

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:969
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2011
CONSERVATION OF RIVERS
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by the Government for river conservation during the last three years;
- (b) the details of the funds released by the Government during the last three years for conservation of major rivers in the country and to make them pollution-free during the said period, State-wise; and
- (c) the details of the amount spent and the achievements made towards making the river Yamuna clean under the National River Conservation Plan?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) The river conservation programme was initiated with the Ganga Action Plan (GAP) in the year 1985. The Plan was expanded to include other major rivers under National River Conservation Plan (NRCP), which presently covers 39 rivers in 190 towns spread over 20 states. Pollution abatement works taken up under the Plan include interception and diversion of raw sewage, setting up of Sewage Treatment Plants etc. A Sewage treatment capacity of 4418 million litres per day (mld) has been created so far under the Plan. Details of funds released state-wise under NRCP during the last three years are given at Annexure.

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 the year 2020, no untreated municipal sewage and industrial effluents flow into Ganga. Projects amounting to Rs.2589 crore have been sanctioned under NGRBA. 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.

(c) 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. The works taken up under YAP 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. A total of 276 schemes including 39 sewage treatment plants have been completed in 21 towns of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi and 753.25 million litres per day of sewage treatment capacity has been created of which 401.25 mld in Uttar Pradesh, 322 mld in Haryana and 30 mld in Delhi. An amount of 767.25 crore (including State share) has been spent under both the phases of the Plan so far.

To ensure that only treated effluent is discharged into the river Yamuna in its Delhi stretch, which contributes maximum pollution load to the river, Delhi Jal Board (DJB) has prepared schemes for laying of interceptor sewers along three major drains namely Najafgarh, Shahdara and Supplementary, augmentation of sewage treatment capacity, interception of drains, rehabilitation of trunk sewers, laying of sewerage system in unsewered colonies and rural areas and desilting of peripheral/internal sewers. The interceptor sewer project has recently been taken up under JNNURM at a cost of Rs. 1357 crore. The water quality of the river has not shown the desired improvement owing to large gap between the demand and availability of the sewage treatment capacity and lack of availability of fresh water for ensuring adequate flow in the river.

Conservation of rivers is a collective effort of Central and State Governments. 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.