

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2926

ANSWERED ON:10.02.2014

CONSERVATION PLAN FOR RIVERS AND LAKES

Thamaraiselvan Shri R.;Vishwanath Shri katti Ramesh

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that big towns and cities are majorly polluting rivers, lakes and water bodies;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with its ill effects on the health of people, animal and flora and fauna;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any survey to identify such towns/cities in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the outcome of the survey;
- (e) whether the Government has formulated any conservation plan to protect these water bodies; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) Disposal of untreated and partially treated sewage from towns and cities is one of the main sources of pollution in rivers and other water bodies, which impacts the flora and fauna as well as the people and animals around these water bodies. As per a study carried out by CPCB in 2009-10, against an estimated sewage generation of nearly 38,254 million litres per day (mld) from Class-I cities and Class-II towns of the country, the treatment capacity is available only for 11,787 mld.

(c) & (d) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) along with State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) is monitoring water quality of rivers at 1275 locations on 445 rivers in 28 States and 6 Union Territories. Based on Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) values (a key indicator for organic pollution), 150 river stretches on 121 rivers in the country have been identified by CPCB as polluted. State wise details are at Annexure.

(e)& (f) Conservation of rivers, lakes and other water bodies 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 presently covers 42 rivers in 195 towns spread over 20 States at a sanctioned cost of Rs. 9852.51 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. The Central funds are released to the State Governments for implementation of the pollution abatement schemes through the implementing agencies functioning under their control. Till date, sewage treatment capacity of 4842 million litres per day 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.

For conservation and management of polluted and degraded lakes in urban and semi-urban areas of the country, the National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP) has been under implementation on cost sharing basis between the Central and State Governments. Based on the proposals received from different States, the Ministry has so far sanctioned projects for conservation of 61 lakes in 14 States at a total cost of Rs.1031.18 crore under the scheme. Under the National Wetlands Conservation Programme (NWCP), financial assistance has been provided for conservation and management of identified wetlands in the country. So far, an amount of Rs.132.65 crores has been released to the State Governments under the NWCP. The Central Government has notified the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 to regulate various activities within the wetlands. The schemes of NLCP and NWCP have been merged in February, 2013 into a new integrated scheme namely 'National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems' (NPCA).