

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:891

ANSWERED ON:19.03.2012

CLEANING OF RIVERS

Badal Harsimrat Kaur;Dutt Smt. Priya Sunil

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

- (a) the details of funds allocated to various States under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) for cleaning of river water during the last three years, Statewise and year-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has assessed the improvement in the quality of river water, in the aftermath of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP);
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to include more rivers under National River Conservation Plan (NRCP);
- (e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (f) whether the Government is contemplating to seek any kind of foreign assistance for conservation of rivers and making them pollution free in the country; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

- (a) The details of funds released by the Ministry for pollution abatement works in rivers under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) during the last three years, Statewise and year-wise are at Annexure.
- (b) & (c) The water quality, in terms of Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) values for major rivers is reported to have improved as compared to the water quality before taking up pollution abatement works under NRCP. However, the levels of bacterial contamination in terms of fecal coliform are reported to be exceeding the maximum permissible limit at a number of locations along various rivers.
- (d) & (e) The river conservation programme started with the launching of the Ganga Action Plan (GAP) Phase-I in the year 1985. Inclusion of additional rivers/towns under the Plan is a continuous process based on proposals received from State Governments, the funds available under the Plan, degree of pollution, and the State Governments' commitment for contribution of matching share of costs. NRCP presently covers 40 rivers in 190 towns spread over 20 States, details of which are at Annexure.
- (f) & (g) External assistance from bilateral/ multilateral agencies is availed of from time to time by the Government for conservation of rivers. For the Yamuna Action Plan (YAP) Phase-I, loan assistance of Yen 17.77 billion was provided by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Government of Japan and loan assistance of Yen 13.33 billion has been extended for YAP Phase-II from the agency. JICA has further agreed to provide a loan assistance of Yen 32.571 billion for the next phase of the Programme.

For pollution abatement of the river Ganga at Varanasi, loan assistance of 11.184 billion Yen is being availed from JICA. 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 with the World Bank contribution of US \$ 1 billion for the project.