

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) to (c) There is no proposal to start a National Institute of Himalayan Glaciology. However, Government has initiated a nodal centre on glaciology as part of existing Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG). The first fully automated weather tower has been established in the G. B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment & Development (GBPIHED). GBPIHED in collaboration with Centre for Mathematical Modeling and Computer Simulation, Bangalore have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to establish series of fully automated weather towers across Indian Himalayas.

Yamuna Action Plan

312. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount Government has already spent on Yamuna Action Plan Project to clean the holy river Yamuna;
- (b) whether it is a fact that despite so much efforts the river still remains completely polluted;
- (c) whether it implies that the entire Yamuna Action Plan has proved to be a failure; and
- (d) if so, whether Government proposes to take action against the erring agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) to (d) The first phase of the Yamuna Action Plan (YAP), covering 21 towns of UP, Delhi & Haryana commenced in April, 1993. A total expenditure of Rs. 682 crore was incurred under this phase which was completed in 2003. The second Phase of YAP commenced in December, 2004. Till September, 2009, an expenditure of Rs. 226.89 crore has been incurred under this phase. The projects taken up under YAP include interception and diversion of raw sewage, setting up of Sewage Treatment Plants, creation of low costs sanitation facilities, setting up of electric/improved wood crematoria etc. Sewage treatment capacity of 753.25 mld has been created so far under this Plan.

As per the water quality monitoring undertaken through independent institutions, the water quality in the stretch of the river Yamuna from Tajewala to Palla in Haryana is found to be within the prescribed limits. However, the stretch of the river in the vicinity of Delhi (downstream of Wazirabad barrage to upstream of Okhla barrage) and in parts of Uttar Pradesh does not meet the standards in terms of Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand. The water quality of Yamuna has not shown the desired improvement owing to large gap between the demand and availability of sewage treatment capacity and lack of fresh water in the river.

Besides YAP, the Government of NCT of Delhi has taken up sewerage and sewage treatment works under other schemes to fully address the pollution load being discharged into Yamuna. The Delhi Jal Board has prepared schemes for laying of interceptor sewers along three major drains

namely Najafgarh, Shahdara and Supplementary, construction of sewage treatment plants, interception of drains and rehabilitation of trunk sewers, laying of sewerage system in unsewered colonies and rural areas and desilting of peripheral and internal sewers.

Aims of National Green Tribunal

313. SHRI R. C. SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the aims and objectives of the proposed National Green Tribunal (NGT);
- (b) how the proposed NGT would help to reduce the load of environmental cases;
- (c) whether the proposed NGT would also deal with the criminal cases; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) The aims and objectives of the proposed National Green Tribunal are effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources including enforcement of any legal right relating to environment and giving relief and compensation for damages to persons and property and for matter connected therewith or incidental thereto

(b) The Tribunal shall have the jurisdiction over all civil cases where a substantial question relating to environment (including enforcement of any legal right relating to environment), is involved. There is also a bar on the civil courts to entertain such cases. The alternative remedy provided by the wide jurisdiction of the Tribunal will substantially reduce the burden of environmental litigations on the higher courts. The specialised Tribunal is expected to dispose of such cases expeditiously.

(c) and (d) The jurisdiction of the Tribunal is limited to civil cases and the environmental disputes of criminal in nature shall continue to be adjudicated by the existing criminal courts. Criminal cases require a hierarchy of courts and other paraphernalia needed for criminal proceedings which does not gel with the architecture of a Tribunal.

Framework convention on climate change

314. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the industrialized world does not feel the efficacy of the provision in the framework convention on climate change, that reduction of emissions is common but differentiated responsibility in full measures; and