

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4067
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2011
DAMAGE TO TAJ MAHAL DUE TO YAMUNA RIVER
Muttemwar Shri Vilas Baburao;Ramshankar Dr.

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

- (a) whether the very existence of Taj Mahal is at stake due to drying up of Yamuna River and its polluted water as reported in the media;
- (b) if so, the facts and details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has ascertained the reasons for drying up the Yamuna River and steps taken to control the pollution of Yamuna; and
- (d) if so, the details of the steps taken to control the pollution of Yamuna in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) As reported by the Indian Archaeological Department, no threats to the foundation, tomb structure and four minarets are noted in the scientific studies carried out by Archaeological Survey of India through different agencies like Survey of India, Dehradun; Central Building Research Institute, Roorkee and National Geophysical Research Institute, Hyderabad. The periodical studies conducted through the Survey of India since 1940s show that there is no appreciable change in the verticality of the four minarets of Taj Mahal. The geotechnical and structural investigation of Taj Mahal has been conducted through the Central Building Research Institute (CBRI), Roorkee in 2005. The CBRI has submitted its report in 2007 which shows that no visible distress or dislocation is seen at the joints of floor and walls in the basement below jasmine floor.

(c) & (d) The Yamuna River originates from Yamunotri (Uttarakhand). The river water almost dries upstream of Delhi except in rainy season. The water which flows downstream of Delhi and onwards is a mixture of sewage and industrial effluents of State of Haryana, Delhi and Western districts of Uttar Pradesh. Some steps taken to control the pollution of Yamuna are as under:

All the water polluting 39 operational industries of Agra have installed effluent treatment plants and they are meeting the prescribed standards.

As per Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam report, about 240 million litres per day (mld) domestic sewage shall be generated in the year 2012. At present 116 mld sewage is being treated and 100 mld capacity of sewage treatment plants are under construction. For left out untreated 24 mld, Jal Nigam has submitted the action plan for treatment and construction of sewage network under Yamuna Action Plan - III.

The U.P. Pollution Control Board is regularly monitoring the industrial effluent treatment plants and sewage treatment plants (STP). The State Board is taking action against the defaulter units under the appropriate provisions of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1974 (as amended)