

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1748
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2013
NATIONAL RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Bhagat Shri Sudarshan

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

- (a) whether National River Conservation Authority (NRCA) has been setup by the Government to maintain the quality of water;
- (b) if so, the salient features of the functions of the Authority;
- (c) whether any review meeting of NRCA has not been convened during the last eight year;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (e) The river conservation programme was initiated by the Government with the commencement of Ganga Action Plan, which was later expanded in 1995 to cover other major rivers of the country under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP).

The National River Conservation Authority (NRCA) was set up by the Government under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister in 1995 to finalise the policy frame-work and oversee the implementation of pollution abatement works under NRCP. The 11th Meeting of the NRCA was held in June, 2003. Meeting of the Steering Committee of the NRCA, chaired by Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests was held four times subsequent to the NRCA meeting of June, 2003 to review the implementation of the Plan. The last meeting of the Steering Committee was held in December, 2007.

A comprehensive exercise was simultaneously taken up by the Government for review and revamp of the river conservation strategy. The Ganga Action Plan was taken up for a focused review. A series of meetings were held with the concerned Union Ministries, State Governments and implementing agencies. It was decided that in order to enhance the impact of river cleaning, the river conservation strategy should be taken up with a holistic river basin approach. Accordingly, the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) was constituted by the Government in February 2009, as an empowered planning, financing, monitoring and coordinating authority to ensure effective abatement of pollution and conservation of river Ganga by adopting the river basin as the unit of planning. This Authority chaired by the Prime Minister has so far held three meetings on 5.10.2009, 01.11.2010 and 17.04.2012 respectively.