

Action plan to Ganga and Yamuna

689. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of pollution in major rivers of the country, river-wise;
- (b) the quality of water in each of these rivers; potable/batheable etc.;
- (c) the nature of pollutants, river-wise;
- (d) whether any evaluation has been made of domestic sewage generation and capacity of existing sewage treatment plants along the banks of these rivers;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether any of these rivers are likely to die; and
- (g) Government's action plan to monitor/control/improve river pollution scenario in the country, particularly Ganga and Yamuna?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (g) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is monitoring water quality of rivers at 980 locations covering 353 rivers in terms of Dissolved Oxygen (DO), Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Fecal Coliforms. Based on BOD analysis, 150 polluting river stretches have been identified by CPCB. Details of these stretches are given in the Statement (*See below*).

According to a recent report of the CPCB, against an estimated sewage generation of about 38254 million litres per day (mld) from the Class I cities and Class II towns of the country, the available treatment capacity is for 11787 mld. As regards Ganga and its major tributaries including Yamuna, a treatment capacity of 4870 mld is available against sewage generation of about 10735 mld in Class-I cities and Class-II towns located on the banks.

The Ganga Action Plan (GAP) was launched by the Government in 1985, for pollution abatement activities in the identified polluted stretches of the river Ganga. An amount of Rs. 849 crore has been spent under the GAP so far, and a sewage treatment capacity of 1055 mld has been created. The Ganga Action Plan was expanded to cover other rivers under National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) in the year 1995. NRCP covers polluted stretches of 38 rivers in 178 towns spread over 20 States. The Central Government has set up the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) in February, 2009 as an empowered authority for conservation of the river Ganga by adopting a holistic approach with the river basin as the unit of planning. Schemes worth about Rs. 1450 crores have been sanctioned under NGRBA so far.

To supplement the efforts of State Governments in addressing the problem of pollution of river Yamuna, Government of India is implementing Yamuna Action Plan (YAP) with assistance from Japan International Cooperation Agency, Government of Japan in a phased manner. An amount of Rs. 1149 crore has been spent under the Plan so far, and a sewage treatment capacity of 753.25 mld has been created.

Pollution load on rivers has increased over the years due to rapid urbanisation and industrialization. Abstraction of water for irrigation, drinking, industrial use, power etc. compounds the challenge. Conservation of rivers is an ongoing and collective effort of the Central and State Governments. River conservation projects 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.

Statement

Polluted River Stretches identified by CPCB

Sl. No.	Priority of Stretch	BOD Criteria	No. of Stretches	Name of Rivers
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Priority-1	—exceeding 30 mg/l —exceeding 6 mg/l in all occasions	35	Attawa choe, Adyar, Amlakhadi, Bhima, Bharalu, Bhogavo, Coovum, Cauvery, Chandrabhaga, Chambal, Daman ganga, Ganga, Gomti, Godavari, Ghaggar, Hindon, Indrayani, Kalong, Kundalika, Khan, Koyna, Kali nadi eastern, Musi, Mula and mutha, Mithi, Markanda, Nakkavagu, Nira, Patiala ki Rao, Pawana, Ramganga Sukhna choe, Satluj Sabarmati, Venna river, Western Yamuna canal, Western kali (Partly Covered) and Yamuna.
2.	Priority-2	—Between 20-30 mg/l —exceeding 6 mg/l in all occasions	15	Bagad, Bhadra, Bahalla Bandi, Berech, Dhela and kichha, Girna, Jojari, Khetri, Kosi, Khari, Kolak, Mindhola, Nira, Noyyal, Nambal and Tapi.
3.	Priority-3	—Between 10-20 mg/l —exceeding 6 mg/l in all occasions	26	Agartala canal, Bhima, Deepar bill, Ganga, Gurgaon canal, Kshipra, Krishna, Karamana, Laxmantirtha, Manjira, Narmada, Purna, Shedi, Subarnrekha, Tunga, Tungabhadra, Weinganga and Wardha.
4.	Priority-4	—Between 6-10 mg/l	38	Arasalar, Arpa, Betwa, Beas, Bhavani, Burhidihing, Chambal, Cauvery, Damodar, Dhadar, Ganga, Godavari, Kali, Kim, Kalisot, Kalu, Kanhan, Kolar, Krishna, Kathjodi, Kharkhala, Mahi,

1	2	3	4	5
				Markanda, Narmada, Panchganga, Patalganga, Rangavali, Sankh, Sikrana, Seonath, Tambiraparani, Umtrew, Ulhas, Vaigai, Tapi, and Tons.
5	Priority-5	—Between 3-6 mg/l	36	Anas, Ambika, Arkavati, Baleshwar khadi, Barakar, Brahmani, Bhatsa, Dikchu, Dhansiri, Haora, Hundri, Kundu, Kadambayar, Kuakhai, Kaveri, Krishna, Maner, Malprabha, Maney khola, Mahi, Mahanadi, Mahanadi Teesta, Mandakini, Narmada, Palar, Pennar, Panam, Puzhackal, Rihand, Ranichu, Sabarmati, Saryu, Tungabhadra, Ulhas and Yamuna.
TOTAL:			150	

Bathing Water Quality Criteria : BOD equal to or less than 3.0 milligram/litre (mg/l)

Death of animals in sanctuaries

690. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Government's reaction to the train accident on 22 September, 2010 in West Bengal which killed seven elephants;

(b) whether the reasons for this mishap is that the railway track passes through the national sanctuary in that region and if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons behind this unfortunate mishap; and

(d) what are the steps taken by Government to prevent any more such deaths to animals in sanctuaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. This most unfortunate accident took place because the railway line from Siliguri to Alipurduar passes through Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary, Chapramari Wildlife Sanctuary, Jaldapara Wildlife Sanctuary and Buxa Tiger Reserve which are elephant's habitat.

(d) The matter has been taken up Ministry of Railways and they jointly with the State Forest Department have planned and initiated several measures to prevent such deaths in future which include speed restrictions in vulnerable sections; clearing of vegetation on both sides of railway track; construction of fences/ramps in identified sections; putting signage boards to warn the drivers; to initiate sensitising programme for train drivers, guards and station masters; and to keep railway track free from food waste etc.