

Encroachment in Kaziranga National Park

2020. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the encroachment in Kaziranga National Park;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken to remove the encroachment and the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Protection and management of the Kaziranga National Park is under the administrative control of the State Government of Assam. As reported by the Forest Department, Government of Assam, the area of Kaziranga National Park, which is under their control, has no encroachment.

River pollution

2021. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has a plan to make the major rivers in the country pollution free; and
- (b) the details of measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Government is implementing the centrally sponsored scheme of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) which covers identified polluted stretches of 39 rivers in 182 towns spread over 20 States. The major rivers covered under the Plan include Ganga, Yamuna, Gomti, Damodar, Satluj, Krishna, Musi, Cauveri and Godavari besides others. Pollution abatement schemes are taken up under the Plan on a cost sharing basis between Centre and States. The works include; Interception and Diversion to capture the raw sewage flowing into the river through open drains and diverting them for treatment in Sewage treatment plants (STP), Electric crematoria and Improved Wood crematoria, Low Cost Sanitation works and, River Front Development. An amount of Rs. 3890 crore has been released till December, 2010 by the Central Government and sewage treatment capacity of 4064 mld (million litres per day) has been created so far.

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.