

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3957  
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2012  
GANGA WATER POLLUTION  
Sayeed Muhammed Hamdulla A. B.

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

- (a) whether the water of Ganga is becoming polluted due to non-functioning of the sewage treatment plants and the flow of minor nallahs in West Bengal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the water of Ganga is not even fit for bathing;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to save Ganga from Pollution?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d) Improvement of water quality of Ganga depends on the satisfactory operation and maintenance (O&M) of the sewage treatment plants (STPs) and stoppage of untreated effluent being discharged through nallahs/drains into the river. Inadequate functioning of STPs and discharge of untreated effluent through drains cause pollution to Ganga. In the State of West Bengal 309 schemes of pollution abatement has been completed and a total sewage treatment capacity of 485.25 million litres per day (mld) has been created. There is gap between sewage being generated and treatment capacity provided. This gap is to be bridged along with sewage collection and conveyance network to ensure stoppage of discharge of untreated wastewater. The State Agencies are responsible for proper operation and maintenance of the STPs and to ensure that adequately treated effluent is only discharged into Ganga. As far as bathing water quality is concerned, it generally meets the criteria in respect of Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Dissolved Oxygen (DO). However, level of total and faecal coliform exceeds the prescribed limit.

(e) The National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) has been set up in February 2009 to ensure effective abatement of pollution and conservation of the river Ganga by adopting a holistic river basin approach. The Authority has decided that under Mission Clean Ganga it will be ensured that by 2020 no untreated municipal sewage and industrial effluents flow into Ganga. Further a comprehensive River Basin Management Plan for Ganga is also being prepared.

The Government of India has also secured World Bank assistance of US \$ 1 billion for the NGRBA programme. The principal objective of the project, to be implemented in 8 years, is to fund creation of pollution abatement infrastructure for sewage treatment, industrial pollution control, solid waste management and river front management for conservation and restoration of water quality of the river. The Industrial pollution control mechanism by the Central Pollution Control Board and the State Pollution Control Boards concerned are planned for strengthening under the project.

Projects amounting to nearly Rs. 2600 crore have been sanctioned so far under the NGRBA for development of sewer networks, sewage treatment plants, electric crematoria, community toilets, development of river fronts, etc in the States of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal. In the state of West Bengal 27 projects at a total cost of Rs 659.41 crore have been sanctioned under NGRBA including an additional sewage treatment capacity of 44.23 mld. The Central Government has provided a grant of Rs 166.48 crore to the Government of West Bengal for implementation of these projects. Several measures have also been taken to improve implementation of projects under NGRBA.