

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:637

ANSWERED ON:26.11.2012

CLEANING OF YAMUNA RIVER

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

- (a) whether the Yamuna River is still polluted despite spending heavy amount on the cleaning of the river;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed the State Governments of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi to specify the exact amount spent so far under Phase I & II of Yamuna Action Plan;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to keep check on proper utilization of funds?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) As per the river water quality monitoring carried out by Central Pollution Control Board from time to time, the water quality in the stretch of the river Yamuna from Hathnikund to Palla is found to be within the prescribed limits in terms of Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD). However, the stretch of the river in the vicinity of Delhi (downstream of Wazirabad barrage to upstream of Okhla barrage) and in parts of Uttar Pradesh does not meet the standards in terms of BOD. The water quality of Yamuna has not shown the desired improvement owing to a large gap between the demand and availability of sewage treatment capacity and lack of fresh water in the river.

Conservation of rivers is an ongoing and collective effort of the Central and State Governments. This Ministry is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in addressing the problem of pollution of river Yamuna by providing financial assistance to UP, Delhi and Haryana under Yamuna Action Plan (YAP) in a phased manner since 1993. The works taken up under YAP relate to sewerage/interception and diversion of drains, sewage treatment plants (STPs), low cost sanitation/community toilet complexes, electric/improved wood crematoria, etc. Under Phase-I and II of YAP, a total of 296 schemes, including 40 sewage treatment plants, have been completed in 21 towns of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi and expenditure of Rs. 1438.34 crore (including State share) has been incurred till end of June, 2012. Sewage treatment capacity of 902.25 million litres per day (mld) has been created under these two phases of YAP. Further, the YAP Phase - III project for Delhi has been approved by the Ministry in December, 2011 at an estimated cost of Rs 1656 crore. Besides this, two projects have also been sanctioned by the Ministry in July, 2012 at an estimated cost of Rs. 217.87 crore for taking up works for pollution abatement of river Yamuna in towns of Sonapat and Panipat in Haryana.

In addition, State Governments, apart from their own budgetary allocations, are also accessing financial assistance for creation of sewerage infrastructure, including setting up of sewage treatment plants, in various towns under other Central sector schemes like JNNURM (Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission) and UIDSSMT (Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns) of Ministry of Urban Development.

(c) & (d) The Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter of 'And Quiet Flows the Maily Yamuna' WP(C) 725/1994 in its order dated 10.10.2012 directed Secretaries of Ministry of Urban Development and Ministry of Irrigation and Power, Chief Secretaries of Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, Vice-Chairman of Delhi Development Authority, Commissioners of the respective Corporations and the Chief Executive Officer of Delhi Jal Board to file affidavits indicating details of the amount spent project wise on preventing and controlling pollution in river Yamuna under various programmes.

(e) Funds for implementation of schemes under Yamuna Action Plan are released by this Ministry in a periodic manner to the concerned State implementing agencies based on progress of work and on receipt of Utilization Certificates as well as Physical and Financial Progress Reports from the States.