

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3230  
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2013  
NATIONAL RIVER AND LAKE CONSERVATION PLAN  
Viswanathan Shri P.

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

- (a) whether the pollution level of water in rivers, lakes and water bodies have increased in the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps to control the pollution level of rivers and lakes under National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) and National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP);
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the projects approved by the Government during the last three years under NRCP and NLCP; and
- (e) the funds allocated and expenditure incurred on such projects during the said period, project/State-wise?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) 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. The water quality, in terms of BOD values, where works have been completed, is reported to have improved at most of the locations, as compared to the water quality before taking up pollution abatement works under National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) and National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP).

(c) to (e) Conservation of rivers and lakes is an ongoing and collective effort of the Central and State Governments and this Ministry is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in abatement of pollution in rivers and lakes under NRCP and NLCP respectively for implementation of projects on a cost sharing basis between the Central and State Governments.

NRCP presently covers 41 rivers in 191 towns spread over 20 States at a sanctioned cost of Rs.8847.22 crore. 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.

Under NLCP, the Ministry has sanctioned projects for conservation of 61 lakes in 14 States with a total cost of Rs.1031.18 crore. Works taken up under the Plan include; core components of interception, diversion and treatment of wastewaters before their entry into the lake, catchment area treatment, shoreline protection, in-lake treatment such as aeration, de-weeding, de-siltation, bio-remediation etc.

Details of sanctioned cost of projects, expenditure incurred including share of State Governments under NRCP and sanctioned cost of projects and funds released in last three years and current year (Ongoing + new projects) under NLCP during the last 3 years and the current year, State-wise, are at Annexure-I & II.