

- (b) A handbook on wildlife crime investigation.
- (vi) Ministry of Environment and forests has also introduced a Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill 2013 in Rajya Sabha, in which, *inter alia* prescribed punishments for wildlife offences have been proposed to be enhanced.

The Bill also seeks to incorporate the provisions of CITES (Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora), thereby making violation of CITES also an offence.

Water pollution in Yamuna river

† 2818. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

- (a) the sources of water pollution in the Yamuna river and the quality of its water at different places;
- (b) the details of the schemes being implemented to make the Yamuna river pollution free and achievements made as a result thereof;
- (c) the amount spent thereon during the last three years and the current year;
- (d) the details of the agencies included/awarded the contract for river management under the above said schemes; and
- (e) whether the pollution in the Yamuna river increases as a result of idol immersion during the festivals and if so, the details of steps taken to check pollution during such occasions?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY) : (a) The main source of pollution of river Yamuna is the untreated/ partially treated domestic sewage discharged into the river through the drains which join the river from the towns located on the banks of the river. As per the information provided by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), sewage pollution is mainly contributed by the towns of Yamunanagar, Jagadhri, Karnal, Panipat, Sonapat, Delhi,

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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. As per the water quality monitoring of Yamuna by 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 (BOD). However, Wazirabad to Okhla in Delhi and Kosi Kalan to Juhika in Uttar Pradesh have been identified as polluted stretches.

(b) and (c) Conservation of rivers is an ongoing and collective effort of the Central and State Governments. 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. 1453.17 crore (including State share) has been incurred on schemes pertaining to sewerage/interception and diversion of drains, rehabilitation/upgradation of existing sewage treatment plants (STPs) and construction of new STPs, low cost sanitation/community toilet complexes, electric/improved wood crematoria, etc under YAP Phase-I and II in the three States. Sewage treatment capacity of 942.25 million litres per day (mld) has been created under YAP so far.

Further, YAP Phase-III project for Delhi has been approved with an estimated cost of Rs 1656 crore. Under YAP-III, Delhi Jal Board (DJB) is implementing rehabilitation of existing trunk sewers and rising mains, upgradation of existing STPs of 814 mld and construction of a new 136 mld STP (in place of the old STP). Besides this, two projects costing Rs. 217.87 crore for pollution abatement of river Yamuna in towns of Sonapat and Panipat in Haryana are under implementation, on which an expenditure of Rs. 57.36 crore has been incurred till date. In addition, under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) project of Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD), an interceptor sewer project costing Rs. 1357 crore is being implemented by DJB to intercept sewage flowing into river Yamuna from three major drains, namely Najafgarh, Supplementary and Shahdara in Delhi.

The details of expenditure incurred by the States during the last three years and current year for conservation of river Yamuna under YAP is as under:-

Year	Expenditure incurred including State Share (Rs. in crore)
2010-2011	198.64
2011-2012	125.18
2012-2013	80.03
2013-2014 (upto Dec. 2013)	54.42

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

(d) The implementing agencies for YAP schemes in the states are Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam in Uttar Pradesh, Public Health Engineering Department in Haryana and Delhi Jal Board and Municipal Corporation of Delhi in Delhi. These agencies, which are nominated by the respective State Governments, award the contracts for various pollution abatement works sanctioned under YAP.

(e) According to CPCB, pollution levels in river Yamuna increase due to idol immersions and the water quality of river Yamuna deteriorates as the river is burdened with disposal of degradable and non-biodegradable materials and other liquid pollutants (oil, ghee, etc.). CPCB has brought out specific guidelines on prevention and control of pollution from idol immersions. These guidelines prescribe that the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) conduct water quality assessment of the water body before and after immersions, post the data on internet and help local administration in preparing material for mass awareness for the purpose. Further, the guidelines prescribe that idols be made from natural materials like traditional clay, water soluble and nontoxic natural dyes be used for painting of idols, worship material like flowers, clothes, decorating material (made of paper and plastic) be removed before immersion of idols, biodegradable materials collected separately for recycling or composting, non-biodegradable materials disposed off in sanitary landfills, immersion of idols in river be done at identified idol immersion spots along the river bank in temporary ponds having

earthen bunds with removable synthetic liners at bottom, etc. The guidelines have been circulated to all States and Union Territories for implementation.

Objectives of formation of green tribunal

2819. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the aims and objectives of formation of Green Tribunal have been achieved, the number of benches and judges in Green Tribunal and whether Green Tribunal has been able to dispose all cases in time; and

(b) the number of case judgements that have already been pronounced and how many Institutions and individuals offenders have been punished?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY) : (a) The NGT has been established under NGT Act, 2010 on 18th October, 2010 for the effective and expeditious adjudication cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources including enforcement of any legal right relating to environment and giving relief and compensation for damages to persons and property and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. There are presently two Benches at Principal Bench, New Delhi and one Bench each at its Zonal Benches *i.e.* Southern Zone Bench at Chennai, Central Zone Bench at Bhopal and Western Zone Bench at Pune, Another Zonal Bench *i.e.* Eastern Zone Bench at Kolkata is being operationalized soon. Presently, beside the Chairperson, there are 7 Judicial Members and 10 Expert Members. As per provision of Rule 18 of National Green Tribunal (Practice and Procedure) Rule, 2011, cases are heard and decided finally, as far as possible, within six months from the date of their filing.

(b) Since the establishment of NGT on 18th October, 2010, 2212 cases have been disposed of by the NGT till 31.1.2014, by way of order/judgement. No offenders have been punished by the NGT so far.

Rigidity in Environment and Forest Protection Act

2820. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in India inspite of rigidity in Environment and