

- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether Government has conducted any survey in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details of the report of the said survey?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (d) According to some epidemiological studies, health effects such as manifestation of respiratory and cardiovascular ailments etc. could be associated with air pollution. However, due to various confounding factors, no conclusive data is established indicating correlation between pollution and consequential health impacts. No statistical data is available regarding the number of deaths caused due to pollution.

#### **Environmental clearance to irrigation projects of Rajasthan**

2663. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the irrigation projects submitted by the State Government of Rajasthan for environmental clearance;
- (b) the present status of these projects; and
- (c) the reasons for delay in providing environmental clearance to these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (c) A proposal for irrigation project namely Parwan Major Irrigation-cum-Drinking Water Project in Jhalawar District of Rajasthan has been received and the Environmental Clearance (EC) was granted 30.09.2011. No other irrigation project has been received from Government of Rajasthan for Environmental Clearance.

#### **Pollution level in Ganga river**

2664. DR. BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is reportedly found that water of the river Ganga fails to meet the drinking and bathing standards beyond hilly regions, *i.e.* Rishikesh;

(b) whether the report also revealed that the river Ganga is most polluted in Kanpur and resembles that of a drain as lots of dangerous chemical waste of the factories are discharged directly in the river;

(c) whether it is also found that the Ganga water has now become dangerous and causing fatal diseases like cancer; and

(d) if so, the details of remedial steps Government propose to take to clean Ganga in near future so that its water effectively may be used for irrigation and drinking purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) Based on the assessment of water quality reported by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) on the basis of data collected at the monitoring stations, the river water does not meet the criteria prescribed for drinking purpose without treatment. The water quality does not meet the bathing criteria with respect to Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) during certain parts of the year at certain locations.

(b) The stretch of river from Kanpur to Kannauj is critical in terms of pollution, mainly due to discharge of domestic sewage and industrial effluents.

(c) There are no reports with this Ministry to suggest that Ganga water is causing fatal diseases. As per the information received from National Centre for Disease Information and Research (ICMR), the National Cancer Registry Programme (NCRP), Bangaluru does not have any Population Based Cancer Registries along the course of the Ganga. The NCRP has also informed that it is not possible for them to say whether incidence of cancer is high along the course of Ganga.

(d) The Central Government has set up the National Ganga River Basin Management Authority (NGRBA) as an empowered planning, financial, monitoring and coordinating authority to ensure effective abatement of pollution and conservation of the river Ganga. The NGRBA resolved that under Mission Clean Ganga, no untreated municipal sewage and industrial effluents shall flow into Ganga by 2020. Projects with an outlay of Rs. 2600 crore have already been sanctioned under NGRBA framework for implementation by the State Governments for pollution abatement and conservation of river Ganga.