

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 26.07.2010
ANSWERED ON
POLLUTION IN GANGA WATER .

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Smt. Kusum Rai

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether Government is aware that water of river Ganga has become badly polluted and is not fit for even irrigation purposes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the fund allocated for cleansing the river during 2009-10 and the achievements made during the said period;
- (d) the details of the allocation made for this purpose during 2010-11;
- (e) whether Government is contemplating to utilize the expertise of IITs in this regard; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b) The pollution load on rivers has increased over the years due to rapid urbanisation and industrialisation. Abstraction of water for irrigation, drinking, industrial use, power etc. compounds the challenge. As per monitoring carried out by reputed institutions such as, IIT, Kanpur, BHEL, Patna University, etc., 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. However, the levels of fecal coliforms are reported to be exceeding the maximum permissible limit at a number of locations along the river Ganga.

(c) & (d) The Central Government has set up the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) in February, 2009, as an empowered planning, financial, monitoring and coordinating authority to ensure effective abatement of pollution and conservation of the river Ganga. An amount of Rs.100 crore was allocated in the year 2009-10 for NGRBA, whereas Rs.500 crore has been allocated for the Year 2010-11. Projects estimating more than Rs.1400 crores have been sanctioned so far under NGRBA for conservation of the river.

(e) & (f) A Memorandum of Agreement has been signed on 6th July, 2010 by the Ministry of Environment & Forests with a consortium of seven Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) for the development of Ganga River Basin Management Plan. The objective of the Plan is to enable taking comprehensive measures for restoration of the wholesomeness of the river system and improvement of its ecological health, with due regard to the issue of competing water uses in the river basin.