

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1801

ANSWERED ON:07.03.2011

GANGA AND YAMUNA ACTION PLAN

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

- (a) whether any Scheme/Action Plans chalked out containing for the rising level of pollution in the Ganga and Yamuna rivers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of funds allocated and utilised on these Plans for the last three years and the current year;
- (d) whether the Ganga and Yamuna rivers are still polluted even after implementation of these Plans;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to check the pollution in the said rivers?

Answer

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

(a) to (f) The Ganga Action Plan (GAP) was launched by the Government in 1985, for pollution abatement activities in the identified polluted stretches of the river Ganga through implementation of works like interception and diversion of sewage, setting up of sewage treatment plants, low cost sanitation works, crematoria works etc. Under this Plan, Rs.887 crore has been spent so far and a sewage treatment capacity of 1064 mld has been created.

With the pollution abatement works completed so far, despite significant increase in urban population in cities along the banks of river, the water quality of the river Ganga has shown improvement at major locations over its pre-GAP quality based on water quality monitoring carried out by reputed institutions. The water quality of the river Ganga conforms to the prescribed standards in terms of key indicators, namely, Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Dissolved Oxygen (DO) at most of the locations except, in the stretch between Kannauj and Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh. 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.

The Central Government has set up the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) in February, 2009 as an empowered authority for conservation of the river Ganga. The Authority has decided that under Mission Clean Ganga it will be ensured that by 2020 no untreated municipal sewage and industrial effluents flow into Ganga. Schemes worth about Rs.2476 crores have been sanctioned under NGRBA so far.

To supplement the efforts of State Governments in addressing the problem of pollution of river Yamuna, Government of India is implementing Yamuna Action Plan (YAP) with assistance from Japan International Cooperation Agency, Government of Japan in a phased manner. An amount of Rs 1120 crore has been spent for various pollution abatement works under the Plan so far, and a sewage treatment capacity of 753.25 mld has been created.

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.

Details of funds released by the Central Government to the States during the last three years and the current year for conservation of river Ganga and Yamuna are as below :

(Rs. in crore)

S.No. River 2007-08 2008-09 2009-10 2010-11 (upto Dec., 2010)

1. Ganga 48.00 54.86 103.96 195.71

2. Yamuna 27.71 99.98 100.40 103.39

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.