

river Ganga. Under the GAP, a sewage treatment capacity of 1092 MLD (GAP-I: 869 MLD, GAP-II: 223 MLD) has been created. The total expenditure incurred so far, on conservation of river Ganga is Rs.950.32 crore.

A National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) was constituted in February 2009, as an empowered, planning, financing, monitoring and coordinating authority with the objective to ensure effective abatement of pollution and conservation of the river Ganga by adopting a holistic river basin approach. The river conservation strategy was reviewed in the first meeting of the NGRBA held on 5th October 2009 which resolved that under 'Mission Clean Ganga', no untreated municipal sewage and industrial effluent may flow into Ganga by the year 2020.

Under NGRBA, 53 projects amounting to nearly Rs.2600 crore have been sanctioned for pollution abatement schemes in the States of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal. An expenditure of Rs.583.28 crore has been incurred till March 2013, and 8 projects have been completed so far.

(e) Besides Central funds, a World Bank assistance of Rs.7000 crore has been approved for a period of 8 years for conservation of river Ganga.

Impact of non-biodegradable pesticides on environment

4344. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that non-biodegradable pesticides/insecticides/weedicides are polluting the environment, across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has initiated any scheme to prevent pollution across the country; and

(d) the details of funds released by Government during the last three years under the scheme, State-wise and the result thus achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) Indiscriminate and excessive use of non-biodegradable pesticides/insecticides/weedicides has the potential to pollute soil as well as water resources, including ground water.

(c) and (d) The Insecticides Act, 1968, administered by the Ministry of Agriculture, regulates the import, manufacture, sale, transport, distribution and use of insecticides. The insecticides are registered for use in agriculture after rigorous scrutiny of scientific data to ensure their bio-efficacy and safety to human, animal and environmental health. The Ministry of Agriculture is popularizing the concept of Integrated Pest Management for control of pests, diseases and weeds on various crops which envisages use of non chemical methods including use of biopesticides and judicious use of chemical pesticides. Farmers are advised to use registered pesticides at recommended dosage and observe the required precaution and other instructions as given on the labels. The funds released for strengthening of State Pesticides Testing Labs (STPLs) during the last three years is given in the Annexure [See Appendix 228 Annexure No. 47].

Report of Kasturi Rangan Committee on Western Ghats

4345. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kasturi Rangan Committee on Western Ghats Ecology has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has some action plan to implement the suggestions of the Committee; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The major findings of the High Level Working Group *inter alia* include: (i) distinguishing cultural and the natural landscape of the Western Ghats region, (ii) protecting 90 per cent of the 'natural landscape' as ecological sensitive area in Western Ghats region, (iii) prohibiting activities with maximum interventionist and destructive impact on the environment, (iv) incentivizing green growth in the Western Ghats, and (v) setting up a Decision Support and Monitoring Centre for Western Ghats.

(c) and (d) The Ministry has uploaded the report on the Ministry's website for wider dissemination and use and also sought comments from stakeholders by