

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2619
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2012
POLLUTION OF RIVERS
Singh Shri Pradeep Kumar;Thomas Shri P. T.

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the increasing pollution of rivers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government has any plan to clean rivers with Public Participation;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has sought assistance from the World Bank/International Agency for cleaning of rivers; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) The pollution load in rivers is increasing due to discharge of partially treated and untreated municipal and industrial waste. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) along with State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs), is monitoring water quality of rivers in terms of Dissolved Oxygen, Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Fecal Coliforms etc. Based on BOD levels, 150 polluted stretches have been identified along various rivers in the country. This Ministry is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in abatement of pollution in rivers under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) for implementation of projects on a cost sharing basis between the Central and State Governments.

The NRCP presently covers 41 rivers in 191 towns spread over 20 States. Various pollution abatement schemes taken up under the Plan, inter-alia, include interception and diversion of raw sewage, setting up of sewage treatment plants, creation of low cost sanitation facilities, setting up of electric/improved wood crematoria and river front development.

(c) & (d) Public Participation & Awareness (PP&A) is one of the components under NRCP for creating awareness among general public and stakeholders regarding the need to conserve the rivers.

(e) & (f) External assistance from bilateral/ multilateral agencies is availed of from time to time by the Government for conservation of rivers. Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has extended loan assistance for implementation of Yamuna Action Plan & Ganga Action Plan (exclusive for Varanasi).

World Bank has extended loan assistance for abatement of pollution of river Ganga under National Ganga River Basin Authority.