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26.	Tripura	Nil
27.	Uttarakhand	Diversion of 107.609 ha. forest land in favour of Technical Education Department for setting up of National Institute of Technology (NIT) at Sumadi in Pauri Garhwal district of Uttarakhand
28.	West Bengal	Nil

National River Conservation Policy

†2037. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of funds to be given to the States under the National River Conservation Policy (NRCP);
- (b) whether it is a fact that pollution of rivers is not decreasing even after spending billions of rupees;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the details of the action taken by Government in this regard?

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) has been started to supplement the efforts of the State Governments in this regard. 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.

The NRCP presently covers polluted stretches of 38 rivers in 178 towns spread over 20 States. An amount of Rs.3727.06 crore has been released to the State Governments till October, 2010 by the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Central Government. Sewage treatment capacity of 4064 mld (million litres per day) has been created so far in the country under the Plan. However, there is still a large gap between sewage generation and the treatment capacity. Inadequate operation and maintenance (O&M) by the Urban Local Bodies, under-utilisation of the Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs), delay in acquisition of land, litigation etc. have been the major shortcomings in the implementation of the Plan. Compliance of effluent discharge standards by industries also needs to be more strictly enforced by the State Pollution Control Boards.

The water quality in terms of Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) values for major rivers is reported to have improved as compared to the water quality before taking up pollution abatement works under NRCP, based on independent monitoring undertaken by reputed institutions. However, 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.

Central Government has constituted the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) on February 20, 2009 as a planning, financing, monitoring and coordinating authority for effective abatement of pollution and conservation of river Ganga. A number of measures have been initiated for improved implementation of projects which include signing of Tripartite Memorandum of Agreements (MoA), Third Party Inspection, Independent appraisal of Project proposals.

Clearance to diversion of forest land under Sardar Sarovar Project

†2038. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has received any proposal from Madhya Pradesh for diversion of additional 77,235 hectare of forest land submerging under the Sardar Sarovar Project and if so, by when it was received;

(b) the present status of approval of this proposals and the reasons for not approving the diversion of land; and

(c) whether the Central Government would consider to approve this proposal immediately on a priority basis and if so, by when it would be given approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) As per the information received from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh a proposal to obtain prior approval of the Central Government under the Forest