

(d) Ministry of Environment and Forests has not received any proposal to protect the rich biodiversity at Araku valley.

Use of GM foods

1268. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has seen the news reports that the Association of Retired Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts of India have called for a 'moratorium' on use of Genetically Modified (GM) foods in the country, in view of all the 'facets and risks' to environment, people and public health;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether it is a fact countries like China, Spain etc. have already banned commercial planting of GE Rice, Wheat, Corn and Soyabean or imposed five years blanket moratorium on GM crops; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (d) The Ministry has not received any communication from the Association of Retired Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts of India calling for a 'moratorium' on use of genetically modified (GM) foods in the country. However, during the public consultation on Bt brinjal, some of the State Governments, NGOs and some sections of the scientific and farming communities have expressed apprehensions on the long term impacts of GM foods on the environment and human health.

(c) and (d) No. Sir; Biotech crops are being grown worldwide in 25 countries including / China and Spain. The GM crops approved for commercial cultivation in China include GM cotton, Poplar, Papaya, Petunia, Sweet Pepper Tomato, Rice and Phytase Maize whereas GM Maize is being cultivated in Spain. As of date, GM wheat is under research and development in several countries and has not reached the stage for commercialization. Soybean is being cultivated in ten countries globally.

Progress of river cleaning projects

1269. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the progress made by various river cleaning projects in the country, so far;
- (b) the number and names of rivers that are being cleaned by Government;
- (c) the amount of money spent cumulatively on the river cleaning projects, so far; and
- (d) whether Government has set any measurable targets and time-frame for the river cleaning process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) Conservation of rivers is an ongoing and collective effort of the Central and State Governments. The Centrally sponsored scheme of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) covers polluted stretches of 38 rivers in 178 towns spread over 20 States. The objective of NRCP is to improve the water quality in the polluted stretches of the major rivers in the country through implementation of various pollution abatement works. 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.

An amount of Rs.3727 crore has been spent by the Central Government so far under the Plan. Pollution abatement works taken up under the Plan include interception and diversion of raw sewage, setting up of sewage treatment plants, creation of low cost sanitation facilities, setting up of electric/improved wood crematoria and river front development. Sewage treatment capacity of 4064 mld (million litres per day) has been created so far in the country under the Plan.

Details of rivers covered under NRCP and the progress is given in the Statement.

Statement

Details of National River Conservation Plan

Sl. No.	State	River	Funds Released (till Oct, 2010) (Rs. in crore)	Sewage Treatment Capacity Created (mld)
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	Godavari & Musi	260.19	600.46
2	Bihar	Ganga	92.07	122.00

1	2	3	4	5
3	Delhi	Yamuna	373.16	30.00
4	Goa	Mandovi	9.26	12.50
5	Gujarat	Sabarmati	89.66	232.00
6	Haryana	Yamuna	231.61	322.00
7	Jharkhand	Damodar, Ganga & Subarnarekha	4.41	—
8	Karnataka	Bhadra, Tunga-bhadra, Cauvery, Tunga & Pennar	47.83	41.64
9	Kerala	Pamba	2.78	-
10	Madhya Pradesh	Betwa, Tapti, Wainganga, Khan, Narmada, Kshipra, Beehar, Chambal & Mandakini.	79.00	177.61
11	Maharashtra	Krishna, Godavari, Tapi & Panchganga	115.65	155.00
12	Nagaland	Diphu & Dhansiri	4.50	-
13	Orissa	Brahmini & Mahanadi	56.41	48.00
14	Punjab	Satluj	196.72	461.20
15	Rajasthan	Chambal	21.12	
16	Sikkim	Rani Chu	50.90	8.00*
17	Tamil Nadu	Cauvery, Adyar, Cooum, Vennar, Vaigai & Tambarani	623.65	460.66
18	Uttar Pradesh	Yamuna, Ganga & Gomti	869.32	834.64
19	Uttarakhand	Ganga	71.06	66.00
20	West Bengal	Ganga, Damodar & Mahananda	527.76	492.42
TOTAL			3727.06	4064.13