

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:536

ANSWERED ON:14.05.2012

SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS

Bapurao Shri Khatgaonkar Patil Bhaskarrao;Singh Alias Pappu Singh Shri Uday

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

(a) whether the performance of States in operating and maintenance of the existing sewage treatment plants was subjected to review at the recently held meeting of the National Ganga River Basin Authority;

(b) if so, the details and the outcome of the discussions held therein; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government for better functioning and upgradation of existing sewage treatment plants and setting up of new sewage treatment plants?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House. Statement referred to in reply to parts

(a) to (c) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 536 to be answered on Monday, the 14th May 2012 on 'Sewage Treatment Plants'

(a) & (b) In his address in the third meeting of National Ganga River Basin Authority

(NGRBA) held on 17th April 2012, the Prime Minister, while inviting attention of the State Governments on the factors contributing to the pollution of river Ganga, mentioned that the performance of the States with regard to the operation and maintenance (O&M) of the existing sewage treatment plants (STPs) needs substantial improvement and called for optimal utilization of the existing STPs, ensuring proper O&M, effective monitoring of discharge of effluents by the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) and to strengthen the enforcement mechanism in this regard.

(c) Ganga Action Plan is being implemented since 1985 for undertaking pollution abatement activities in the identified polluted stretches of the river Ganga through implementation of works like interception and diversion of sewage, setting up of sewage treatment plants, low cost sanitation works, crematoria works etc. As per present estimates, nearly 2900 million litres of sewage is generated every day in the towns along Ganga River. So far, a capacity to treat 1091 million litres per day (mld) has been created in these towns under Ganga Action Plan.

The NGRBA has decided under Mission Clean Ganga that that no untreated municipal sewage and industrial effluents should flow into Ganga by 2020. In order to meet the shortfall in the sewage treatment infrastructure, projects amounting to nearly Rs. 2600 crore have been sanctioned under the NGRBA for development of sewer networks, sewage treatment plants, electric crematoria, community toilets, development of river fronts etc. The newly sanctioned projects in 19 cities will create an additional capacity to treat 470 mld. This will also supplement the sewage treatment capacity being created under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission

(JnNURM). The States are also in the process of preparing new project proposals for taking up pollution abatement works including creation of new STPs and renovation/up gradation of existing STPs in various Ganga basin towns. A World Bank assisted project to be implemented over a period of 8 years at an estimated cost of Rs 7000 crore has been approved for conservation and restoration of water quality of the river Ganga and the States have been asked to send appropriate proposals for creation of sewage treatment capacity under this project also.

Several measures have been taken to improve the implementation of projects under NGRBA which include adoption of design, build and operate (DBO) model to ensure proper maintenance of STPs with sharing of O&M (Operation and Maintenance) costs between the Centre and the States for the first five years in the ratio of 70:30 respectively, technology selection based on lowest lifecycle cost, institutional strengthening of urban local bodies (ULBs) and SPCBs. States are requested to ensure that adequate funds are available for O&M of STPs and pumping stations. Further, a tripartite Memorandum of Agreement is required to be signed by the Centre, State Government and the concerned Urban Local Body in this regard.

Optimal utilization and proper O&M of the STPs are the responsibility of the respective State Governments/implementing agency/urban local body. Further, the SPCBs are vested with the statutory powers under the provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to monitor the performance of STPs and to take appropriate action accordingly.