

**Using of infected water**

2381. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the river water including the Rivers Ganga, Yamuna in North India and Rivers Mahanadi and Brahmani has got polluted and 50 per cent of the total population of our country is using this infected water every day; and

(b) the strategy taken by Government to purify the water of these polluted rivers?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) The pollution load on rivers of the country, including Ganga, Yamuna, Mahanadi and Brahmani, which are used for bathing, irrigation, drinking water purposes, etc., has increased over the years due to rapid urbanization, industrialization and untreated wastewater being discharged into rivers on account of inadequate treatment facilities.

(b) Conservation of rivers is an ongoing and collective effort of the Central and State Governments. This Ministry is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in abatement of pollution in identified polluted stretches of various rivers under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) and NGRBA (National Ganga River Basin Authority) programme, for implementation of projects on a cost sharing basis between the Central and State Governments. NRCP and NGRBA programme presently cover 42 rivers in 195 towns spread over 20 States at a sanctioned cost of Rs. 9852.51 crore. Various pollution abatement schemes taken up under these programmes, *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. Till date, sewage treatment capacity of 4842 million litres per day has been created under these programmes.

In addition, State Governments, apart from their own budgetary allocations, are also accessing financial assistance for creation of sewerage infrastructure, including setting up of sewage treatment plants, in various towns under other 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.

To control industrial effluents into the water bodies, Central Pollution Control Board and respective State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees monitor industries with respect to effluents discharge standards and take action for non-compliance under the statutory provisions.

**Forest land area under human habitation in the State of West Bengal**

2362. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of forest area declared as National Park, Sanctuary and Forest Reserve in West Bengal;

(b) the number of people living in the buffer zones of protected forest area in West Bengal; and

(c) the schemes for rehabilitation of these people and funding for the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) As per the information provided by the State Government of West Bengal to the Ministry, an extent of 3491.6786 sqkm of forest areas have been declared as 6 National Parks and 14 Wildlife Sanctuaries. A list of these Protected Areas is attached at there Statement (*See below*) are no provisions for declaration of Forest Reserves.

(b) There is no demarcation of a buffer zone in Protected Areas except Tiger Reserves. The details of people living in the buffer zones of the tiger reserves of West Bengal are not compiled in the Ministry.

(c) Subject to the availability of budgetary allocation under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Schemes of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats' and 'Project Tiger', funding support is provided to States for relocation of willing families outside the Protected Areas. However, no scheme has been formulated for relocation of people living in the buffer zones of the tiger reserves of West Bengal.

***Statement***

***List of Protected Areas in West Bengal***

**National Parks**

1. Buxa National Park (Tiger Reserve)
2. Gorumara National Park