States through which Ganga flows, viz., Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal, among others.

Ganga Action Plan (GAP) Phase-I was launched in the year 1985 to improve the water quality of river Ganga and was completed in March 2000. Phase-II of the programme was approved in stages from 1993 onwards which included the works on the tributaries of the river Ganga namely, Yamuna, Gomti, Damodar and Mahananda. Pollution abatement works undertaken include, interception and diversion of raw sewage, setting up of sewage treatment plants, creation of low cost sanitation facilities, setting up of electric/improved wood crematoria and river front development. An amount of Rs 1884.12 crores has been released to States and a sewage treatment capacity of 1877 mld (million litres per day) has been created for Ganga and its tributaries till December 2010.

Several initiatives have been taken up under NGRBA. The Authority has decided that under 'Mission Clean Ganga', it will be ensured that by year 2020, no untreated municipal sewage and industrial effluents flow into Ganga. Projects of Rs 2476 crores have been sanctioned so far by the NGRBA for abatement of pollution of River Ganga. A memorandum of Agreement has been signed by the Central Government with a consortium of seven Indian Institutes of Technology for preparation of a comprehensive River Basin Management Plan for Ganga. The Plan would provide a roadmap for control and prevention of pollution into Ganga and its tributaries along with financial resources required for a time bound action programme to be implemented by the NGRBA.