

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1293
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2000
CONSERVATION OF ENVIRONMENT IN GANGOTRI VALLEY
TUFANI SAROJ

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

- (a) Whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `Gangotri Ghati Main Paryavaran Sanrakshan ke naam per fareb hi fareb` appearing in the Jansatta dated June 26, 2000;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether some voluntary organisations are working towards forest conservation and they receive funds from the Government and foreign countries;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the amount of funds received by these organisations during the last three years;
- (f) whether the Government have reviewed their functioning;
- (g) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (h) the steps being taken by the Government for the conservation of environment in Gangotri Valley?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI)

(a)&(b) Yes, Sir. There is no doubt that the Gangotri Valley is getting increasingly polluted.

(c)&(d) Himalayan Environment Trust, a voluntary organisation is working towards the conservation of Gangotri Valley under Gangotri Conservation Project launched in June, 1994. Forest conservation is one of the components under this project. Funds by the following agencies were given to Himalayan Environment Trust for carrying out the conservation activities:

i) Government of India	Rs.15 lakhs
ii) Government of Uttar Pradesh	Rs.15 lakhs
iii) American Himalayan Foundation	\$ 50,000
iv) Pacific Aerial Travel Association	\$ 7,500

(e) An amount of Rs.6.325 lakhs was further provided by the Ministry to Himalayan Environment Trust in 1997 for carrying out these conservation activities.

(f)&(g) The functioning of this voluntary organisation was reviewed periodically by District Forest Officer, Uttarkashi and by the Ministry. It was found that the implementation of the works was done satisfactorily by this organisation.

(h) The following works were got implemented by the Ministry for the conservation of environment in Gangotri Valley through Himalayan Environment Trust:

- i) Construction of community toilets
- ii) Afforestation
- iii) Solid waste management
- iv) Public awareness