

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:205  
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2006  
NATIONAL RIVER CONSERVATION PLAN  
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

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

- (a) whether the National River Conservation Plan(NRCP) is under implementation in the country since 1986;
- (b) if so, the total funds released by the Union Government so far under this plan and utilized by State Governments ;
- (c) whether in spite of spending a huge amount on NRCP, the results have not been encouraging;
- (d) if so, the total funds spent on Ganga and Yamuna Action Plans;
- (e) whether monitoring system of the action plans of the Government for depolluting the rivers is not satisfactory;
- (f) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Government to ensure the desired results;
- (g) whether the Government proposes to seek external assistance to complete certain projects under NRCP; and
- (h) if so, the details thereof ?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) to (h) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (h) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No.205 to be answered on Monday, the 6th March, 2006 on National River Conservation Plan

(a) to (h) Yes, Sir. The works of pollution abatement in rivers started with the launching of the Ganga Action Plan (GAP) Phase-I in the year 1985. Subsequently, GAP Phase-II (GAP-II) was initiated which included the works on the tributaries of the river Ganga, namely, Yamuna, Gomti and Damodar. The Plan was further broad based to cover other national rivers under the aegis of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) in the year 1995. The programme which began with pollution abatement works in the river Ganga in 1985, thus, presently covers 34 rivers with works undertaken in 160 towns spread in 20 States. Under this Plan, the Central grant of Rs.2400 crore has been released to all the implementing agencies of the participating State Governments till December, 2005 so far, against which, an expenditure of Rs.2462 crore is reported to have been incurred by the State Governments including expenditure out of the States' shares/contributions from local bodies etc.

Out of the total amount utilized under the NRCP so far, an amount of Rs.1391 crore is reported to have been utilised till December, 2005 under the Ganga Action Plan (Phase I&II). This includes utilization of funds of Rs.678 crores under the Yamuna Action Plan (YAP) Phase-I implemented during 1993-2003 and YAP Phase-II under implementation at present.

Notwithstanding the phenomenal increase in urban population leading to substantial increase in the pollution load of these rivers over the past years, the water quality of the river Ganga, unlike its tributary Yamuna, has shown improvement at major locations over its pre-GAP quality. A graphical statement giving changes in Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) a key parameter indicating pollution by sewage in several monitoring stations, together with changes in upstream urban population over the same period is attached.

The Government, under the river conservation programmes, has attached due importance to the water quality monitoring of the rivers. The progress of the implementation of the pollution abatement works undertaken by the implementing agencies of the States is further monitored by a Steering Committee constituted at the Central level and at the State level by the respective State level Steering Committees.

In view of the huge requirement of funds for tackling pollution in the rivers, the Government has already availed assistance from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) under the YAP Phase-I & II. A loan agreement with the same agency has further been signed by the Government for pollution abatement works in the river Ganga at Varanasi. Assistance has also been sought from JBIC for similar projects at Allahabad, Lucknow and Kanpur as well as for Yamuna Action Plan Phase III and pollution abatement works in river Pamba in Kerala.

Annexure referred to in reply to parts (a) to (h) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No.205 to be answered on Monday, the 6th March, 2006 on National River Conservation Plan