

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:374

ANSWERED ON:29.08.2011

NGRBA

Kumar Shri Shailendra

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

- (a) the mandate assigned to National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA);
- (b) whether NGRBA has become fully functional;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the likely benefits to be accrued from the constitution of NGRBA in terms of making the river clean and pollution free; and
- (e) the efforts made by the Government to set up a museum regarding the origin and evolution of the river Ganga?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

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

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No.374 to be answered on Monday the 29th August, 2011 on NGRBA raised by Shri Shailendra Kumar

(a) to (e) The Central Government has constituted the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) in February, 2009 as an authority empowered under Section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to ensure effective abatement of pollution and conservation of the river Ganga. The functions of the Authority include all measures necessary for planning and execution of programmes for abatement of pollution in the Ganga like augmentation of sewerage infrastructure, collection, analysis and dissemination of information relating to environmental pollution in Ganga; investigations and research regarding problems of environmental pollution and conservation of Ganga; and, promotion of water conservation practices including recycling and reuse, rain water harvesting, and decentralised sewage treatment systems.

Two meetings of the Authority have been held so far. 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. State River Conservation Authorities have been constituted in the five Ganga States of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal for effective coordination at the State level.

Projects taken up under NGRBA include development of sewer networks, sewage treatment plants and sewage pumping stations, electric crematoria, community toilets, development of river fronts, etc. for pollution abatement and restoration of the water quality of the river. The projects are in various stages of implementation by the states.

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. The project includes setting up of a Ganga Knowledge Centre which will serve as repository of knowledge resource pertaining to Ganga, to carry out analysis and modeling, and improve information access.