

(d) if so, the details of progress; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and what action Government proposes to take?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (e) Ganga Action Plan (GAP) Phase-I was launched in the year 1985 to improve the water quality of river Ganga and was completed in March 2000. Phase-II of the programme was approved in stages from 1993 onwards which included tributaries of the river Ganga namely, Yamuna, Gomti, Damodar and Mahananda. Pollution abatement works undertaken 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. GAP Phase-II is currently under implementation. An expenditure of Rs. 896.05 crore has been incurred so far on Ganga under GAP and sewage treatment capacity of 1064 mld (million litres per day) has been created.

A project under the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) 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 by the Central Government. The World Bank will provide financial assistance of US \$ 1 billion. The principal objective of the project is to fund creation of pollution abatement infrastructure for conservation and restoration of water quality of the river. The assistance would be in form of a loan of \$801 million from International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and a credit of \$199 million from International Development Association (IDA).

The Project will focus on building and strengthening the institutional framework at the Central and State level; establishing a Ganga Knowledge Centre; enhancing river basin management; and financing priority investments for pollution abatement in a sustainable manner. Project implementation will be in accordance with a Program Framework, developed by the Centre and States for NGRBA which includes implementation arrangements, criteria for selection of investments, Procurement Manual, Financial Manual, an Environment and Social Management Framework, etc.

Contamination from field trials of GM crops

942. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

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

(a) whether Government has constituted a committee to look into the issue related to contamination from field trials of GM crops;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent of contamination reported from the field trials, so far; and the plans to deal with the same, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Government has not constituted a committee to look into the issue related to contamination from field trials of GM crops as there have been no verifiable reports on this matter. All GM crop field trials are subject to stringent norms such as (i) Maintaining a crop specific isolation distance from the periphery of the experimental site to other sexually compatible rice fields as prescribed under the Indian Minimum Seed Certification Standards; (ii) Biological and physical barrier all around the experimental plot; (iii) Submission of a validated event specific test protocol of 0.01% before undertaking the trials and (iv) Post-harvest restrictions. The prescribed stipulations are adequate to minimize contamination of other conventional crops due to gene flow, if any.

Pending projects in Orissa

943. SHRIMATI RENUBALA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of the industries, mines and the port projects of Orissa that are pending to get environmental clearance from Government; and
- (b) the causes for delay in taking decision to accord environmental clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) A total of 31 projects from Orissa in the sectors of industry, mining and port projects are awaiting environmental clearance as on 31.07.2011 with the Ministry of Environment and Forests. A list of these projects is given in Statement (See below).

- (b) The perceived delay in according environmental clearance *inter-alia* includes non-compliance of the procedures of the EIA Notification 2006 and Circulars of the Ministry, inadequate information on critical environmental parameters, and deficiencies in the Environmental Management Plans by the project proponents.

Statement

List of projects in Orissa pending for environmental clearance

A. Industry Sector

| Sl.No. | Name of Projects |
|--------|--|
| 1 | 2 |
| 1. | Sponge Iron Plant at District Cattack, Orissa by M/s Virajaa Steel and Power (P) Limited |
| 2. | Integrated Steel Plant at District Dhaenkanal, Orissa by M/s Bhushan Steel Limited |