

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:671

ANSWERED ON:26.11.2014

CONTROL OF RIVER POLLUTION

Godse Shri Hemant Tukaram;Innocent Shri ;Pal Shri Jagdambika;Patil Shri Kapil Moreshwar;Singh Shri Parvesh Sahib;Sreeramulu Shri B.

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

- (a) whether the level of Pollution in various rivers across the country has increased during the recent years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor, river-wise, and State-wise;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to check the pollution in the rivers along with the name of agencies involved in the process, river-wise and State-wise; and
- (d) the amount allocated and expenditure incurred in this regard during each of the last three years and the current year, river-wise?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) & (b) Pollution load on rivers has increased over the years due to rapid urbanization and industrialization. Abstraction of water for irrigation, drinking, industrial use, power, etc. compounds the challenge. Discharge of untreated and partially treated industrial & municipal wastewater from towns along the rivers constitutes the major source of pollution in rivers. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has identified 150 polluted stretches along various rivers in the country based on Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) levels, a key indicator of organic pollution. State-wise details of identified polluted river stretches are at Annexure-I.

(c) It is the responsibility of the State Governments/concerned local bodies to set up proper facilities for collection and treatment of sewage being generated and ensure that untreated sewage does not fall into the rivers, thereby polluting them. Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change and Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation are supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in abatement of pollution in identified stretches of various rivers under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) and NGRBA (National Ganga River Basin Authority) programmes, for implementation of projects on a cost sharing basis between the Central and State Governments. Various pollution abatement schemes taken-up under the programmes, inter-alia include interception & diversion of raw sewage, construction of sewerage systems, setting up of sewage treatment plants, low cost sanitation facilities, electric/improved wood crematoria and river front development. NRCP & NGRBA programmes presently cover polluted stretches of 42 rivers in 199 towns spread over 21 States at a sanctioned cost of Rs.11083.42 crore, as per details at Annexure-II. Sewage treatment capacity of 4992 million litres per day (mld) has been created so far under the two programmes. The pollution abatement works are executed by the State implementing agencies, inter-alia, Public Health Engineering Departments, Water Supply and Sewerage Boards, Jal Nigams, concerned local bodies, etc. nominated by the State Governments and functioning under their control.

In addition, State Governments, apart from their own budgetary allocations, are also accessing financial assistance for creation of sewerage infrastructure, including setting up of sewage treatment plants, in various towns under other Central Sector Schemes of Ministry of Urban Development.

To control discharge of industrial effluents into the rivers, CPCB and respective State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees monitor industries with respect to effluents discharge standards and take action for non-compliance under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(d) Details of funds allocated and expenditure incurred by the States under the NRCP & NGRBA programmes during the last three years and current year, State-wise, are at Annexure-III & Annexure-IV respectively.