

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:91
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2003
CLEANING OF RIVERS
CHINMAYANAND;RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA

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

- (a) the names of rivers which have become polluted as on date, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government have chalked out any action plan for making each of the polluted rivers pollution free;
- (c) if so, the details thereof indicating the funds sanctioned and expenditure incurred so far on cleaning of each river;
- (d) whether the Government are aware that Ganga Action Plan and Yamuna Action Plan have failed particularly to achieve their targets;
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor and if not, the extent of success achieved so far; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to make each of the polluted river of the country pollution free indicating the time fixed in each case?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU):

(a) to (f) A scheme of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) is under implementation to undertake pollution abatement works in 155 towns along the polluted stretches of 29 rivers spread over 17 States.

The State-wise list along with funds sanctioned and expenditure incurred so far on cleaning of rivers together with the completion date is enclosed as statement. The National River Conservation Plan which also includes Ganga and Yamuna Action Plans was launched in 1995 with the objective to improve the water quality of the rivers through the implementation of the following pollution abatement works;

STATEMENT

Interception and diversion works to capture the raw sewage flowing into the river through open drains and divert them for treatment.

Sewage treatment plants for treating the diverted sewage.

Low cost sanitation works to prevent open defecation on river banks.

Electric crematoria and improved wood crematoria to conserve the use of wood and help in ensuring proper cremation of bodies brought to the burning ghats.

River front development works such as improvement of bathing ghats etc.

Other miscellaneous works like public awareness and public participation etc.

Ganga Action Plan (GAP) Phase-I which covered pollution abatement works in 6 towns of Uttar Pradesh, 4 of Bihar and 15 of West Bengal has been completed on 31.3.2000 at a cost of Rs. 452 crore. Out of the approved capacity of 873 million litres per day (mld) of sewage treatment, a capacity to treat 865 mld has been created. The remaining two schemes of sewage treatment plants are in Bihar which have been delayed due to litigation. About 35% of the present pollution load was tackled under GAP Phase-I. The river water quality has shown improvement over the pre-GAP period water quality. In 1986, the bio-chemical oxygen demand (BOD), which is an indicator of pollution of river water quality, was ranging from 5.5 to 15.5 mg/l in the critical stretch of Ganga from Kannauj to Varanasi. As against this, the value of BOD in 2002 in the stretch of Kannauj to Kanpur and Allahabad to Varanasi is 1.20-4.90 mg/l and 2.50-3.80 mg/l respectively. Similarly dissolved oxygen (DO) levels which indicate the health of the river, were in the range of 5.9

to 6.6 mg/l in 1986 in the Allahabad-Varanasi stretch and in 2002 the range improved to 7.5 to 8.20 mg/l. In the second phase of the GAP, similar works have been taken up and are under implementation in 12 towns of Uttar Pradesh, 10 of Uttaranchal, 14 of Bihar and 23 of West Bengal. Under Yamuna Action Plan, (YAP) Phase-I pollution abatement works have been taken up in 12 towns of Haryana and 8 towns of Uttar Pradesh besides Delhi. Out of the approved capacity of 743 millions litres per day of sewage treatment in these towns, a capacity of 728 mld has been created and works for the remaining capacity of 15 mld are under implementation. In addition, Government of National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi has also taken up works of construction of sewage treatment plants at 17 locations. As a result, the total treatment capacity in Delhi is targeted to become 2325 mld by 31.3.2003 against the present generation of sewage of 3300 mld. Thus, at present there is a gap of 975 mld of sewage treatment capacity in Delhi. In addition, availability of minimum fresh water flow in the river for purposes of dilution is also a constraint in restoring its water quality to the desired standard. The water quality of Yamuna can be expected to improve only when the balance works proposed under Yamuna Action Plan Phase-II and those proposed by the Government of NCT of Delhi are completed and the desired minimum flow in the river is maintained.