

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:59

ANSWERED ON:26.02.2015

GANGA REJUVENATION

Mahendran Shri C.;Meghwal Shri Arjun Ram

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the work undertaken/ being undertaken for the cleaning of River Ganga, the funds received from various sources and utilised, source-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has assessed the sewage released in the Ganga and its tributaries;
- (c) if so, the details thereof including initiatives taken to save Ganga river after the formation of National Ganga River Basin Authority;
- (d) whether any Special Purpose Vehicles (SPV) have been set up for sewage treatment plants in the cities and towns situated on the banks of the Ganga; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the measures taken for the development of river Ganga task forces?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION
(PROF.SANWAR LAL JAT)

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (E) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.59 TO BE ANSWERED ON MONDAY, THE 26TH FEBRUARY, 2015 ON 'GANAGA REJUVENATION' RAISED BY SHRI ARJUN MEGHWAL AND SHRI C. MAHENDRAN.

(a) With the objective of improving the water quality of river Ganga, Ganga Action Plan (GAP) Phase-I was launched as a centrally funded scheme in 1985 and later GAP Phase-II was initiated in 1993 on 70:30 cost sharing basis between Centre & States. Under both phases of GAP, effluent treatment capacity of 1098 million litre per day (mld) (domestic sewage: 1078 mld, industrial effluent: 20 mld) have been established.

The Government has set up the 'National Ganga River Basin Authority' (NGRBA) on 20.2.2009 (reconstituted on 29.09.2014) under the Environment Protection Act of 1986 for funding pollution abatement projects on 70:30 cost sharing basis between centre and state. Treatment capacity of 702.23 mld (including 64 mld for rehabilitation of old STPs) shall be created on implementation of sanctioned sewerage projects, of which a treatment capacity of 123 mld has been created so far. These include a World Bank assisted National Ganga River Basin Project (NGRBP) for 7000 crore, a Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) assisted Project at Varanasi for 496.90 crores and projects with Government's own resources.

The Union budget 2014-15 has announced the Integrated Ganga Conservation Mission - 'Namami Gange' in June, 2014. It builds on lessons from the past, and by consolidating the existing ongoing efforts and planning for integrated and comprehensive action plan for 'Short-term' (3 years), 'Medium-term' (5 years) and 'Long-term' (10 years and more). The projects and activities under this plan include pollution abatement measures for different sources of pollution and other policy initiatives.

(b)&(c) Yes, Madam. As per the information provided by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), 501 million litre per day (MLD) of industrial effluents from the grossly polluting industries, and about 3535 MLD of domestic wastewater from 56 Class - I Cities & 31 Class - II towns is being generated.

The works under 'National Ganga River Basin Authority' (NGRBA) Programme include laying of sewerage system, sewage treatment plants, solid waste management, common effluent treatment plant for controlling industrial pollution, river front management, crematoria etc. In total, 74 schemes in 49 towns in five Ganga basin States of Uttarakhand (16 projects in 11 towns for Rs. 251.21 crore), Uttar Pradesh (15 projects in 8 towns for Rs. 2256.01 crore), Bihar (12 projects in 5 towns for Rs. 1702.06 crore), Jharkhand (1 project in 1 town for Rs. 99.36 crore) and West Bengal (30 projects in 24 towns for Rs. 1352.51 crore), 5 institutional development projects (Rs. 247.02 crore) and 1 one implementation support project (Rs. 1.28 crore) including Automatic Water Quality Monitoring and Ganga Knowledge Center have been sanctioned at a total cost of Rs. 5909.45 crore, out of which 25 schemes have been completed so far.

(d)&(e) Yes, Madam. The NGRBA programme is being implemented through National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) a dedicated agency/society created at national level for that purpose. NMCG is supported by suitable State Level Project Management Groups (SPMGs) for each of the five basin states on the main stem of Ganga.

A proposal for raising of 4 Battalions of Composite Eco Task force named as Ganga Task Force has been approved in principle by Ministry of Defence in December 2014. Ganga Task Force will be responsible for i) plantation of trees in upper reaches and banks of Ganga, ii) strengthening of pollution monitoring mechanism on ground, iii) management of public awareness and participation programmes, iv) watch and ward for protection of biodiversity in Ganga, v) assistance in management of Ghats especially during major congregations and vi) assisting during floods and natural calamities etc.