

(Area in ha.)

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UTs	Forest area diverted during last three years
10.	Karnataka	2191
11.	Kerala	350
12.	Madhya Pradesh	15159
13.	Maharashtra	6947
14.	Manipur	2
15.	Meghalaya	5
16.	Mizoram	8561
17.	Orissa	7474
18.	Punjab	1788
19.	Rajasthan	2189
20.	Sikkim	—
21.	Tamil Nadu	189
22.	Tripura	1727
23.	Uttar Pradesh	2252
24.	West Bengal	288
25.	A and N Island	68
26.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	27
27.	Daman Diu	—
TOTAL		65390

Ganga Action Plan running behind schedule

3448. SHRI B.J. PANDA:

SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ganga Action Plan is running much behind the schedule, despite remodification and strengthening and enhanced budgetary allocations during the past one and half decade;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

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RAJYA SABHA

(c) the steps taken to review the progress and to identify the factors responsible for the delay; and

(d) the details of specific steps taken to tackle growing pollution in that major river?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) The Ganga Action Plan Phase I has been declared closed since 31.3.2000. Works under Ganga Action Plan Phase II which was approved during 1993—96 are however, under implementation. This Phase is likely to be completed by 2005.

(c) The progress of Ganga Action Plan Phase I works has been reviewed by reputed Indian and Foreign Institutes from time to time. The major shortcoming of the Ganga Action Plan was found in respect of operation and maintenance of assets created. The concerned State Governments particularly the Government of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh have not been able to provide adequate and timely funds for operating the plants. Nor these States have been able to ensure continuous supply of electricity for running the assets. However, operation and maintenance of assets is generally satisfactorily in West Bengal. Another shortcoming relating to the implementation of the programme is the total time of nearly 15 years taken in the completion of the Ganga Action Plan Phase I. This was mainly due to delay in land acquisition, litigations and contractual disputes.

(d) The following schemes have been taken up to tackle growing pollution in the river Ganga:

- (i) Interception and diversion schemes to capture the raw sewage flowing into the river through open drains and divert them for treatment.
- (ii) Sewage treatment plants for treating the diverted sewage.
- (iii) Low cost sanitation schemes to prevent open defecation on river banks.
- (iv) Improved wood crematoria and electric crematoria to conserve the use of wood and help in ensuring proper cremation of bodies brought to the burning ghats.
- (v) River front development works for improvement of bathing ghats.

(vi) Other miscellaneous works.

About 1861 million litres of captures sewage per day is targetted to be intercepted, diverted and treated under Ganga Action Plan Phase II.

Polluted rivers

3449. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL:

SHRI B. J. PANDA:

SHRI ANANTA SETHI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified rivers in the country which are polluted;

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

(c) whether Government are aware of the extent of pollution in those rivers;

(d) the reasons of increasing pollution of those rivers;

(e) whether any step is being taken to clear these polluted rivers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On the basis of surveys and investigations carried out by the Central Pollution Control Board, polluted stretches in 22 major rivers of the country have been identified which are given in the enclosed Statement. (See below)

(c) and (d) The pollution of these rivers is mainly on account of discharge of untreated municipal sewage from large towns and effluents from grossly polluting industries located in the river basins.

(e) and (f) Government have formulated a National River Conservation Plan under which the polluted river stretches are taken up for cleaning. The Plan includes provision of such facilities as interception, diversion and