

(d) The Election Commission has issued instructions to observe maximum vigilance in respect of paid news during elections by making use of existing provisions of law and formed district level committees after notification of election to monitor each advertisement and news report released in print media and electronic media. The Election Commission has also requested the Press council of India to nominate senior journalist/citizens to the district level committee for determining paid news during elections.

#### **Action plan on cleaning Ganga**

†\*100. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any report/suggestion in response to its request made to the IIT scientists for submitting an action plan to the National Ganga River Basin Authority for cleaning of river Ganga;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) A Memorandum of Agreement has been signed by the Central Government on 6.7.2010 with a consortium of seven Indian Institutes of Technology for preparation of a comprehensive River Basin Management Plan for Ganga. The Plan would identify projects to be undertaken, policy interventions required and non-project investments. It would also provide a road map for control and prevention of pollution into the river and its tributaries along with financial resources required for a time bound action programme. The preparation of the Plan is scheduled to be completed in a period of 18 months.

(c) Does not arise in view of above.

#### **WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS**

##### **Survey to explore existing coal reserves in NER**

621. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any survey to explore the existing coal reserves in North Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the details of coal proposed to be mined by the Coal India Limited (CIL) particularly in Assam;

(d) whether any environmental degradation has been reported during opencast mining in various regions in Assam;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.