

Treatment of sewage

756. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the country had the capacity to treat only about 18 per cent of the sewage produced in cities and towns and the increments since then have been insignificant;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the comments of Government thereon; and
- (d) the plan of action prepared by the Ministry for future, in consultation with the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) 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 cities & Class II towns of the country, the available treatment capacity is for 11787 mld (31%).

The Central Government is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments/Urban Local Bodies for creation of civic infrastructure for sewage management and disposal, through central schemes. Interception and diversion of sewage and setting up of Sewage Treatment Plants is among the main components of pollution abatement works taken up under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP). Sewage treatment capacity of about 4064 mld. has been created so far under this Plan. Sewerage and sewage treatment works 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 schemes.

Damage to crops by monkeys

757. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to huge damage to crops by monkeys every year in the country particularly in Himachal Pradesh;
- (b) if so, Government's reaction thereto and the steps taken by Government in this regard:

(c) whether Government proposes to control the increasing population of monkeys in view of huge damage to crops by them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Some State Governments including Himachal Pradesh have reported damage to crops by monkeys. As per information furnished by the Forest Department of Himachal Pradesh, several measures have been taken to control the damage, including establishment of 3 sterilization centres to control monkey population.

Mega dams construction in N.E.R. from Assam

758. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware of the fact that there is strong public resentment and protest in the matter of Mega Dams construction in the North Eastern Region from Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the latest expert committee report (Lower Subansiri & Ranganadi dams) has been received by Government of Assam;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any representation is received from various organizations on the environmental impact in the downstream based on the recent expert committee report; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government of Assam and the Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) A number of representations have been received from various stakeholders regarding construction of big dams in North Eastern Region of Assam. The representations inter alia highlight the issues about the downstream impact of dams and the apprehension about the alteration of riverine flow regime which may cause seriously impact on both terrestrial and aquatic ecology.