

under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP). The objective of the National River Conservation Plan is to improve the water quality of the rivers through the implementation of the following pollution abatement works:

- * Interception and diversion works to capture the raw sewage flowing into the river through open drains and divert them for treatment.
- * Sewage treatment plants for treating the diverted sewage.
- * Low cost sanitation works to prevent open defecation on river banks.
- * Electric crematoria and improved wood crematoria to conserve the use of wood and help in ensuring proper cremation of bodies brought to the burning ghats.
- * River front development works such as improvement of bathing ghats etc.
- * Other minor miscellaneous work like afforestation, public participation, public awareness etc.

Under NRCP, pollution abatement works are under implementation in 157 towns along with the polluted stretches of 31 rivers spread over 18 States at a total approved cost of Rs. 4688 crore including Central and State share.

Report on climate change

540. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's initial report to the UN on climate change has been made public; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. India's Initial National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change has been submitted

to the Convention Secretariat towards fulfilment of India's obligation under the Convention. The Initial National Communication contains information on India's emissions of greenhouse gases of anthropogenic origin at 1994 level which were 1228 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent; vulnerability assessment of key sectors such as agriculture, forestry, water resources, health, infrastructure, industry, national ecosystems and coastal zones to projected climate change; programmes related to sustainable development; research and systematic observations; and constraints and gaps, and related financial, technical and capacity need in the area of climate change.

Shrinking of Dal lake

541. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the world famous Dal lake, one of the world's largest natural water bodies, is dying;

(b) whether it is a fact that the lake is abused by 100 hamlets, many floating gardens and several hotels and lodges and therefore, it takes in all the city's sewage;

(c) whether Government are aware that the quality of water in the lake has deteriorated and the lake's vast reserves of aquatic life are rapidly shrinking; and

(d) if so, the action Government propose to take to save the beautiful lake?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government is aware about the shrinking in area of Dal-Nagin Lake and the deterioration in its water quality due to various reasons like siltation, increased urbanization, polluted inflow from 58 habitated hamlets, 13 hotels/lodges and floating gardens within the lake as well as discharge of untreated sewage from some peripheral areas of the lake (which is only a part of the total sewage generated in Srinagar).

(d) Additional Central Assistance of Rs. 102.45 crore has been provided till date by the Planning Commission to the J & K Government