

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3606  
ANSWERED ON:03.09.2012  
CLEANING OF GANGA  
Namdhari Shri Inder Singh

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

- (a) whether the Government has declared Ganga as the National River; and
- (b) if so, the other steps being taken by the Government to make Ganga pollution free?

**Answer**

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

(a) Yes, while saying that river Ganga is of unique importance ascribed to reasons that are geographical, historical, socio-cultural and economic giving it the status of a national river, the Government of India has constituted the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) in February 2009 under Section 3(3) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(b) The objective of the NGRBA is to ensure effective abatement of pollution and conservation of the river Ganga by adopting a river basin approach for comprehensive planning and management. Other measures / steps being taken by the Government to make Ganga pollution free include (a) Projects to be formulated and implemented as per a new set of guidelines; (b) Projects on Design, Build and Operate (DBO) model for guaranteed 15 years' operation & maintenance; (c) Technology selection based on lowest lifecycle cost; (d) Stakeholder consultation; (e) Independent appraisal of DPRs; (f) Synergy with other projects e.g. JNNURM; (g) Third Party Inspections (TPIs) by independent institutions; (h) Institutional strengthening of urban local bodies (ULBs) and state pollution control boards; (i) Tripartite Memoranda of Agreements (MoAs) between Centre, States and ULBs; (j) Maximizing reuse of the treated wastewater; and (k) Regular treated effluent and river water quality monitoring.