

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2214

ANSWERED ON:22.08.2013

DEVELOPMENT OF RIVERS

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji; Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba; Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan; Yadav Shri Dharmendra

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has started river projects for the revival and development of the rivers across the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the funds provided by the Union Government for the purpose during the last three years and the current year, State/UTwise;
- (c) whether the Union Government has sought the assistance of World Bank for the revival and development of rivers and if so, the reaction of the World Bank thereto;
- (d) whether there is a proposal under consideration of the Union Government to provide some funds for development of rivers from Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Union Government to preserve rivers for future use and the extent to which success has been achieved so far?

Answer

THE MINISTER FOR WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) & (e) The Ministry of Environment & Forest has informed that the conservation of rivers is an ongoing and collective effort of the Central and State Governments. The Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF) 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 about 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. As further informed by the Ministry of Environment & Forest, till date sewage treatment capacity of about 4788 million litres per day has been created.

(b) The Ministry of Environment & Forest has informed that, the funds provided to various State Governments for implementation of pollution abatement schemes under the NRCP during the last three years and current year, State-wise, are at Annexure.

(c) The Ministry of Environment & Forest has informed that, the World Bank has extended support to the Government for abatement of pollution of river Ganga by providing technical assistance and financing of US\$ 1 billion for implementation of schemes under National Ganga River Basin Programme in the five Ganga basin states namely Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.

(d) The Ministry of Rural Development has informed that, there is no such proposal to provide some funds for development of rivers from Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).