

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2920

ANSWERED ON:12.12.2011

POLLUTION IN LAKES AND RIVERS

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

- (a) whether large towns in the country are the major polluters of various rivers and lakes;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has conducted any survey to identify such towns in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the outcome of such survey;
- (d) whether the Government has prepared conservation plan for such rivers/lakes in the country;
- (e) if so, the details of projects sanctioned during the last three years and the current year for pollution abatement work under the said plan, State-wise; and
- (f) the funds released and utilized during the said period under each of such projects, State-wise?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) According to a recent report of the Central Pollution Control Board, wastewater generation in 498 Class I cities & 410 Class-II towns is estimated to be about 38000 million litres per day (mld). This includes the cities and towns located on various rivers and lakes. Against this, the available treatment capacity is only about 12000 mld. Additional sewage treatment capacity for 26000 mld is needed to bridge the gap. Discharge of untreated wastewater from towns along the rivers constitutes the major source of pollution loads in rivers and lakes.

(d) 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. The Central Government is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in river and lake conservation. The centrally sponsored National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) 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. Sewage treatment capacity of 4418 million litres per day (mld) has been created so far under the Plan. A Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP) is also being implemented for conservation and management of polluted and degraded lakes in urban and semi-urban areas of the country. Under NLCP, conservation works for 61 lakes in 14 States have been sanctioned and conservation works in 23 lakes have been completed so far.

To rejuvenate the efforts initiated with the commencement of Ganga Action Plan in 1985, 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.

(e) & (f) Details of pollution abatement works sanctioned, funds released and expenditure incurred state-wise during the last three years and the current year for are given at Annexure.