

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:554

ANSWERED ON:08.07.2009

POLLUTION FREE RIVERS

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

- (a) the amount spent on cleaning/ conservation of Ganga, Yamuna, and other rivers in the country during the last three years and the current year, year-wise and river-wise;
- (b) the achievements made as a result thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any study in this regard;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has formulated any revised policy to make these rivers pollution free;
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and
- (g) the time by which the said policy is likely to be implemented?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b) Details of funds released by the Central Government to States, under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP), during the last three financial years and the current financial year are given in the Annexure. So far, sewage treatment capacity of 3926 million litres per day (mld) has been created, besides schemes for interception & diversion works and other non-core works such as crematoria, low cost sanitation works etc.

(c) & (d) Independent studies have been carried out from time to time to evaluate the impact of the river conservation plans. Studies have been conducted by a group of independent experts (1995); University of Bath and Metroeconomica, United Kingdom and the Institute of Economic Growth, New Delhi (1995-97); and Alternate Hydro Energy Centre IIT, Roorkee (2002). The studies have made recommendations for improving the performance of the Schemes by continuous river quality monitoring, proper operation and maintenance of assets, upgradation of treatment technologies/ designs etc.

(e), (f) & (g) Review of strategy of river conservation is a continuous process. Several measures such as concurrent evaluation of schemes have been initiated to improve the performance of the National River Conservation Plan. The Central Government has also set up the 'National Ganga River Basin Authority' on 20.2.2009 as an empowered planning, financing, monitoring and coordinating authority to ensure effective abatement of pollution and conservation of the river Ganga by adopting a holistic approach with the river basin as the unit of planning. A corpus of funds is to be provided for the Authority. A provision of Rs.2100 crores has been made in the XI Plan for the National River Conservation Plan. River conservation activities such as sewage treatment infrastructure are also being implemented under other central schemes, such as Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns, as well as state schemes.