

Comprehensive river basin management plan for Ganga

*574. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a Comprehensive river basin management plan for Ganga is being prepared;
- (b) if so, the name of the organisation which has been entrusted with the work;
- (c) whether the detailed memorandum of understanding has already been signed;
- (d) whether the plan is being prepared with the objective of taking comprehensive measures for restoration of the wholesomeness of Ganga river system and improvement of its ecological health; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (c) A Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) has been signed on 6.7.2010 by the Ministry of Environment & Forests with a consortium of seven Indian Institutes of Technology for the development of Ganga River Basin Management Plan.

(d) and (e) The Plan would identify projects to be undertaken, policy interventions required and non-project investments for restoration of the wholesomeness of Ganga river system and improvement of its ecological health. The Plan would include identification and estimation of present and prospective pollution loads from domestic, industrial and non-point sources, measures for maintaining water quality by providing a road map for control and prevention of pollution into the river and its tributaries, measures necessary for augmentation of river flow, catchment area treatment, public participation & awareness and assessment of technical and financial resources required for a time bound action programme.

Impact of high interest rates on investment

*575. SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: