

(xxii) Submission of annual self-monitoring report on compliance conditions to comply with the conditions stipulated in approval.

(xxiii) The User Agency and the State Government to ensure compliance to provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.

Apart from the above-indicated standard conditions applicable to mining projects, Central Government also stipulate project specific conditions, to mitigate specific impact(s), if any, of mining projects.

Cleaning of River Ganga

†515. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes to control the environmental pollution which is affecting agriculture production along with the break out of diseases because the Ganges and its subsidiary rivers which cross Bengal on their way into the sea pollutes the land of Bengal due to which ground water is being polluted continuously;

(b) the details of the annual expenditure on the cleaning of the Ganges;

(c) the details of the amount being spent in Bengal out of the total expenditure; and

(d) the details of the expenditure spent under this head during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) The need for revamping the river conservation program was widely recognized and it was felt necessary that a holistic approach based on river basin as the unit of planning may be adopted. Accordingly, the Government of India has given Ganga the status of a National River and has constituted the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) in February 2009 under Section 3(3) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

The NGRBA is a planning, financing, monitoring and coordinating body of the Centre and the States. The objective of the NGRBA is to ensure effective abatement of pollution and conservation of the river Ganga by adopting a river basin approach for comprehensive planning and management.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The NGRBA program will be a multi-disciplinary initiative involving multiple dimensions of Ganga clean-up and conservation, and therefore will span across many sectors, including but not limited to social, environment, urban development, water resources, agriculture, industries, and energy. Program planning and implementation would therefore require working across Ministerial/State/Departmental boundaries and also across levels of Government: Central, State and local. The program activities would include both broad-based as well as locally targeted communications and community participation campaigns, and research to address the critical knowledge gaps. Keeping this in mind, the NGRBA operational institutions at Central and State levels are envisaged to have the requisite operational flexibility and multi-sectoral skills. Depending upon degree of pollution etc., tributaries of Ganga will also be considered.

(b) to (d) Expenditure incurred during 2009-10, 2010-11 & 2011-12 under the NGRBA Programme are Rs. 99.74 crores, Rs. 466.43 crores and Rs. 53.44 crores respectively. Of these, expenditure incurred in respect of West Bengal is Rs. 57.08 crores, Rs. 192.36 crores and Nil respectively.

It has been decided that from current financial year, year-wise allocation of fund would be made based on the Annual Action plan finalized in consultations with the 5 (five) basin States of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal. For the financial year 2012-13, the annual allocation has been made for Rs. 512.50 crores under the NGRBA Programme.

Recommendations by Madhav Gadgil Panel for Western Ghat

516. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel, headed by Ecologist Madhav Gadgil, has submitted its recommendations/report;

(b) if so, by when Government will implement the recommendations of the Panel;

(c) whether massive construction activity has been carried out over the Ghats zone, resulting in large-scale vegetation cutting etc.; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to preserve and protect the Western Ghats, which is about to be upgraded to the status of World Heritage sites?