

Steps taken to free rivers from pollution

*72. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that more than eighty per cent of sewage in India is untreated and flows directly into the nation's major rivers;
- (b) if so, Government's views and reaction thereto;
- (c) the amount spent by Government for cleaning of rivers and its achievements thereon during the last five years; and
- (d) the details of effective steps being taken/proposed to be taken by Government for making all major rivers free from pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) It is the responsibility of the State Governments/concerned local bodies to set up proper facilities for collection and treatment of sewage being generated and ensure that untreated sewage is not discharged into the rivers. According to the report published by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in December, 2009, against an estimated sewage generation of about 38,254 million litres per day (mid) from Class-I cities and Class-II towns of the country, the treatment capacity is available only for 11,787 mid i.e. around 30% of the sewage generation. Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change and Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation are supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in abatement of pollution in identified stretches of various rivers under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) and NGRBA (National Ganga River Basin Authority) programmes respectively, for implementation of projects on a cost sharing basis between the Central and State Governments. Various pollution abatement schemes taken-up under the programmes, *inter-alia* include interception and diversion of raw sewage, construction of sewerage systems, setting up of sewage treatment plants, low cost sanitation facilities, electric/improved wood crematoria and river front development. NRCP and NGRBA programmes presently cover polluted stretches of 42 rivers in 199 towns spread over 21 States at a sanctioned cost of ₹ 11083.42 crore. Till end of September, 2014 an expenditure of ₹6674.77 crore (including State's share) has been incurred by the States on pollution abatement works under these programmes; including expenditure of ₹2866.57 crore incurred during the last five years and current financial year. Sewage treatment capacity of 4992 million litres

per day (mld) has been created so far under the two programmes, including 1289 mld created in the last five years and current financial year.

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

In the current financial year, the Government has also announced an Integrated Ganga Conservation Mission - 'Namami Gange' under the NGRBA for consolidating the ongoing efforts and planning for an integrated and comprehensive action plan for rejuvenation of Ganga.

Establishment of Special Tiger Protection Force in States

*73. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has asked all States to set up a Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF) to save the tiger, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of funds sanctioned and released for the above purpose, State-wise including Odisha;
- (c) the number of Tiger Reserves in the country including Odisha and the number of Tiger Reserves which have already set up STPF;
- (d) the number of tigers poached in the country during the last two years and the current year, year-wise and Reserve-wise and the action taken by Government in each case; and
- (e) the estimated population of tigers at present, Tiger Reserve-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger, provision exists for 100% Central assistance to tiger States for raising, arming and deploying a Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF). The States of Karnataka, Odisha and Maharashtra have already created and deployed the STPF, and the details in this regard are given in Statement-I (*See below*).