

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:70

ANSWERED ON:27.11.2006

GANGA ACTION PLAN

Athawale Shri Ramdas;Nikhil Kumar Shri

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

- (a) whether water of Ganga is more polluted today than in 1985 when the Ganga Action Plan was conceived first;
- (b) if so, whether even after spending Rs.1000 crore, the quality of water in this river has worsened;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefore;
- (d) Whether the Hon'ble Supreme Court has criticised the Centre as well as the concerned States for not taking enough steps even after utilizing a huge amount of money from the public exchequer; and
- (e) if so, the remedial steps taken or being taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Hon'ble Supreme Court during its hearing of a Public Interest Litigation case has recently asked the Central Government as well as the concerned States to file a status report regarding Ganga Action Plan (GAP).

(e) To control the pollution of the river Ganga, Ministry has taken several steps, which include works of installation of Sewage Treatment Plants, Interception and Diversion of Sewerage, Low Cost Sanitation, Improved Wood Based Crematoria, River Front Development etc. Under the Ganga Action Plan, 639 schemes of pollution abatement have been completed leading to the creation of an additional sewage treatment capacity of 1693 million liter per day (mld). Further, to tackle the uncovered pollution load in the river, the Government has Master Plans and Feasibility Studies for the sewerage and non-sewerage components for four towns, namely, Kanpur, Lucknow, Allahabad & Varanasi through a Development Study relating to the "Water Quality Management Plan for Ganga" conducted by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). In this regard, a loan agreement with the Japan Bank for International cooperation (JBIC) has already been signed for implementation of the pollution abatement works in Ganga at Varanasi. Assistance has also been sought from the above agency for similar projects at Allahabad, Lucknow and Kanpur. A tabular statement giving the change in water quality at different monitoring stations between 1986 and 2006 is given in Appendix-I. A graphical representation of the change in water quality of Ganga versus increase in upstream population at different monitoring points over the years is at Appendix-II.