

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2240

ANSWERED ON:11.03.2013

CLEANING OF RIVERS

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

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any action plan to make the rivers pollution free and to decrease the standard of Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) in the rivers including Ganga, Yamuna and Kali;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the details of polluted rivers and the funds allocated and expenditure incurred thereon during the last three years, State-wise including Chhattisgarh;
- (c) whether the Government is planning to set up a monitoring agency for the constitution of boards for cleaning of rivers and to impose penalty on the polluters;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken thereon;
- (e) whether Central Pollution Control Boards have taken any steps to check the discharge of effluents from industries and Power Plants; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) The Ministry is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in abatement of pollution in identified stretches of various rivers under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP), including Ganga and Yamuna through 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 etc. NRCP presently covers 41 rivers in 191 towns spread over 20 states. The works of abatement of pollution for Kali river have been undertaken through Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, National Ganga River Basin Authority as well as under state schemes.

Based on Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) levels, 150 polluted river stretches have been identified by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). Details of polluted stretches are at Annexure-I and the funds released by the Ministry, expenditure incurred under the Plan during the last three years and the current year, State-wise, are at annexure-II.

(c) to (f) CPCB and the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) monitor compliance of effluent discharge standards by the industries. CPCB has identified Grossly Polluting Industries which are discharging BOD load of 100 kg per day or more in the major rivers in the country. Action is taken against the defaulting industries by CPCB and SPCBs under relevant provisions of Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.