

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2613  
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2012  
BEAUTIFICATION OF BANKS OF RIVER GANGA  
Nagar Shri Surendra Singh

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

- (a) whether the Government has formulated a scheme for beautification of the banks of river Ganga in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the amount of funds likely to be spent thereon by the Government in the regard; and
- (d) the benefits likely to accrue to the Government and the people therefrom?

**Answer**

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

- (a) As per the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) framework, the States can take up river front management projects for integrated area development along the banks of river Ganga.
- (b) These projects can be taken up by the States with 70% central share on long stretches of ghats along the river Ganga. These should take into account all facets of area development including urban planning, architecture, culture and heritage, religious practices, etc. including environmental improvements and development of ghats for bathing and religious rites.
- (c) The Government has approved a project for conservation and restoration of water quality of river Ganga with World Bank assistance to be implemented over a period of 8 years under NGRBA framework. As part of this project, Rs. 500 crores have been earmarked for river front management with 30% share coming from the States.
- (d) The river front management schemes comprising of area development plans will help in mitigating point source pollution including solid waste dumping and improve the places along the ghats on Ganga river. Under these schemes, specific stretches of ghats can be improved by providing public toilets, facilities for solid waste management and development of ghats for bathing and religious rites, recreational uses and local economic development for the benefit of local residents and users of the river.