

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:640

ANSWERED ON:08.07.2009

POLLUTION IN YAMUNA RIVER

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

- (a) whether the pollution level of Yamuna river including its Delhi stretch has increased;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Delhi's waste water including chemicals discharged from Industrial Units is disposed off untreated into the Yamuna river; and
- (d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to clean the Yamuna river and to make it pollution free?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) As per water quality monitoring undertaken through independent institutions, the water quality in the stretch of the river Yamuna from Tajewala to Palla in Haryana is found to be within the prescribed limits. However, the stretch of the river in the vicinity of Delhi (downstream of Wazirabad barrage to upstream of Okhla barrage) and parts of Uttar Pradesh exceeds the standard in terms of Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) of 3.0 milligram per litre (mg/l) mainly due to significant increase in pollution load and lack of fresh water in the river during lean period.

(c) & (d) Against the total sewage generation of 3470 mld (million litres per day) a treatment capacity of around 2325 mld is available in Delhi. However, due to silting and settlement of trunk sewers, treatment capacity of only 1570 mld is presently in use. To cater to the industrial waste, 11 Common Effluent Treatment Plants have been installed and three more are under construction at Najafgarh, Bawana and Naraina.

The Government of India has undertaken Yamuna Action Plan (YAP) in a phased manner for abatement of pollution of river Yamuna with assistance from Japan Bank for International Cooperation, Government of Japan. The Yamuna Action Plan (YAP) Phase-I was started in April, 1993 in the three States of UP, Delhi & Haryana, covering 15 towns. The project was completed in February, 2003 at a total cost of Rs. 682 crore. A total of 269 schemes of pollution abatement were completed, with the creation of sewage treatment plants having additional treatment capacity of 753.25 million liters per day (mld) of which 30 mld is in Delhi.

Under YAP-II, which commenced in December, 2004 at an approved cost of Rs. 624 crore, the major portion of the outlay i.e. Rs. 387.17 crore has been allocated to Delhi. Sewage treatment capacity of 135 mld is to be created under YAP-II in Delhi. In addition, projects for the rehabilitation of 324 mld treatment capacity and rehabilitation / laying of trunk sewers for a length of 30.82 kms are under implementation under YAP-II.

To tackle the balance pollution load, the Government of NCT of Delhi has taken up sewerage and sewerage treatment works under other schemes. The Delhi Jal Board 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 and rehabilitation of trunk sewers.