

(b) if so, the measures Government intend to take to prevent such unfortunate situations; and

(c) whether it is a fact that just before the Magha fair, the waste polluted and black water is released knowingly in the holy Ganges by the leather factories of Kanpur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) In a report entitled "World's top 10 rivers at risk", the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), an international Non-Government Organization (NGO), has listed the river Ganga as one of the world's ten rivers facing risk. The report profiles the biodiversity of the river Ganga, and perceives over-extraction of water for agriculture and excessive water diversions affecting natural flows as major threats to the river. However, the report has not categorized the river Ganga under the category of polluted rivers.

(b) Under the National River Conservation Plan, various works are being undertaken for pollution abatement of major rivers in the country, including the Ganga, through interception and diversion of sewage, construction of sewage treatment plants, low cost sanitation, river front development, afforestation, public participation, public awareness, etc. With the pollution abatement works completed so far under the Plan, the water quality of the river Ganga has shown discernible improvement at major locations over its pre-Ganga Action Plan quality as per the water quality monitoring undertaken by independent reputed institutions in the country.

(c) No, Sir. As per the U.P. State Pollution Control Board, the polluted water from the tanneries is not released into the river Ganga directly. The effluent generated from the tanneries receives primary treatment in the individual tannery and is then sent to a Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) for secondary treatment. The final treated effluent is used for irrigation.

Road-bridge on brahmaputra

*251. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for construction of road-bridge downstream of existing rail and road-bridge over Brahmaputra at Saraighat near Guwahati;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Railway authorities have requested to review the planning for construction of roadbridge or rail-cum-road bridge near Guwahati by involving the Ministry of Railways; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by his Ministry so far?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.