

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:562
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2012
NATIONAL RIVER CONSERVATION PLAN
Banerjee Shri Ambica

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

- (a) the present ratio of the cost of projects being undertaken under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) between the States and the Union Government;
- (b) the proposals/projects received from various States/Union Territories especially from West Bengal for the release or enhancement of funds and inclusion of certain projects under the NRCP during each of the last three years and current year, State-wise;
- (c) the action taken by the Government on each of the said projects/ proposals along with their present status;
- (d) the total amount released and utilised under the NRCP for various projects during the said period, State-wise, particularly to West Bengal; and
- (e) the outcome of the review undertaken in respect of the approved projects?

Answer

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

(a) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) funds are provided to States for implementing pollution abatement works of various rivers in the cost sharing ratio of 70:30 between the Centre and the States. For the North-East States the cost sharing ratio is 90:10. In respect of the projects funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for river Yamuna as well as river Ganga at Varanasi the funding pattern is 85:15.

(b) to (d) Conservation of rivers is an ongoing and collective effort of the Central and State Governments and this Ministry is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in pollution abatement in identified river stretches under NRCP. 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, etc.

Details of central funds released to the States, including West Bengal, for conservation of rivers and the expenditure reported by the States including State share, during the last three years and current year, are indicated at Annexure-I. Details of projects received and sanctioned during the period are at Annexure-II.

(e) The water quality in terms of BOD values (Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand) for major rivers is reported to have improved as compared to the water quality before taking up pollution abatement works under NRCP, based on independent monitoring undertaken by reputed institutions. However, the levels of bacterial contamination in terms of fecal coliform are reported to be exceeding the maximum permissible limit at various monitoring locations.