

### **Flow of river Ganga**

†3270. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether people belonging to some social and religious organisations met to request for maintenance of cleanliness and continuous flow of river Ganga;
- (b) whether they have expressed the need to withhold some projects;
- (c) if so, the names of such projects;
- (d) whether some ongoing projects also affect the flow of river Ganga; and
- (e) the details of the view on the above mentioned matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (e) Certain organisations and individuals have expressed concerns about the impact of hydro power projects in the upper reaches of river Ganga on the flow in the river. Three hydro power projects namely Bhairon Ghati, Loharinag Pala and Pala Maneri, proposed/under construction, on river Bhagirathi have been referred to the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) by the orders of Hon'ble High Court of Uttarakhand. The relevant issues related to these hydro power projects have been studied by the Ministries of Environment and Forests and Power and a report has been submitted to NGRBA. Regarding cleanliness of river Ganga, pollution abatement schemes are being implemented under the Ganga Action Plan in a phased manner.

### **Drinking and bathing standards of Ganga water**

3271. SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission has submitted a report to the Supreme Court that water of the Ganga fails to meet the drinking and bathing standards beyond Garhmukteshwar (West Uttar Pradesh);
- (b) whether report also revealed that Ganga is most polluted in Kanpur as it is virtually a drain;
- (c) whether Government has prepared some projects under the National River Conservation Plan and proposed an estimated cost of Rs. 33,000 crores to clean Ganga and other rivers of the country till 2020; and
- (d) if so, the salient features of the project and how it will be implemented effectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Planning Commission prepared a report in May, 2009 on utilisation of funds and Assets created through Ganga Action Plan (GAP) in States. According to

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

the report, the water quality of the river indicates some improvement over the pre-GAP period as per the water quality monitoring done by reputed independent institutions. The analysis of water quality at 16 monitoring stations on the river during 1986 – 2008 showed reduction in Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) in all the stations, except two, indicating improvement in water quality. However, at 7 of these 16 locations, BOD levels do not meet the standards for bathing water. Dissolved Oxygen (DO) levels have shown improvement at 4 locations. In terms of total coliform count (bacterial indicator for health concerns), the permissible limits for bathing water were exceeded at a number of monitoring stations.

As per the report, the average values of BOD and DO at Garhmukteshwar during summer (*i.e.* March to June) in 2008 are 1.9 milligram per liter (mg/l) and 7.8 mg/l respectively. These are well within the permissible limits of water quality standards for bathing *i.e.* maximum BOD of 3.0 mg/l and minimum desired DO value of 5.0 mg/l. The Report also indicates that downstream of Kanpur, the BOD is 4.1 mg/l which does not meet the permissible limits. However, the DO at this location is 6.0 mg/l, which is within the prescribed limits.

(c) and (d) The Ministry, since 1985, has been implementing the Ganga Action Plan (GAP) for pollution abatement activities in the identified polluted stretches of the river Ganga. The Ganga Action Plan was expanded to cover other rivers under National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) in the year 1995. The schemes taken up under NRCP include interception and diversion of sewage for treatment in sewage treatment plants; low cost sanitation works; electric and/or improved wood crematoria; river front development works, etc. NRCP presently covers 38 rivers in 167 towns spread over 20 States. An expenditure of Rs. 3955 crore has been incurred so far under NRCP, which includes Rs. 837 crore incurred on the river Ganga. Sewage treatment capacity of nearly 4000 million litres per day (mld) has been created so far under NRCP, including 1025 mld created in towns along river Ganga.

The Central Government has set up the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) as an empowered planning, financial, monitoring and coordinating authority to ensure effective abatement of pollution and conservation of the river Ganga by adopting a holistic approach with the river basin as the unit of planning. The first meeting of the NGRBA held on 5.10.2009 resolved that by the year 2020, it will be ensured that no untreated municipal sewage or industrial effluent flows into Ganga. An estimated investment of Rs. 15,000 crore over the next 10 years will be required to create the necessary treatment and sewerage infrastructure, to be shared suitably between Centre and the States.

Conservation of rivers is an ongoing and collective effort of the Central and State Governments. River conservation activities such as creation of civic infrastructure for sewage management and disposal are also being implemented under other central schemes, such as

Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns, as well as under State sector schemes.

#### **Complaints against Vedanta**

3272. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has received any complaints against British mining major Vedanta that it had grabbed forest land; and

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any action against the company based on the complaint?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Ministry has not received any complaint against British Mining Major Vedanta alleging grabbing of forest land. The Government has accorded in principle approval to the proposal received from the State Government of Orissa for diversion of 660.749 ha of forest land for mining of bauxite ore in Lanjigarh Bauxite Mines in favour of Orissa Mining Corporation (OMCL) in Niyamgiri Hills in Kalahandi district of Orissa stipulating certain conditions. Compliance to these conditions has been received from the State Government of Orissa.

A team consisting of two officials and a non-official member was sent to enquire into alleged violation of the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, and impact of the proposed mining project on Tribal Rights and Wildlife Conservation. The report of the team alongwith compliance of the conditions is under consideration of the Ministry.

#### **Gap between Sewage Generation and Sewage Treatment Plant**

3273. SHRI R.C. SINGH:

SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a wide gap between domestic Sewage Generation and Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) capacity in the country and to the extent of 65 per cent sewage flows into the river and other water bodies untreated leading to large scale pollution of the rivers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what steps are proposed to be taken to install sufficient Sewage Treatment Plants along the major rivers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) According to a recent report of the Central Pollution Control Board, against an estimated sewage generation of about 38254 million litres per day (mld.) from the Class I and II towns of the country, 11787 mld. (35%) is being treated with a capacity gap of 26467 mld. Discharge of untreated wastewater constitutes the major source of pollution load for the rivers.