

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3665

ANSWERED ON:03.09.2012

NATIONAL GANGA RIVER BASIN AUTHORITY

Dubey Shri Nishikant ;Naranbhai Shri Kachhadia;Singh Alias Pappu Singh Shri Uday;Singh Baba Shri K.C.;Singh Chaudhary Lal

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

- (a) whether National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) has become fully functional;
- (b) if so, the mandate of the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) and the various projects taken up by the NGRBA along with their present status;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has received any suggestions regarding scraping of NGRBA;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether the Government is planning to set up a museum regarding the origin and evolution of the river Ganga; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) to (c) Yes, National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) has become fully functional. Government of India has constituted the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) in February 2009 under Section 3(3) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

The mandate of the NGRBA are (a) ensuring effective abatement of pollution and conservation of the river Ganga by adopting a river basin approach to promote inter-sectoral co-ordination for comprehensive planning and management; and (b) maintaining environmental flows in the river Ganga with the aim of ensuring water quality and environmentally sustainable development. NGRBA has been mandated as a planning, financing, monitoring and coordinating authority for strengthening the collective efforts of the Central and State governments for effective abatement of pollution and conservation of river Ganga so as to ensure that by the year 2020 no untreated municipal sewage or industrial effluent will flow into the river Ganga.

Since inception of the programme, 53 schemes in 43 towns of the 5 basin states for an estimated cost of Rs. 2598.47 crores have been sanctioned under the NGRBA Programme, out of which Rs. 496.72 crores have been released, as of June, 2012, for implementation of the projects. The present status is as below:

Status of NGRBA Projects in the Basin States (As of June, 2012)

Rs. in crores

S. No.	State	Total Sanctioned costs	STP capacity (in mld)	Total release of fund (GoI & State)
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1	Uttarakhand (15 projects in 11 towns)	155.6	31.3	37.23
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2	Uttar Pradesh (7 projects in 5 towns)	1341.6	313	257.64
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3	Bihar (4 projects in 4 towns)	441.86	82	35.37
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4 West Bengal	659.41	44.23	166.48
(27 projects in 23 towns)			

TOTAL	2598.47	470.53	496.72
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(d) to (e) Government has not received any suggestions regarding scraping of NGRBA.

(f) to (g) Government has no plan to set up a museum regarding the origin and evolution of the river Ganga. However, one Ganga Knowledge Centre (GKC) is being setup initially to undertake activities that would help enhance the quality of implementation of the NGRBA program. Its key objectives will be to (i) create and manage knowledge resources; (ii) design and foster research and innovations; and (iii) facilitate stakeholder dialogues. The GKC shall be located in Delhi, as an integral part of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) setup with an initial node at Varanasi.

This node will eventually be known for its "Ganga gallery" showcasing the rich history and culture of the people in the basin and their relation with the holy river through high quality exhibits.