GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2907 ANSWERED ON:10.02.2014 CLEANING OF YAMUNA RIVER Mishra Shri Mahabal ;Singh Baba Shri K.C.

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

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to check pollution in Yamuna river to make water potable;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government in this regard along with the success achieved so far?

Answer

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

(a) to (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. An expenditure of Rs. 1453.17 crore (including State share) has been incurred in these three States 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. Sewage treatment capacity of 942.25 million litres per day (mld) has been created under YAP so far. Implementation of works under various phases of YAP has led to reduction of pollution load in the river.

Further, YAP Phase-Ill project for Delhi has been approved with an estimated cost of Rs 1656 crore. Under YAP-Ill, 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 costing Rs. 217.87 crore for pollution abatement of river Yamuna in towns of Sonepat and Panipat in Haryana are under implementation, on which an expenditure of Rs. 57.36 crore has been incurred till date. In addition, under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) project of Ministry of Urban Development, 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 water quality of river Yamuna has not shown the desired improvement due to a large gap between the sewage generation and availability of sewage treatment capacity and lack of fresh water in the river.