

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1122

ANSWERED ON:12.08.2013

POLLUTION OF RIVERS

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

- (a) whether the pollution level of water in the major rivers of the country has reached an alarming stage resulting in rise in water borne diseases and deaths therefrom and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether any survey has been conducted by the Government to identify the stretches of rivers where water quality parameters were found to exceed permissible limits;
- (c) if so, the details thereof including the identified stretches of rivers;
- (d) the details of the pollution abatement programmes taken/being taken by the Government during the last three years and the current year and the expenditure incurred thereon; and
- (e) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to check the pollution of rivers in the country?

**Answer**

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

(a) The pollution load on rivers has increased over the years due to rapid urbanization, industrialization and untreated waste water being released into the rivers on account of inadequate treatment facilities as also due to abstraction of water for irrigation, drinking, industrial use, power, etc. Direct use of bacterial contaminated river water may cause water borne diseases. However, no conclusive reports are available.

(b) & (c) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has identified 150 polluted stretches along various rivers in the country based on BOD (Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand) levels. The details of polluted river stretches in various States is at Annexure-I.

(d) & (e) Conservation of rivers is an ongoing and collective effort of the Central and State Governments. This 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 NGRBA (National Ganga River Basin Authority) programme, for implementation of projects on a cost sharing basis between the Central and State Governments. NRCP presently covers 42 rivers in 195 towns spread over 20 States at a sanctioned cost of Rs. 8904 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. Till date, sewage treatment capacity of 4788 million litres per day has been created under the Plan. Details of projects undertaken by the Ministry and expenditure incurred under the NRCP during the last three years and current year, State-wise, are at Annexure-II.

In addition, State Governments, apart from their own budgetary allocations, are also accessing financial assistance for creation of sewerage infrastructure, including setting up of sewage treatment plants, in various towns under other Central sector schemes like JNNURM (Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission) and UIDSSMT (Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns) of Ministry of Urban Development.