

Pollution in river Bhima

*334. SHRI RANJITSINH VIJAYSINH MOHITE-PATIL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the action Government is taking to control pollution in rivers, especially in Bhima river in Maharashtra;

(b) whether Government has made any survey of pollution levels in Bhima river and Ujani dam built across the river;

(c) if not, by when it will be done; and

(d) the action Government will take to monitor/control pollution in Bhima river specifying the time-frame therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (d) The river conservation programme started with the launching of the Ganga Action Plan (GAP) Phase-I in the year 1985. Subsequently, major tributaries of the river Ganga, namely, Yamuna, Gomti and Damodar were included under the GAP-II. In the year 1995, National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) was initiated covering 18 rivers in 46 towns spread over 10 States. This Plan presently covers 39 rivers in 168 towns spread over 20 States. Proposals received from State Governments from time to time for inclusion of additional rivers/towns in the NRCP are considered based upon the funds available under the Plan, degree of pollution, scope of coverage of works under other Central Plan Schemes like Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission and the Urban infrastructure Development Scheme for Small & Medium Towns, State Governments' commitment for contribution of matching share of costs etc. No proposal for inclusion of river Bhima under NRCP has been received from the Government of Maharashtra.

(b) and (c) As per information from the Central Pollution Control Board, the results of the water quality monitoring indicate that the water quality does not meet the desired standards from Pune to Takli along river Bhima in the State of Maharashtra. The measured value of pollution indicator namely, Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand ranges between 8.4 to 31.0 mg/l. The Ujani Dam is not a part of this polluted stretch of the river Bhima.

Electricity Trading

†*335. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.