- 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

the States. Various pollution abatement schemes taken up under the Plan, inter-alia, include interception and diversion of raw sewage, setting up of sewage treatment plants, creation of low cost sanitation facilities, setting up of electric/improved wood crematoria and river front development.

During the last two years and current year, Rs.1089 crore has been released by the Ministry to various State implementing agencies for execution of the pollution abatement schemes. In the process, sewage treatment capacity of 4704 mid has been created.

(c) and (d) The grossly polluting Industries, which discharge effluents containing load of Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) more than 100 kg/day include tanneries, paper and pulp, sugar and distilleries etc. The effluent discharge standards have been notified and action has been taken against the non-complying industries under the Water (Prevention and Control) Act, 1974 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Special schemes for Ashtamudi and Sasthamcottai lakes in Kerala

785. SHRI K. N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any request from the State Government of Kerala for projects to free rivers and backwaters from pollution;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any special scheme for Ashtamudi Lake and Sasthamcottai Lake has been sanctioned or pending before Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) A number of projects for abatement of pollution of rivers in Kerala have been received from Government of Kerala which include, Karamana, Killi & Pamba rivers. As per the study conducted by the Central Pollution Control Board for identification of polluted Indian rivers, Karamana and Killi rivers do not fall under the 150 polluted river stretches in 121 rivers in the country.