

Problem of river pollution in Assam

*10. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the problem of wide-scale pollution of Bharalu, Dipor Bil, Burhi Dihing and Brahmaputra rivers of Assam;

(b) whether Government is formulating any action plan to eradicate the problem of pollution of Burhi Dihing and Brahmaputra rivers as in the case of river Ganga; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SUSHRI UMA BHARTI): (a) Yes, Sir. As per the Report of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) for the year 2010, the stretch of Bharalu river at Guwahati, Dipor Bil at Guwahati and Burhi Dihing river at Margherita have been identified as polluted. The reports of the State Government of Assam show that apart from bacteriological characteristics all other parameters for river Brahmaputra are within permissible limits.

(b) and (c) It is the responsibility of State Governments concerned or the local bodies to set up proper facilities for collection and treatment of sewage being generated and ensure that untreated sewage does not fall into the rivers. The Central Government facilitates the process through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP), which is implemented by the state governments on a coast sharing basis. As a pre-requisite for consideration of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) under NRCP, the City Sanitation Plan (CSP) and Feasibility Report (FR) have to be approved. The detailed project report for pollution abatement of river Bharalu at Guwahati was submitted by the State Government to the National River Conservation Directorate of the Ministry of Environment & Forests. This was examined and found to be deficient. The state government has been asked in May 2014 to rectify the deficiencies in the city sanitation plan and feasibility report for consideration of their DPR.

Tapping of natural water resources

* 11. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that water resources are fast depleting posing a serious threat of water crisis in the country;

(b) whether any concrete plan to tap the natural resources of water, such as rain water, has been contemplated by Government; and