

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:146

ANSWERED ON:16.12.2013

POLLUTION IN YAMUNA RIVER .

Bais Shri Ramesh;Singh Chaudhary Lal

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

- (a) the sources of water pollution of Yamuna river and the quality of water at its various locations;
- (b) the details of the ongoing schemes for making the river Yamuna pollution-free and the success achieved as a result thereof;
- (c) the amount of expenditure incurred thereon during the last three years and the current year;
- (d) the details of the agencies involved/ awarded contract for river management under the said schemes; and
- (e) whether the pollution in the river Yamuna increases as a result of idol immersions during festivities and if so, the details of the steps taken to check pollution during such events?

Answer

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

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 146 to be answered on Monday, the 16th December, 2013 on "Pollution in Yamuna River" by Shri Ramesh Bais and Shri Chaudhary Lal Singh

(a) The main source of pollution of river Yamuna is the untreated/ partially treated domestic sewage discharged into the river through the drains which join the river from the towns located on the banks of the river. As per the information provided by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), sewage pollution is mainly contributed by the towns of Yamunanagar, Jagadhri, Karnal, Panipat, Sonapat, Delhi, Gurgaon, Faridabad, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Ghaziabad, Palwal, Vrindavan, Mathura, Agra, Firozabad and Etawah. Delhi is the largest contributor of sewage pollution load to river Yamuna. As per the water quality monitoring of Yamuna by CPCB, the stretch of river Yamuna from origin to Wazirabad in Delhi is found to be largely within the prescribed limits with respect to dissolved oxygen and biochemical oxygen demand (BOD). However, Wazirabad to Okhla in Delhi and Kosi Kalan to Juhika in Uttar Pradesh have been identified as polluted stretches.

(b) & (c) Conservation of rivers is an ongoing and collective effort of the Central and State Governments. The Ministry is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in addressing the problem of pollution of river Yamuna by providing financial assistance to Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Haryana under Yamuna Action Plan (YAP) since 1993 in a phased manner. A total expenditure of Rs. 1453.17 crore (including State share) has been incurred on schemes pertaining to sewerage/interception and diversion of drains, rehabilitation/upgradation of existing sewage treatment plants (STPs) and construction of new STPs, low cost sanitation/community toilet complexes, electric/improved wood crematoria, etc under YAP Phase-I & II in the three States. Sewage treatment capacity of 942.25 million litres per day (mld) has been created under YAP so far.

Further, YAP Phase-III project for Delhi has been approved with an estimated cost of Rs 1656 crore. Under YAP-III, Delhi Jal Board (DJB) is implementing rehabilitation of existing trunk sewers and rising mains, upgradation of existing STPs of 814 mld and construction of a new 136 mld STP (in place of the old STP). Besides this, two projects have also been sanctioned by the Ministry at an estimated cost of Rs. 217.87 crore for taking up works for pollution abatement of river Yamuna in towns of Sonapat and Panipat in Haryana. In addition, under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) project of Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD), an interceptor sewer project costing Rs. 1357 crore is being implemented by DJB to intercept sewage flowing into river Yamuna from three major drains, namely Najafgarh, Supplementary and Shahdara in Delhi.

The details of funds released by this Ministry during the last three years and current year for conservation of river Yamuna under YAP and expenditure incurred by the States is as under:-

Year	Funds released (Rs. Crore)	Expenditure incurred including State Share (Rs. Crore)
2010 - 2011	111.49	198.64
2011 - 2012	49.06	125.18
2012 - 2013	41.83	80.03
2013-14 (upto Nov. 2013)	Nil	10.21

The water quality of river Yamuna has not shown the desired improvement due to a large gap between sewage generation and availability of sewage treatment capacity and lack of adequate fresh water in the river.

(d) The implementing agencies for YAP schemes in the states are Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam in Uttar Pradesh, Public Health Engineering Department in Haryana and Delhi Jal Board and Municipal Corporation of Delhi in Delhi. These agencies, which are nominated by the respective State Governments, award the contracts for various pollution abatement works sanctioned under YAP.

(e) According to CPCB, pollution levels in river Yamuna increase due to idol immersions and the water quality of river Yamuna deteriorates as the river is burdened with disposal of degradable and non-biodegradable materials and other liquid pollutants (oil, ghee, etc.). CPCB has brought out guidelines on prevention and control of pollution from idol immersions. These guidelines prescribe that the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/ Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) conduct water quality assessment of the water body before and after immersions, post the data on internet and help local administration in preparing material for mass awareness for the purpose. Further, the guidelines prescribe that idols be made from natural materials like traditional clay, water soluble and nontoxic natural dyes be used for painting of idols, worship material like flowers, clothes, decorating material (made of paper and plastic) be removed before immersion of idols, biodegradable materials collected separately for recycling or composting, non-biodegradable materials disposed off in sanitary landfills, immersion of idols in river be done at identified idol immersion spots along the river bank in temporary ponds having earthen bunds with removable synthetic liners at bottom, etc.