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 Sonepat 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?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is monitoring water quality of aquatic resources at 2500 stations in 28 States and 6 Union Territories spread over the country. The monitoring network covers 445 Rivers, 154 Lakes, 12 Tanks, 78 Ponds, 41 Creeks/Seawater, 25 Canals, 45 Drains, 10 Water Treatment Plants (Raw Water) and 807 Wells. Among the 2500 stations, 1275 are on rivers, 190 on lakes, 12 on Tanks, 79 on Ponds, 41 on Creeks/Seawater, 41 on Canals, 45 on Drains, 10 Water Treatment Plants (Raw Water) and 807 are groundwater stations.

(b) to (d) The water quality monitoring results indicate bacterial contamination (Coliform bacterial count) which indicate presence of pathogens in water and is a critical parameter responsible for water quality degradation in a river. Exceedence of their specified levels demarcates the water bodies as polluted. More than 50% observations of Total Coliform and 31% observations of Faecal Coliform are exceeding the criteria of 500 Most Probable Number /100 ml.

With respect to Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) which is an indicator of organic pollution in rivers, about 37% observations are exceeding the criteria limit of 3 mg/l. The CPCB has identified 150 polluted river stretches in the country based on long term water quality assessment under its National Water Quality Monitoring Programme. The list of these polluted river stretches is given in Annexure [See Appendix 228 Annexure No. 010]. A National River Conservation Plan is also under implementation in the Ministry which is undertaking works in 190 towns along polluted stretches of 39 rivers spread over 20 States.

The CPCB and State Pollution Control Boards are implementing thewater (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 to restore the water quality. The steps taken to check the water pollution are as follows:

- Control of Industrial pollution under the provision of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution), Act, 1974;
- A mutually agreed time targeted programme implemented under Corporate Responsibility for Environment Protection (CREP);
- Special Drives in 17 categories of highly polluting industries.
- Identification of action plans for 43 Critically Polluted Areas as per Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index (CEPI);

- Establishment of Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) for cluster of Small Scale Industrial units;
- Promotion of low-waste and no-waste technology;
- Steps are being taken to augment flow in rivers for maintaining their ecological balance including desired water quality;
- The rain water harvesting practices are being implemented in various regions of the country to augment the depleted water table.

Pollution level in the major rivers of the country

784. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pollution level of water in the major rivers of the country is very high resulting in rise in water borne diseases and deaths therefrom;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to save the rivers from pollution along with the funds spent thereon during the last two years and the current year;

(c) the list of industries which cause maximum pollution to the rivers in the country; and

(d) the steps taken regarding banning/regulation of these industries by Government during last two years including current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) The pollution load on rivers has increased over the years due to rapid urbanization and industrialization as also due to abstraction of water for irrigation, drinking, industrial use, power etc. Disposal of untreated/partially treated sewage generated in the cities and towns are also a major source of pollution in the river. Direct use of bacterial contaminated river water may cause water borne diseases. However, no conclusive reports are available.

(b) The river conservation programme started with the launching of the Ganga Action Plan (GAP) in 1985 in the identified polluted stretches of the river Ganga. The Plan was expanded to include other major rivers under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) on a cost sharing basis between the Centre and