

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 18.11.2010
ANSWERED ON
WORKS TARGETED BY GANGA AUTHORITY .

1069

SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :-

- (a) the works targeted by Ganga Authority in the year 2009-10 and the details of the targets achieved out of them;
- (b) the details of scheme for the year 2010-11;
- (c) whether any obstructions are being faced in implementation of above schemes, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether control of pollutants of industries is included in the work of the Authority, the extent of co-operation being given by major industries in this regard; and
- (e) the changes in the quantity and quality of water in Haridwar and Prayag after the setting up this Authority?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES

(SHRI VINCENT H. PALA)

(a) to (d) In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-sections (1) and (3) of section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, the Central Government constituted National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) in February 2009 for taking measures for effective abatement of pollution and conservation of the river Ganga. The work of National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) is looked after by National River Conservation Directorate (NRCD) under Ministry of Environment and Forests. National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) is an empowered authority for conservation of the river Ganga by adopting a holistic approach with the river basin as the unit of planning. In the first meeting of the NGRBA held on 5th October 2009 it was resolved that under 'Mission Clean Ganga', it will be ensured that by the year 2020 no untreated municipal sewage or industrial effluent flows into Ganga. Schemes worth about Rs.1450 crores have been sanctioned under NGRBA so far that include sewer networks, sewage treatment plants and sewage pumping stations, electric crematoria, dhobi ghats, community toilets, development and beautification of river front, resuscitation of canals joining Ganga, public participation programme & awareness campaigns in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Uttarakhand. These schemes, having a completion period of 2-5 years, involve creation of sewage treatment capacity of 336 million litres per day (mld). The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) monitor compliance of effluent discharge standards by the industries. CPCB has identified Grossly Polluting Industries which are discharging BOD load of 100 kg per day or more in the Ganga Basin. Action is taken against the defaulting industries by CPCB and SPCBs under relevant provisions of Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Other measures include providing fund assistance for setting up of common effluent treatment plants for small scale industries and promotion of clean technologies. Further, CPCB has set up a dedicated cell to monitor discharge of industrial effluents in the critical stretch of the river Ganga.

(e) The activities/ pollution abatement works under the NGRBA constitute collective efforts of the Centre and States towards conservation of river Ganga as an ongoing process. The Government has been implementing the Ganga Action Plan (GAP) for pollution abatement activities in the identified polluted stretches of the river Ganga since 1985. An amount of Rs.849 crore has been spent under the GAP so far, and a sewage treatment capacity of 1055 mld has been created. The water quality in terms of BOD values (Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand) in the river Ganga shows improvement as compared to the water quality before taking up pollution abatement works under Ganga Action Plan. A statement indicating the water quality of river Ganga on major monitoring locations based on monitoring by reputed institutions such as, IIT, Kanpur, BHEL, Patna University, etc. is annexed.