

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:47
ANSWERED ON:28.02.2000
POLLUTION IN RIVERS
RAM SAGAR

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

(a) whether most of the rivers in the country are being polluted extensively by dropping discharge of industrial toxic waste and sewer waters therein and the sanctity of rivers like Ganga and Yamuna has been violated badly thereby; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the Government not being able to check the pollution in the rivers inspite of the adverse criticism and directions by the Supreme Court to this effect?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement in respect of parts (a) & (b) of reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 47 for 28.2.2000 regarding Pollution in Rivers

(a) On the basis of surveys and investigations carried out by the Central Pollution Control Board, polluted stretches in 22 major rivers of the country have been identified. Pollution of these rivers is mainly on account of discharge of untreated municipal sewage from large towns and effluents from grossly polluting industries located in the river basins. Ganga and Yamuna are amongst several major rivers covered in this list. The pollution level of river Yamuna particularly along Delhi and that of the Ganga along large towns viz. Kanpur, Allahabad and Varanasi is significant.

(b) In addition to the Ganga Action Plan Phase I started in 1985 and targeted for completion by 31.3.2000, Government have approved the National River Conservation Plan at an estimated cost of Rs. 2013 crore to prevent the pollution in these rivers on account of discharge of untreated municipal sewage. This plan includes 2nd phase of the Ganga Action Plan covering additional pollution abatement works in Ganga and its 3 tributaries namely Yamuna, Gomati and Damodar. This action plan was approved in parts during the period from April, 1993 to October, 1996. Pollution abatement works undertaken in this Plan are in different stages of implementation. Pollution from industries is monitored under the existing environmental laws. The defaulting grossly polluting industries discharging effluents into these rivers including Ganga and Yamuna have been served with notices under the appropriate Act. A total of 187 grossly polluting industries which are responsible for pollution of Ganga has been identified. Of these 187 industries, 91 units are complying with discharge standards, 32 units have been closed down and the remaining 64 defaulting units are facing legal action. In respect of River Yamuna, closure directions including disconnection of electricity and water have been issued during 18th November 1999 to 10th February, 2000 to nearly 2300 water polluting units in Delhi for not complying with the prescribed discharge standards. The Haryana State Pollution Control Board has identified 302 industrial units which were discharging effluents into river Yamuna directly or indirectly. Out of these 302 units, 135 units are complying with discharge standards, 48 units have closed down on their own, 12 units have been closed down on the directions of the Board, 24 units have been issued closure notices by the Board and the remaining 83 units are facing legal action under the environmental laws. Water quality in these identified river stretches will improve after completion of the National River Conservation Plan and implementation of measures taken to control pollution from industries.