GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:261
ANSWERED ON:10.02.2014
CLEANING OF RIVERS
Dubey Shri Nishikant ;Yadav Shri Ranjan Prasad

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

(a) whether the pollution level in various rivers of the country including those in Bihar has increased in the recent years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, river-wise and the steps taken by the Government to control pollution in those rivers along with the agencies involved therein;

(c) the amount allocated and expenditure incurred on cleaning of rivers during each of the last three years and the current year, river-wise;

(d) whether the Government has formulated any plan to promote ecofriendly industries to control pollution in rivers and environment; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (DR. M. VEERAPPA MOILY)

(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. 261 to be answered on Monday, the 10th February, 2014 on Cleaning of Rivers by Prof. (Dr.) Ranjan Prasad Yadav & Shri Nishikant Dubey

(a) & (b) The pollution load on rivers of the country, including those in Bihar, has increased over the years due to rapid urbanization, industrialization and untreated waste water being discharged into the rivers on account of inadequate treatment facilities.

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, a key indicator of organic pollution. The details of polluted river stretches in various States is at Annexure-I.

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 & NGRBA programmes presently cover 42 rivers in 195 towns spread over 20 States at a sanctioned cost of Rs. 9852.51 crores. Various pollution abatement schemes taken up under these programmes, 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. The Central funds are released to the State Governments for implementation of pollution abatement schemes through the implementing agencies functioning under their control. Till date, sewage treatment capacity of 4842 million litres per day (mld) has been created under the Plan. 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.

(c) Details of funds allocated by the Ministry and expenditure incurred by the States under the NRCP, including NGRBA programme, during the last three years and current year, State-wise, are at Annexure-II & III respectively.

(d) & (e) To promote eco-friendly industries, the Ministry has formulated Central Sector Schemes to facilitate and support development and promotion of clean technology and waste minimization strategy to help small and medium scale sector, with the primary objective of protection of environment. Steps have also been taken by CPCB to promote low waste and no waste concept leading to Zero Liquid Discharge by grossly water polluting industries, particularly those located on the river banks. In addition, eco-friendly technologies have been demonstrated for sectors like pulp & paper, sugar and distilleries, with the emphasis on reuse and recycling to reduce water consumption.