

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:627
ANSWERED ON:08.07.2009
STATUS OF GANGA ACTION PLAN
Kalmadi Shri Suresh

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

- (a) the status of Ganga Action Plan after the constitution of National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) for ensuring effective abatement of pollution;
- (b) whether there is any proposal to conduct detailed survey for assessing and identifying operational mechanisms, like sewage treatment infrastructure, sources of funding and nomination of experts;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether NGRBA is taking measures against environmental pollution and also implement works of water conservation practices, including recycling and reuse, rain water harvesting and decentralised waste treatment systems?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) The Central Government, by a Notification dated 20.2.2009, has set up the 'National Ganga River Basin Authority' (NGRBA) as an empowered planning, financing, monitoring and coordinating authority for the Ganga River, in exercise of the powers conferred under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The objective of the Authority is 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. The ongoing pollution abatement works under the Ganga Action Plan would continue to be implemented.

The functions of the Authority include all measures necessary for planning and execution of programmes for abatement of pollution in the Ganga including 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. Steps have been initiated for preparation of a river basin management plan, nomination of experts in the Authority and for creation of a corpus of funds for the Authority.