

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**QUESTION NO 13.07.2009**  
**ANSWERED ON**  
**GANGA AND YAMUNA ACTION PLANS .**

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SHRI K.E. ISMAIL

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

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(a) whether Government has made any assessment of working of Ganga and Yamuna Action Plans and how far these have been effective in checking pollution of these two dying rivers in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the corrective measures proposed to be taken to rescue these dying rivers?

**ANSWER**

## MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b) Ganga Action Plan (GAP) Phase I was launched as a centrally funded scheme in 1985 with the objective of improving the water quality of the Ganga to acceptable standards. Various pollution abatement works like Interception & Diversion of sewage, setting up of sewage treatment plants, low cost sanitation works, crematoria works, etc. were taken up. GAP Phase – II which covered the tributaries of Ganga namely, Yamuna, Gomti, Damodar and Mahananda, besides Ganga, was approved in stages from 1993-1996. GAP Phase II was merged with the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) in December, 1996. The total expenditure incurred for river Ganga under the GAP Phase – I & II so far, is Rs.816.47 crore. Sewage treatment capacity of 1007 million liters per day (mld) has been created.

The first phase of the Yamuna Action Plan (YAP) for the abatement of pollution of river Yamuna was started in April, 1993 in 21 towns of the three States of UP, Delhi & Haryana. A total expenditure of Rs. 682 crore was incurred. The second Phase of YAP commenced in December, 2004 at an approved cost of Rs. 624 crore. Till March, 2009, an expenditure of Rs 190.15 crore has been incurred. Sewage treatment capacity of 753.25 mld has been created for the river Yamuna under the Plan. Independent studies have been carried out from time to time to evaluate the impact of the river conservation plans. Studies have been conducted by a group of independent experts (1995); University of Bath and Metroeconomica, United Kingdom and the Institute of Economic Growth, New Delhi (1995-97); and Alternate Hydro Energy Centre IIT, Roorkee (2002). The studies have made recommendations for improving the performance of the Schemes by continuous river quality monitoring, proper operation and maintenance of assets, upgradation of treatment technologies/ designs etc.

The water quality monitoring carried out by reputed institutions of the country like IIT, Kanpur, BHEL, Patna University, etc. indicates that, water quality of the river Ganga conforms to the prescribed standards in terms of key indicators namely, Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Dissolved Oxygen (DO) at most of the locations except, in the stretch between Kannauj and Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh. As per the water quality monitoring undertaken through independent institutions, the water quality in the stretch of the river Yamuna from Tajewala to Palla in Haryana is found to be within the prescribed limits. However, the stretch of the river in the vicinity of Delhi (downstream of Wazirabad barrage to upstream of Okhla barrage) and parts of Uttar Pradesh exceeds the standards in terms of Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand of 3.0 milligram per litre (mg/l), mainly due to significant increase in pollution load and lack of fresh water in the river during lean period.

The Central Government, by a Notification dated 20.2.2009, has set up the 'National Ganga River Basin Authority' (NGRBA) as an empowered planning, financing, monitoring and coordinating authority for the Ganga River. The objective of the Authority is to ensure effective abatement of pollution and conservation of the river Ganga by adopting a holistic approach with the river basin as the unit of planning. The functions of the Authority include all measures necessary for planning and execution of programmes for abatement of

pollution in the Ganga including augmentation of sewerage infrastructure, collection, analysis and dissemination of information relating to environmental pollution in Ganga; investigations and research regarding problems of environmental pollution and conservation of Ganga; and, promotion of water conservation practices including recycling and reuse, rain water harvesting, and decentralised sewage treatment systems.

The Government of NCT of Delhi has taken up sewerage and sewage treatment works under other schemes to fully address the pollution load being discharged into Yamuna. The Delhi Jal Board has prepared schemes for laying of interceptor sewers along three major drains namely Najafgarh, Shahdara and Supplementary, construction of sewage treatment plants of 318 mld, interception of drains and rehabilitation of trunk sewers, laying of sewerage system in unsewered colonies and rural areas and desilting of peripheral and internal sewers.