

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:132
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2011
POLLUTION IN RIVERS
Singh Shri Bhupendra

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

- (a) whether according to recent report of Central Pollution Control Board the water of major rivers in the country has been found polluted;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the plan of the Government to make pollution free the major rivers in the country including Ganga, Yamuna, Narmada etc.;
- (d) the details of funds sanctioned, released and incurred for the purpose during the last three years, river-wise; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to reduce pollution of these rivers?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SMT. JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) to (e) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is monitoring water quality of rivers at 1085 locations covering 383 rivers in terms of Dissolved Oxygen (DO), Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Fecal Coliforms etc. Based on BOD levels, 150 polluting river stretches have been identified by CPCB.

Conservation of rivers is an ongoing and collective effort of the Central and State Governments. This Ministry is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments for abatement of pollution in rivers through the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP). Creation of infrastructure for sewage management and disposal is also being undertaken through other central schemes, such as Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission and Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns, as well as under state schemes.

The river conservation programme started with the launching of the Ganga Action Plan (GAP) in 1985 in the identified polluted stretches of the river Ganga. The Plan was expanded to include other major rivers under NRCP, which presently covers 39 rivers in 185 towns spread over 20 states. The schemes are implemented on a cost sharing basis between the Centre and the States.

An expenditure of Rs.4475 crore has been incurred and sewage treatment capacity of 4417 million litres per day (mld) has been created so far under NRCP. Pollution abatement schemes undertaken include interception, diversion and treatment of sewage; low cost sanitation works on river banks; electric/improved wood crematoria etc.

The Central Government has constituted the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) in February, 2009 as an empowered authority for conservation of the river Ganga by adopting a holistic approach. 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.

For abatement of pollution of river Yamuna, Yamuna Action Plan (YAP) is being implemented by the Government with assistance from Japan International Cooperation Agency in the three states of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi in a phased manner. Besides YAP, the Government of NCT of Delhi has taken up sewerage and sewage treatment works under other schemes to fully address the pollution load being discharged into Yamuna. For conservation of river Narmada, pollution abatement works have been taken up in the towns of Jabalpur and Hoshangabad in Madhya Pradesh.

A statement indicating details of funds sanctioned and released to the States and expenditure incurred during the last three years is at Annexure.