

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1222

ANSWERED ON:17.08.2012

FLOW OF THE GANGA

Bapurao Shri Khatgaonkar Patil Bhaskarrao;Bhoi Shri Sanjay;Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Paranjpe Shri Anand Prakash;Singh Shri Yashvir;Tanwar Shri Ashok

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) number of hydro-electric projects on the river Ganga and its tributaries which are under construction at present;
- (b) whether the Government has made any study to evaluate the impact of these projects on the flow of water in river Ganga and its tributaries;
- (c) if so, whether the Government has set up an inter-ministerial Committee to suggest ways and means for the uninterrupted flow of water in the Ganga and to ensure the hydro-electric projects are environmentally sustainable; and
- (d) the time by which the Committee is likely to submit its report to the Government?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL)

(a): At present, 5 hydro-electric schemes (above 25 MW) with total installed capacity of 2025 MW are under construction on river Ganga and its tributaries. Details of these schemes are at Annex.

(b): IIT Roorkee and Wild Life Institute of India, Dehradun were entrusted to study the cumulative impact of hydro-electric projects on Bhagirathi and Alaknanda rivers in Uttarakhand. The reports have been submitted to Ministry of Environment & Forests. Further, the consortium of IITs is preparing a comprehensive Ganga River Basin Management Plan.

(c): The Government has set up an Inter-Ministerial Group with the following objectives:

i) To facilitate cooperation with government agencies for early completion of the study being conducted by the consortium of IITs for preparing a Ganga River Basin Management Plan; and

ii) Pending finalization of the Ganga River Basin Management Plan, to consider and make recommendations on the following short-term measures in the upper reaches of the river Ganga on the basis of available reports, within three months.

a. To suggest environmental flow requirement that could be prescribed for various stretches of Bhagirathi, Alaknanda and other tributaries of river Ganga, taking into account suggestions in the reports prepared by the IIT Roorkee, Wild Life Institute of India and any other available report on the subject that the group wishes to consider.

b. To examine how best to make the suggested flows applicable to projects currently in operation, taking into account, inter alia, its impact on tariff.

c. To make a review of the environmental impacts of projects that are proposed on Bhagirathi, Alaknanda and other tributaries of river Ganga and recommend necessary remedial action.

(d): The first meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Group held at Yojana Bhawan, New Delhi on 26.7.2012 in which it was decided that the group should finalize its recommendations in 3 months time reckoning the same from the date of first meeting i.e. 26.7.2012.