

(b) if so, whether Government would consider replicating this worthwhile experiment in other metropolitan and municipal area or converting sewage water for livelihood purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) The Institute of Environmental Studies and Wetland Management, Department of Environment, Govt, of West Bengal has confirmed about the process being followed for sewage treatment in West Bengal, especially in East Kolkata Wetlands, a Ramsar site.

(b) Pond based treatment technology is included in the "Compendium on Sewage Treatment Technologies" published by the Ministry.

Illegal sand mining in Karnataka

781. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of increasing incidents of illegal sand mining in the country particularly in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of illegal sand mining cases booked in the country including Karnataka for the last three years. State-wise and year-wise;

(d) whether Government has taken any deterrent actions against illegal miners to curb illegal sand mining in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (e) Sand being a minor mineral for which all powers of regulation are empowered to the State Governments concerned under section 15 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act 1957, the respective State Governments are required to frame rules for sand mining.

In terms of section 23C of the MMDR Act 1957, the State Governments have been empowered to make rules for preventing illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals. Since the State Governments deal with cases of illegal mining, specific details are not centrally maintained at the Government of India level.

However, number of cases of illegal mining detected in Karnataka State during 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 were 4692, 6476 and 6691 respectively as reported by the State Government.

All Sand mining activities require prior environment clearance. This is with a view to ensuring that the mining is done in a scientific and sustainable manner.

Failure of Ganga and Yamuna Action Plans

782. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the failure of the Ganga Action Plan (GAP) and Yamuna Action Plan (YAP);

(b) whether there have been any new efforts or initiatives by Government with regard to conservation of these two rivers in specific and other rivers in general;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) Ganga Action Plan (GAP) is being implemented since 1985 for undertaking pollution abatement activities in the identified polluted stretches of river Ganga through implementation of works like interception and diversion of sewage, setting up of sewage treatment plants, low cost sanitation works, crematoria work etc. Total Sewage Treatment capacity of 1091 million liters per day (mld) has been created under the GAP. With the pollution abatement works completed so far, despite significant increase in urbanization, industrialization and growth in population in cities along the banks of river Ganga, the water quality in terms of BOD (Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand) values reported to have improved as compared to the pre-GAP water quality on major monitoring locations. However, the levels of bacterial contamination in terms of fecal coliform are reported to be exceeding the maximum permissible limit at a number of locations.

Similarly for addressing the problem of pollution in river Yamuna, financial assistance is provided to UP, Delhi and Haryana under Yamuna Action Plan (YAP) in a phased manner since 1993. Under Phase-I and II of YAP, 40 sewage treatment