

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2578
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2012
RISE IN WATER BORNE DISEASES
Singh Baba Shri K.C.

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

- (a) whether the pollution level of water in the major rivers of the country is very high resulting in rise in water borne diseases and deaths therefrom;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (c) the funds spent thereon during the last three years?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) According to the Central Pollution Control Board, the downstream of rivers of the cities and towns located at the banks of the rivers are showing water quality deterioration with reference to Dissolved Oxygen, Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and coliform bacteria. The prime cause of such deterioration is on account of disposal of sewage. Health effects could be associated with water pollution. However, there is no conclusive data available to confirm these figures.

Ministry of Environment and Forests is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in abatement of pollution in rivers through the centrally sponsored National River Conservation Plan (NRCP), which presently covers 41 rivers in 191 towns spread over 20 States. Pollution abatement schemes implemented under the Plan include interception, diversion and treatment of sewage; low cost sanitation works on river banks; electric/improved wood based crematoria etc. Sewage treatment capacity of 4704 mld (million litres per day) has been created under this scheme.

(c) An amount of Rs.1387.68 crore has been released under NRCP to various State implementing agencies during the last 3 years and current year.