

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:138

ANSWERED ON:01.08.2011

FUNDS FOR CLEANING OF GANGA RIVER

Bais Shri Ramesh;Kumar Shri Shailendra;Panda Shri Baijayant;Pandurang Shri Munde Gopinathrao;Pradhan Shri Nityananda;Reddy Shri Anantha Venkatarami;Reddy Shri Magunta Srinivasulu;Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

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

- (a) the details of funds sanctioned, released and incurred under the Ganga Action Plan to clean the river Ganga during each of the last three years;
- (b) whether some funds have been received from foreign financial institutions/ organisations in this pursuit;
- (c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action plan to utilize this assistance;
- (d) whether there have been some alleged discrepancies in the implementing strategy for cleaning and conserving the river Ganga; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the remedial steps taken to clean and conserve the said river?

Answer

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

(a) to (e) Ganga Action Plan (GAP) is being implemented since 1985 for abatement of pollution in river Ganga. In February 2009, National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) has been set up by the Central Government and funds are being released under NGRBA. Details of sanctioned cost of projects and funds released to the States during the last three years for the river are given below :

(Rs. in crore)

Year Sanctioned Cost Funds Released Expenditure Incurred by States

2008-09 56.39 54.86 54.86

2009-10 421.07 103.96 103.96

2010-11 2164.21 468.50 91.04

A project with World Bank assistance for abatement of pollution of river Ganga at an estimated cost of Rs.7000 crore has been approved in April, 2011. The World Bank will provide financial assistance of US \$ 1 billion. The principal objective of the project is to fund creation of pollution abatement infrastructure for conservation and restoration of the water quality of the river.

Further, a pollution abatement project for river Ganga at Varanasi has been approved in July, 2010 at an estimated cost of Rs.496.90 crores, with assistance of 11.184 billion yen from the Govt. of Japan. The project comprises of schemes pertaining to sewerage, pumping stations, construction of a 140 million liters per day (mld) Sewage Treatment Plant, community toilet complexes, construction of dhobi ghats, improvement of bathing ghats, public awareness and participation and institutional development & capacity building of the local body.

Under the GAP, pollution abatement works have been taken up and sewage treatment capacity of 1064 mld has been created so far. In the light of the experience gained on implementation, the conservation strategy adopted under the Plan was reviewed by the Government. Accordingly, the NGRBA has been constituted as an empowered planning, financing, monitoring and coordinating authority with the objective to ensure effective abatement of pollution and conservation of the river Ganga by adopting a holistic river basin approach. 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 and the investments required to create the necessary treatment and sewerage infrastructure will be shared suitably between the Central and the State Governments.

Several measures have been taken to improve implementation of projects under NGRBA which include; Tripartite Memorandum of

Agreements (MoAs) with the State Governments/Urban Local Bodies, Independent Appraisal of Detailed Project Reports, Third Party Inspection for projects etc.