

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4391

ANSWERED ON:22.04.2013

POLLUTION IN RIVERS

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

- (a) whether the quality of water in the major rivers of the country has deteriorated;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, river-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has any data on untreated sewage falling into such rivers;and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is monitoring water quality of rivers at 1275 locations covering 445 rivers in terms of Dissolved Oxygen (DO), Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Fecal Coliforms. Based on analysis of monitored data, 150 polluted river stretches have been identified by CPCB. The details of polluted river stretches in various States are at Annexure.

(c) According to study of CPCB, against an estimated sewage generation of about 38254 million litres per day (mld) from the Class I cities & Class II towns of the country, the treatment capacity is available only for 11787 mld.

(d) 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. 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. In the process, sewage treatment capacity of 4704 mld has been created.