

(d) Waste Management is the State subject. This Ministry does not provide financial assistance to the States for disposal and segregation of wastes.

Action plan to clean Yamuna

1237. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has asked the Centre and States to hold consultations and submit an action plan to ensure fresh water flow in the Yamuna;

(b) if so, the details of action plan of Government for clean Yamuna;

(c) whether total of ₹ 1,500 crore has been spent to clean up the river under Yamuna Action Plans started in 1994, but in the absence of natural water the money has gone down the drain; and

(d) if so, on what account this money was spent and what results were achieved in cleaning Yamuna?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) *vide* its Order dated 13.1.2015 in OA No. 6 of 2012 has *inter-alia*, issued necessary directions for maintaining a minimum fresh water flow in river Yamuna. In this regard and at the instance of Hon'ble NGT, a Principal Committee consisting of Government officials and experts has been constituted. The Committee is mandated to hold consultations with various stake holders and deliberate among other things, on the issue of ensuring minimum quantum of fresh water flow in the river. This issue has also been discussed in three meetings of the Principal Committee convened hitherto.

(b) to (d) It is the responsibility of the State Government/Concerned Local Bodies to set up proper facilities for collection, transportation and treatment of sewage being generated and ensure that untreated sewage does not fall into the river, thereby polluting them. This Ministry had been 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) in a phased manner since 1993. JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) is providing loan assistance for taking up works under YAP, which relate to sewerage/interception and diversion of drains, Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs), low cost sanitation/community toilet complexes, electric/improved wood crematoria, etc. A total expenditure of

₹ 1514.42 crore (including State share) has been incurred on the sanctioned schemes under YAP Phase-I and Phase-II in the 3 States and sewage treatment capacity of 942.25 million litres per day (mld) has been created under these Plans.

Further, the JICA assisted YAP Phase-III project for Delhi has been approved at an estimated cost of ₹ 1656 crore. Under the project, Delhi Jal Board (DJB) is implementing rehabilitation of existing trunk sewers and rising mains, upgradation/modernization of existing 7 STPs with a total treatment capacity of 814 mld and construction of a new 136 mld STP (in place of the old STP). Besides this, Public Health Engineering Department (PHED), Haryana is implementing two projects costing ₹ 217.87 crore for pollution abatement of river Yamuna in towns of Sonapat and Panipat from internal budgetary resources of the Government.

The 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 Central sector schemes of Ministry of Urban Development. In Delhi, with financial assistance of Ministry of Urban Development, DJB is implementing an interceptor sewer project costing ₹ 1357 crore to intercept sewage flowing into river Yamuna from three major drains, namely Najafgarh, Supplementary and Shahdara.

As far as pollution in Yamuna from industrial sources is concerned, the Central Pollution Control Board and State Pollution Control Boards/Committees are taking necessary action under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Environment Protection Act, 1986.

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

Reduction in forest cover due to urbanisation

1238. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been gradual reduction in forest cover due to the urbanisation and infrastructure projects in the country over a period of time;
 - (b) if so, the magnitude of this reduction, State-wise;
 - (c) the steps taken by Government to encourage afforestation by the States;
- and