

(b) The water quality of river Yamuna has not shown the desired improvement due to a large gap between the sewage generation and availability of sewage treatment capacity and lack of fresh water in the river.

(c) As per the information provided by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), sewage pollution is contributed by the towns of Yamuna Nagar, Jagadhri, Karnal, Panipat, Sonapat, Delhi, Gurgaon, Faridabad, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Ghaziabad, Palwal, Vrindavan, Mathura, Agra, Firozabad and Etawah. Delhi is the largest contributor of sewage pollution load to river Yamuna.

(d) The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) in the ongoing Application No. 06/2012 has directed the State Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Delhi to remove the debris lying along the banks of river Yamuna within a stipulated period. For the purpose of complying to the directions of the Hon'ble NGT, a Committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests to monitor progress of work by the concerned agencies of the State Governments.

Water pollution by Okhla Sewage Treatment Plant

†1423. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Yamuna water has been polluted to such a level that it can't be used even for bathing not to speak of using it for drinking purposes;

(b) if so, whether it has been confirmed by the Regional Pollution Control Board after a proper pollution check of this water;

(c) if so, whether it is a fact that the reasons behind making the river's water polluted are discharging of sewages by the drains of other cities beside that by Okhla Sewage Treatment Plant;

(d) if so, the facts thereof and the number of drains polluting the water, citywise; and

(e) the arrangements made to treat such sewer water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) As per the water quality monitoring of Yamuna by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the stretch of river Yamuna from origin to Wazirabad in Delhi is found to be largely within the prescribed limits with respect to dissolved oxygen and biochemical oxygen demand. However, Wazirabad to Okhla in Delhi and Kosi Kalan to Juhika in Uttar Pradesh have been identified as polluted stretches.

(c) and (d) The water quality of river Yamuna has not shown the desired improvement due to a large gap between the sewage generation and availability of sewage treatment capacity and lack of fresh water in the river. As per the information provided by CPCB, sewage pollution is contributed by the towns of Yamuna Nagar, Jagadhri, Karnal, Panipat, Sonapat, Delhi, Gurgaon, Faridabad, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Ghaziabad, Palwal, Vrindavan, Mathura, Agra, Firozabad and Etawah. Delhi is the largest contributor of sewage pollution load to river Yamuna. There are 18 major drains in Delhi discharging waste water directly into river Yamuna.

(e) The Ministry is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in addressing the problem of pollution of river Yamuna by providing financial assistance to Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Haryana under Yamuna Action Plan (YAP) since 1993 in a phased manner.

A total expenditure of Rs. 1438.34 crore (including State share) has been incurred under on schemes pertaining to sewerage/interception and diversion of drains, sewage treatment plants (STPs), low cost sanitation/community toilet complexes, electric/improved wood crematoria, etc under YAP Phase-I & II in the States of Haryana, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh. Further, the YAP Phase-III project for Delhi has been approved with an estimated cost of Rs 1656 crore. Besides this, two projects have also been sanctioned by the Ministry under National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) with 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.

In addition, State Governments are also accessing financial assistance for creation of sewerage infrastructure, including setting up of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs), in various towns under Central sector schemes like JNNURM (Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission) and UIDSSMT (Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns) of Ministry of Urban

Development. This includes the interceptor sewer project taken up by Delhi Jal Board under JNNURM at a cost of Rs. 1357 crore for laying of interceptor sewers along three major drains discharging into Yamuna, namely Najafgarh, Shahdara and Supplementary drains, along with other associated works.

Need to increase in staff strength in SPCB

1424. DR. K. P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to a study, it has been revealed that many States have not increased the staff strength of the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB), if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has asked the State Pollution Control Boards to increase their staff strength as well as to fill up the vacancies already existing; and

(c) if so, the response received from the State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) Studies carried out by various Institutions have emphasized the need to strengthen the State Pollution Control Boards on various aspects including enhancing their staff strength. A list of such studies is given in the Statement (*See* below). These studies also stressed the need for effective enforcement of pollution abatement laws including regular verification of compliance by the industries and assessment of Water and Ambient Air Quality. Since, State Pollution Control Boards have also been entrusted with additional responsibility to administer the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the Rules made thereunder, the existing staff with State Pollution Control Boards is therefore, inadequate and there is a need to enhance their staff strength.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Environment & Forests after periodical review of enforcement of environmental Acts and Rules and taking cognizance of various studies and reports available, has emphasized the State Governments and the State Pollution Control Boards, for equipping the Boards with more technical experts and inter-disciplinary staff for effective regulatory compliance. Ministry of Environment and Forests also provides financial support to the State Pollution Control Boards for strengthening of laboratories and also to enhance staff strength of the State Pollution Control Boards of North-Eastern region and the Union Territories. Some State Pollution Control Boards have taken initiative to enhance their Scientific and Technical Staff as a part of their strengthening plan.