

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3596

ANSWERED ON:08.08.2017

Conservation of Lakes and Rivers

Kambhampati Dr. Hari Babu

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of pollution caused to rivers flowing through urban areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has any plans to conserve urban lakes and rivers in major cities across the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a) & (b) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in association with the State Pollution Control Boards monitors the river water quality across the country through a network of monitoring stations on various rivers under the National Water Quality Monitoring Programme. As per the report published by CPCB in February 2015, 302 polluted river stretches have been identified on 275 rivers based on Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) levels, a key indicator of organic pollution. The State-wise details are at Annexure.

(c) & (d) It is the responsibility of the State Governments/ concerned local bodies to set up facilities for collection, transportation and treatment of sewage for abatement of pollution of rivers & lakes. This Ministry has been supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in abatement of pollution and conservation of rivers, lakes & wetlands under the programmes of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) and National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems (NPCA), on a cost sharing basis between the Central and State Governments.

NRCP has so far covered polluted stretches of 31 rivers in 75 towns spread over 14 States at a sanctioned cost of Rs. 4517.82 crore and Central share of Rs. 2066.98 crore has been released to various State Governments for implementation of various pollution abatement schemes. Sewage treatment capacity of 2455.43 mld (million litres per day) has been created so far under the NRCP.

Under NPCA, an amount of Rs. 154.41 crore has been released so far to the States and other organizations for conservation and management of 82 identified wetlands in the country. Similarly, this Ministry has so far sanctioned projects for conservation of 63 lakes in 14 States at a total cost of Rs. 1096.09 crores. So far, Central share of Rs.690.288 crore has been released to the State Governments for the sanctioned projects and work on 34 lakes has been completed.

State Governments, apart from their own budgetary allocation, are also accessing financial assistance for creation of sewerage infrastructure, including sewage treatment plants (STPs), in various cities/towns under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) & Smart Cities Mission programmes of Ministry of Urban Development and the Namami Gange programme of Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation.

To ensure proper treatment of municipal wastewater before discharge into the rivers, CPCB has issued directions under Section 18 1(b) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 in April, 2015 to the State Pollution Control Board/Pollution Control Committees regarding setting up of sewage treatment plants and utilization of sewage generated in their respective States. CPCB has also issued directions in October, 2015 to 69 municipal authorities of metropolitan cities and state capitals under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for proper treatment and disposal of sewage generated in their jurisdiction.

To control discharge of industrial effluents, the CPCB and respective State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees monitor industries with respect to effluents discharge standards and take action for non-compliance under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
