

**Assistance under National River Conservation Plan**

†1568. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allotted to the States under National River Conservation Plan;

(b) whether it is a fact that even after spending millions of rupees, the pollution levels have not been declining in rivers;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) Under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP), an amount of Rs.4629 crore has been released by the Central Government till January, 2013 to various State implementing agencies for execution of the pollution abatement schemes.

(b) and (c) The water quality, in terms of BOD values for major rivers is reported to have improved at most of the locations, as compared to the water quality before taking up pollution abatement works under NRCP.

(d) Conservation of rivers is an ongoing and collective effort of the Central and State Governments and this Ministry is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in abatement of pollution in rivers under NRCP for implementation of projects on a cost sharing basis between the Central and State Governments. The NRCP presently covers 41 rivers in 191 towns spread over 20 States.

**Disappearance of Yarsagumba herb from hilly and forest sanctuaries**

†1569. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a herb named 'Yarsagumba' which is famous as Himalayan Viagra is disappearing rapidly from all the hills and forests/sanctuaries situated in India;

(b) whether companies engaged in hedging this herb have obtained approval from Government;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.