

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

plants with a total % capacity of 902.25 million litres per day, have been completed in 21 towns of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi. The water quality of river Yamuna has not shown the desired improvement owing to a large gap between the demand and availability of sewage treatment capacity and lack of fresh water in the river.

(b) to (d) In light of experience gained in implementation of the river action plans since 1985, the conservation strategy was reviewed by the Government. Accordingly, in February, 2009, the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) has been constituted as an empowered, planning financing, monitoring and coordinating authority with the objective to ensure effective abatement of pollution and conservation of the river Ganga by adopting a holistic river basin approach.

The Yamuna Action Plan Phase - III project for Delhi has been approved by the Ministry in December, 2011 at an estimated cost of Rs. 1656 crore with loan assistance from Japan International Cooperation Agency. Besides this, two projects have also been sanctioned by the Ministry in July, 2012 at an estimated cost of Rs. 217.87 crore for taking up works for pollution abatement of river Yamuna in towns of Sonapat and Panipat in Haryana which are located on upstream of Wazirabad in Delhi.

Further, for formulation of comprehensive pollution abatement projects for rivers/lakes a detailed guidelines has been prepared by the Ministry for benefit of all stakeholders.

Measures to check pollution of water bodies

783. SHRI BIRENDER SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has a comprehensive inventory of the country's water bodies;

(b) if so, whether it has ascertained the exact levels of pollutants being carried by the water bodies;

(c) whether the Ministry has taken some steps to contain the States which treat the rivers as their own with little or no regard to the downstream users; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?