

In February 2009, the Central Government has constituted the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) as an empowered planning, financing, monitoring and coordinating authority with the objective to ensure effective abatement of pollution and conservation of the river Ganga by adopting a holistic river basin approach. The Authority has decided that under Mission Clean Ganga it will be ensured that by 2020 no untreated municipal sewage and industrial effluents flow into Ganga and the investments required to create the necessary treatment and sewerage infrastructure will be shared suitably between the Central and the State Governments.

A project with World Bank assistance for abatement of pollution of river Ganga at an estimated cost of Rs.7000 crore has been approved in April, 2011. The World Bank will provide financial assistance of US \$ 1 billion.

Pollution abatement schemes for the river Ganga are being implemented in the States through implementing agencies nominated by the State Governments, on a cost sharing basis between the Centre and the States. Representations/suggestions received from time to time from members of the public/organisations pertaining to conservation of Ganga are taken into consideration in the implementation of the programme based on - their merits and also forwarded to States/Implementing Agencies concerned for appropriate action.

National Green Tribunal

187. SHRI RAM CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Green Tribunal (NGT) is not operational so far;
- (b) if so, the reasons for the delay; and
- (c) the time by when applicants can file their grievances on environmental issues before the NGT?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (c) The National Green Tribunal at Delhi has become operational from July 4, 2011. The petitioners can file applications/appeals before the Tribunal at Delhi.