

2010 which has come into force on 18th October, 2010. As per the provisions of the NGT Act, 2010, the National Environment Appellate Authority (NEAA) established under the NEAA Act, 1997 stands dissolved and the cases pending before the NEAA stand transferred to the NGT.

Action against industrial units polluting Ganga

3600. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken by the Central Pollution Board against industrial units polluting the Ganga;

(b) the steps being taken to bridge the gap between sewage treatment capacity available and the demand being generated in the towns along Ganga; and

(c) what further steps the Ministry is taking to ensure a clean Ganga?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) CPCB has recently surveyed 26 industries located on the bank of River Ganga. Out of 26 industries, 7 units were found closed, 2 units were complying with discharge standards, 9 units required minor improvements and 8 units were found violating the norms for effluent discharge. Out of the 8 units found violating the norms, 4 units have been issued directions for closure, 3 units directions for taking remedial action to achieve compliance with respect to the discharge norms prescribed and one unit issued with show cause notice for closure.

(b) and (c) To bridge the gap between sewage treatment capacity available and the demand the Central Government supports setting up of Sewage Treatment Plants. Proposals for STPs are considered for sanction based on proposals received from different States subject to their conformity with guidelines and availability of funds. Creation of infrastructure for sewage treatment and disposal is also being undertaken through other central schemes, such as Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission and Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns, as well as under State schemes.

The Ministry has taken several steps to ensure a clean Ganga which *inter alia* includes constitution of National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) in February 2009 as an empowered

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. It will ensure that no untreated municipal sewage or industrial effluent would be allowed to be discharged into Ganga by year 2020. A comprehensive river basin management plan is being prepared by a consortium of seven Indian Institute of Technologies. On that basis the States would formulate DPRs for new projects in pollution hotspots and major towns on Ganga, and major tributaries for funding by NGRBA from World Bank line of credit. The State River Conservation Authorities have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act 1986 to facilitate better coordination and implementation of river conservation activities at State level.

Increasing forest cover

3601. SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the forest cover, as per the assessment of the Forest Survey of India, has gone up considerably between 1997 and 2007;
- (b) if so, the increase of forest cover in the country, State-wise;
- (c) to what extent the National Afforestation Programme is helping in increasing the forest cover in the country; and
- (d) the number of Forest Development Agency projects approved and implemented for Andhra Pradesh during the last five years and the results thereof, year-wise and project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir. As per State of Forest Report, 1997 and India State of Forest Report, 2009 published by Forest Survey of India, Dehradun, the forest cover of India has increased from 65.9 million ha. to 69.09 million ha. i.e. an increase of 3.13 million ha.

(b) The details are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) The Ministry is providing funds under National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Scheme for regeneration of degraded forest and adjoining areas in the country. As on 31.03.2010, 800 Forest