

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:89  
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2007  
PROGRESS UNDER GAP  
Jha Shri Raghunath

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

- (a) whether the Government has made any study to assess the actual progress of Ganga Action Plan; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) The Ganga Action Plan (GAP) Phase – I, the first initiative undertaken by the Government of India for abatement of pollution in the river Ganga, was launched in 1985 with the objective of treating 882 million litres per day (mld) of sewage and improving its water quality to bathing class standards. This phase was declared completed in March, 2000 with the creation of the sewage treatment capacity of 865 mld.

Since GAP Phase – I did not cover the pollution load of Ganga fully, the GAP Phase – II which includes plans for the tributaries of Ganga, namely, Yamuna, Gomti, Damodar and Mahananda besides Ganga, was approved in stages from 1993 onwards. The works undertaken under the Plan include installation of Sewage Treatment Plants, Interception and Diversion of Sewerage, Low Cost Sanitation, Improved Wood Based Crematoria, River Front Development etc. Under GAP- Phase I & II, so far 669 schemes of pollution abatement have been completed leading to the creation of additional sewage treatment capacity of 1728.37 million liter per day (mld). Progress of implementation of works by the Implementing Agencies nominated by the States is monitored both by the Centre and the States on continuous basis through a multi-tier monitoring mechanism. Further, as per the water quality monitoring of the river undertaken on regular basis through independent reputed institutions, the water quality of the river Ganga has shown improvement in terms of the organic load as a result of the implementation of pollution abatement works, inspite of the phenomenal increase in upstream urban population.