

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1910

ANSWERED ON:19.08.2013

NATIONAL GANGA RIVER BASIN AUTHORITY

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

- (a) whether the Government has set up the National Ganga River Basin Authority to make river Ganga free from pollution;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which it achieved the goal;
- (c) whether the Central Pollution Control Board has revealed any data/information regarding the change in pollution level of Ganga since the inception of the authority; and
- (d) if so, the year-wise details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) A National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) was constituted in February 2009, as an empowered planning, financing, monitoring and coordinating authority with the objective to ensure effective abatement of pollution and conservation of the river Ganga by adopting a holistic river basin approach. NGRBA has decided under Mission Clean Ganga that that no untreated municipal sewage and industrial effluents should flow into Ganga by 2020. The works under NGRBA Programme include laying of sewerage system, sewage treatment plants, solid waste management, common effluent treatment plant for controlling industrial pollution, river front development, crematoria etc. Under the NGRBA programme, 57 schemes in 44 towns in Ganga States have been sanctioned at a total cost of Rs. 3005 Crores. An amount of Rs. 871.97 Crores has been released from centre and state and an expenditure of Rs. 722.97 Crores has been incurred till June, 2013 for implementation of the projects.

(c) & (d) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) regularly monitors the water quality of river Ganga from Gangotri (Uttarakhand) to Diamond Harbour (Kolkata) at 57 locations on annual basis. The long term assessment of water quality of river Ganga indicates that;

1. water quality is not meeting Primary Water Quality criteria with respect to Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD), an indicator of pollution level, (requirement is 3.0 mg/l or less) at many locations except a few stretches in Bihar and West Bengal.
2. at majority of locations, fecal Coliform bacteria are higher than the maximum permissible level of 2500 MPN/100 ml.