POLLUTION LEVEL IN GANGA WATER .

2815   Smt.   Kusum Rai

Will the Minister of COALENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :-

(a)whether Government is aware of the recent study by Indian Institute of Toxicology Research (IITR) according to which dangerous level of coliform bacteria have been found in the Ganga water between Garhmukteshwar and Varanasi;

(b)if so, the details thereof;

(c)whether 65 crore litres sewage into the Ganges and 88 crore litres into its tributaries flow directly without undergoing treatment;

(d)whether in such a situation where Ganga's water is even unfit for taking bath, Government would work on a new action plan to clear the pious Ganga of pollution; and

(e)if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a)to (e)As per information received from the Indian Institute of Toxicology Research, no study on bacterial enumeration/contamination in Ganga river water between Garhmukteshwar and Varanasi has been conducted by them. However, water quality monitoring of Ganga by reputed independent institutions shows that the level of fecal coliforms is exceeding the maximum permissible limits of 2500 MPN (Most Probable Number) per 100 millilitres at many of the monitoring stations along the river except in its upper reaches, i.e. upstream of Haridwar.

Discharge of untreated wastewater from towns along Ganga constitutes the major source of pollution load into the river. Against the estimated wastewater generation of around 3000 million litres per day (mld) from towns along the river Ganga, sewage treatment capacity of 1055 mld has been created so far under the Ganga Action Plan.

The Central Government has set up the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) in February, 2009 as an empowered authority for conservation of the river Ganga by adopting a holistic approach with river basin as the unit of planning.