

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2239

ANSWERED ON:11.03.2013

GANGA ACTION PLAN

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

- (a) whether the Government has detected/identified polluted stretches of the river Ganga under Ganga Action Plan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the locations identified;
- (c) the outcome of Ganga Action Plan Phase-I and expenditure incurred thereon since its inception;
- (d) whether the Government has sufficient funds to start Phase-II of Ganga Action Plan;and
- (e) if so, the details and plans of the Government to control pollution of Ganga under phase-II?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) As per the studies conducted by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) on water quality of river Ganga, and based on the designated best use criteria the river stretches at downstream of Haridwar, Kannauj to Kanpur, downstream of Varanasi, and downstream of Dakshineswar have been identified as polluted.

(c) The Ganga Action Plan (GAP) Phase-I, was taken up during 1985 -2000 as a centrally sponsored project for abatement of pollution of the river through schemes such as interception and diversion of sewage, sewage treatment plants, low cost sanitation works, electric and/or improved wood crematoria, river front development works etc. Under this Plan, 260 pollution abatement schemes in 25 towns in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal were undertaken at an expenditure of Rs.452 crore.

(d) & (e) Since during implementation of GAP Phase-I all pollution load in the river Ganga could not be tackled, GAP Phase-II was initiated and projects amounting to Rs.591.05 crore were sanctioned, out of which Rs.517.15 crore has been released to the Implementing Agencies. Under these plans, a total sewage treatment capacity of 1091 million litres per day (mld) has been created. Further, the Central Government has set up the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) to ensure effective abatement of pollution and conservation of river Ganga by adopting a holistic approach with river basin as the unit of planning.