

MR. CHAIRMAN: No; no; please.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, with all seriousness, I am submitting to the Chair to please allot some time to discuss that particular issue. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA (Jharkhand): Sir, it is very important because, recently, ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA): Sir, whenever the hon. Member wants to discuss it, we are ready for a discussion, and it is a good suggestion. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Fine. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: It is a good suggestion. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No; no; I think, the Minister has already given the Government's position on this. There is no difficulty. ...*(Interruptions)*... Thank you. Question No. 281, please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Bihar): Sir, it is very sad that no family members of those people were there. It is very sad. No family members were there. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 281.

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## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### Allocation of funds under NRCP for development of rivers in Gujarat

\*281. SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received from the State Government of Gujarat for allocation of funds for development of rivers in Gujarat under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP);

(b) the number of proposals approved and the number of proposals pending, till date, under this scheme; and

(c) the quantum of funds allocated and proposed to be allocated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

### *Statement*

(a) to (c) This Ministry has received project proposals for conservation of Sabarmati River at Ahmedabad and Mindhola River at Surat from the Government of Gujarat for approval under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP). The first phase of the project for conservation of Sabarmati River at Ahmedabad was approved at a cost of Rs. 93.83 crore and has been completed. Beside this, a project of installation of improved wood crematoria at Ahmedabad was also approved at a cost of Rs. 0.93 crore under NRCP. The Central Government has released its share of cost amounting to Rs. 0.64 crore for implementation of this project. The proposal for conservation of Mindhola River at Surat has been sent to an independent technical institution for appraisal. The proposal of phase-II of conservation of Sabarmati River at Ahmedabad has been returned to the State Government to revise it suitably.

**श्री पुरुषोत्तम खोडाभाई रूपाला:** सभापति महोदय, राष्ट्रीय नदी संरक्षण योजना (एन.आर.सी.पी.) के अंतर्गत केन्द्र सरकार की ओर से राज्यों को नदी के जल-संरक्षण की योजना हेतु आर्थिक सहायता दी जाती है।

महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि गुजरात सरकार की ओर से केन्द्र सरकार को दो प्रस्ताव भेजे गए थे। उन दो प्रस्तावों में से साबरमती नदी का एक प्रस्ताव स्वीकृत हो गया है और जो दूसरा प्रस्ताव सूरत के नजदीक मिंधोला नदी का था, वह अभी तक स्वीकृत नहीं हुआ है। वैसे सैद्धांतिक तौर पर सरकार ने स्वीकृति दे दी है, मगर जवाब में यह कहा गया है कि सूरत में मिंधोला नदी के संरक्षण का प्रस्ताव मूल्यांकन हेतु एक स्वतंत्र तकनीकी संस्थान को भेजा गया है। उसमें अभी कितना विलंब होगा, कितने समय में आप इसको मान्यता देंगे? मैं साथ ही यह भी जानना चाहूंगा कि यह परियोजना लागू करने के लिए केन्द्र सरकार के क्या नॉर्म्स हैं, क्या मानदंड हैं?

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Sir, the hon. Member is absolutely right. Two proposals had come from Gujarat. One of them was for the conservation of the Mindhola river. Now, two rivers run near Surat; one is the Tapti river and the other is the Mindhola river, and then there is the Sabarmati river. The hon. Member has already raised this issue many times and he has also got a reply to an Unstarred Question.

Sir, the details are as follows. I do not wish to take the time of the House by giving all the time-line. The fact is that it is a 70-30 partnership. The Central Government gives 70 per cent and the State Government gives 30 per cent. All that is done. The DPR, that is, the project, was forwarded by the Gujarat Government, which accepted to pay 30 per cent cost. Clarifications were sought on certain details. Now, this has to be implemented by the State Municipal Corporation and the local authorities over there. Each step took a little while. I am happy to inform the House and the Member that after the expert report was submitted by the Delhi Technical University, that has also been accepted. Finally, the State Government of Gujarat has forwarded the modified DPR for rehabilitation of the river Mindhola for an amount of

Rs. 298.27 crores on the 12th of November, 2011, and that has been sent to the Delhi Technical University for approval. As soon as that comes, which I expect within a month or so, it will be finalized and the project will be implemented.

**श्री पुरुषोत्तम खोडाभाई रूपाला:** सभापति जी, मैं माननीया मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि इस योजना के अंतर्गत आपके, केंद्र सरकार के क्या मानदंड हैं कि इस नदी पर यह लागू किया जाएगा? क्या आप इस आधार पर लागू करते हैं कि इनका कोई स्त्राव क्षेत्र है, उसमें नदी के पानी की क्या स्थिति है, क्या क्षमता है, उसकी लंबाई-चौड़ाई या इस योजना को पसंद करने के लिए कोई मानदंड है? यह सूरत-मिडोला नदी का जो प्रोजेक्ट है, इसके लिए आप कोई बैठक करके, जो भी संबंधित लोग हैं, जिनकी भी जिम्मेदारी है, आप इन सभी को इकट्ठा बुलाकर उसको फाइनलाइज कर देंगे, क्या ऐसी कोई मंशा सरकार के मन में है?

**SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN:** Sir, the norms that are taken are really decided between both the Governments. As of now, there are very many polluted stretches of rivers even in Gujarat itself. What is done is, the important components are taken up. Now, we find that the main cause of pollution is really the domestic sewage; it is the cause of 75 per cent pollution; 25 per cent is because of industrial effluents. So, the domestic sewage plants have to work properly, the network has to work properly. At least, all the sewage has to reach that particular treatment plant, and the monitoring and operation of the treatment plant has to be done by the State Government. A particular stretch of the river is declared as a polluted stretch. After it is declared as a polluted stretch, the State and Central Governments take up the work with the Central Government contributing 70 per cent and the State Government contributing 30 per cent.

As for the other norms, the State Government has to first accept the 30 per cent component and the commitment to take up the operation and maintenance of the river. Then, it will have to follow the guidelines of the National River Conservation Plan, in which basically, we concentrate upon the components that I have mentioned just now — the sewage treatment plants have to be maintained properly and networks have to be maintained properly. That is the only way in which the pollution can be properly controlled.

**श्री नरेश चन्द्र अग्रवाल:** श्रीमन्, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि राष्ट्रीय नदी संरक्षण योजना के मानक क्या हैं? माननीय मंत्री जी, क्या आप यह महसूस करती हैं कि इसके मानक, जो बहुत कठोर हैं, उनमें कुछ सुधार करने की जरूरत है?

श्रीमन्, दूसरी बात यह है कि मैं गंगा और यमुना, दो नदियों के बारे में जानना चाहूंगा। गंगा की पवित्रता और उससे लोगों का जो जुड़ाव है, क्या माननीय मंत्री जी बताएंगी कि गंगा की सफाई के लिए प्रदेश सरकार ने जो प्रस्ताव भेजा है...

**श्री सभापति:** नरेश जी, यह सवाल गुजरात पर है।

**श्री नरेश चन्द्र अग्रवाल:** श्रीमन्, यह सवाल गुजरात पर है, लेकिन गंगा ऐसी नदी है, जिसकी पवित्रता और जिसके महत्व को सभी लोग जानते हैं, हमने इसलिए यमुना नदी के बारे में नहीं पूछा, गंगा नदी के बारे में

पूछा है। नर्मदा, गंगा, ये सब ऐसी नदियाँ हैं। इसलिए मैंने पूछा कि इसके मानक क्या हैं? इसमें तो सभी शामिल हैं। गंगा ऐसी नदी है, जिसकी पवित्रता और जिसके महत्व को सभी लोग जानते हैं। माननीय मंत्री जी, गंगा नदी की सफाई के लिए उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने जो एक्शन प्लान भेजा है, क्या आप उसको विशेष तौर पर स्वीकृत करने की कृपा करेंगी? यदि हाँ, तो कब तक?

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Sir, the polluted stretches in 1988-89 which were identified by the CPCB were ten. Then there are 33 grossly and less polluted stretches besides the Ganga river which were identified by the CPCB which form the basis for the conceptualization of the River Action Plans. What are the criteria or norms that the hon. Member wanted to know? Polluted stretch is identified as an area where the desired level of water quality does not meet defined usage with respect to Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and dissolved oxygen. Drinking water level quality, which is Class A, has got dissolved oxygen level of 6.0 mg per litre or more and BOD has to be less than 2.0 mg per litre or less and the Total Coliform has to be 50 MPN/100 ml. I can give the House the entire details if you want. But I don't want to take the time of the House. For bathing, the level is different. Drinking water source is Class C with conventional treatment followed by disinfection and for it the level is different. So, the main thing is calculated upon what is BOD and what is the level of dissolved oxygen. Regarding the river quality for the Ganga, Sir, we have different river qualities in 16 places — Rishikesh, Haridwar, Garmukteshwar, Kannauj, Kanpur, Allahabad, Varanasi, Patna, Rajmahal and Patla. In most of these places, Sir, the quality of water is not desirable — the BOD levels are high and the dissolved oxygen levels are very low. The monitoring is going on. I can give the Member all the details. I have them here. But since the question relates to Gujarat, I will not give further details. For Ganga river, there is a Ganga River Basin Authority under the Chairmanship of hon. Finance Minister which is meeting constantly and the main thrust of the Ganga River Basin Authority is to treat it as a holistic river basin and not in a town-centric approach so that the flow of the river is maintained and the quality of the river is also maintained in a very holistic way. In all the polluted stretches, the Central Pollution Control Board carries out strategy from time to time. At this point of time, there are 115 stretches and seven projects have been sanctioned in Uttar Pradesh upto the tune of Rs. 1,340 crore in the last three years. ...*(Interruptions)*...

**श्री नरेश चन्द्र अग्रवाल:** श्रीमन्, मैंने बड़ा स्पष्ट सवाल पूछा है, माननीय मंत्री जी ने खुद स्वीकार किया है,...

**श्री सभापति:** वे बाकी डिटेल्स आपको भेज देंगी।

**श्री नरेश चन्द्र अग्रवाल:** माननीय मंत्री जी ने अपने उत्तर में कहा है कि उन्होंने 16 जगह चेकिंग कराई और वहाँ उन्होंने प्रदूषण पाया। माननीय मंत्री जी, मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि एक हजार करोड़ रुपए का जो प्लान है, इसको कब तक release कर दिया जाएगा, जिससे उस पर काम हो सके और गंगा फिर से पवित्र हो सके?

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Money has already been released. We are working on it. The work has already started. ...*(Interruptions)*... You must understand that the Prime Minister has appointed the Finance Minister as the Chairman. This is a special authority. The Central Government has released the funds. It is the State Government which has to work with the Central Government to implement it. I don't want to get into a Centre-State battle here. Whatever the Central Government has to do is being done on a war-footing. We are meeting from time to time. State Government authorities are also present there. It is for the State Government to implement it. When we have released the money, how fast those sewage treatment plants are set in order, how fast is the Municipal Corporation in Allahabad going to clear up the entire network, etc. are questions which the State Government needs to answer. The Central Government cannot do the work of a Municipal Corporation.

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Sir, the Minister talked about the Ganges in UP. The same thing applies to Bihar. It is highly polluted and nobody drinks water from the Ganges. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is on rivers in Gujarat. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. C.P. THAKUR: I am talking about the purity and the development of that basin. My question is: Whether the purity of water in the Ganges will be maintained in Bihar or UP and whether the basin would be looked after or not?

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Sir, four sewerage projects of four towns in Bihar costing Rs. 441.86 crore have been sanctioned. That has already been given. पैसा दे दिया गया है। Proposals have been sanctioned and, therefore, it is for the Government of the State to implement it. दोनों को एक साथ मिल कर काम करना है।...*(व्यवधान)*...

**श्री सभापति:** डा. विजयलक्ष्मी साधौ।

**डा. विजयलक्ष्मी साधौ:** सभापति महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहती हूँ कि ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Rudyji, please. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am sure the hon. Minister would be making a statement. ...*(Interruptions)*... Just one minute please. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let the question be asked. ...*(Interruptions)*...

**डा. विजयलक्ष्मी साधौ:** सर, मैं माननीय मंत्री से यह जानना चाहती हूँ कि...*(व्यवधान)*... नर्मदा नदी गुजरात में भी है।...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: I came last night. ...*(Interruptions)* Tomorrow, I will make it.

**डा. विजयलक्ष्मी साधौ:** सर, नर्मदा नदी मध्य प्रदेश से आती है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहती हूँ कि नर्मदा नदी गुजरात में भी है, वह मध्य प्रदेश से आती है, तो नर्मदा नदी के संरक्षण के लिए माननीय मंत्री जी ने कितना अलॉटमेंट रखा है?

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Sir, I am sorry I don't have the details about the Narmada River. I will have to give it to the Member separately.