

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1972

ANSWERED ON:05.05.2016

Agreements for Cleaning of Water Resources

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

- (a) whether the Government has entered into a slew of agreements with Germany, Israel and the United Kingdom to clean and conserve its polluted and dwindling water resources including Ganga, Yamuna and other rivers;
- (b) if so, the details along with aims and objectives thereof including the extent of financial assistance involved therein;
- (c) the reasons for seeking international help to clean and conserve our polluted water resources;
- (d) the details of benefits and technical support likely to accrue therefrom including time schedule fixed in this regard; and
- (e) the measures the Government has taken for cleaning and conserving the polluted water resources other than Ganga River?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION
(SUSHRI UMA BHARTI)

(a) Yes, Madam. Many countries such as England, Germany, Australia, Canada, Singapore, Israel, Netherlands and European Union have expressed interest to support Ganga Rejuvenation through knowledge/technology sharing, capacity building, research & development, sharing of experiences, expertise & best practices, as well as by providing financial assistance. This Ministry is in continuous dialogue with the relevant organizations of these countries to facilitate a fruitful involvement of foreign countries in Ganga Rejuvenation. Recently, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed between this Ministry and Germany through its representative agency Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH (GIZ India), as part of Indo-German Cooperation for Ganga

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Rejuvenation. This Ministry has also prepared a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for bilateral cooperation in Water Resources Management and Development with Israel and the Union Cabinet has approved the same.

(b) The objective of the Indo-German cooperation is to integrate various approaches in the implementation of the Namami Gange Programme by providing support at National and state level particularly for the Uttarakhand state. The project is for a period of three years and the activities to be covered under this agreement are (i) Technical knowledge/expert exchange, (ii) Information/data management, (iii) Public outreach/communication and (iv) Capacity building at national and state level. Germany has committed 3 million Euro technical assistance for Ganga Rejuvenation.

(c) & (d) The main reason for seeking international support is to learn and adapt best practices/ technological knowhow and institutional/governance framework available across the globe so as to ensure optimal utilization of the resources available for Ganga rejuvenation.

(e) It is the responsibility of the State Governments/ concerned local bodies to set up proper facilities for collection, transportation and treatment of sewage being generated and ensure that untreated sewage does not fall into the rivers thereby polluting them. Pollution abatement in river Ganga and its tributaries is being undertaken by Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (MOWR, RD & GR) under Namami Gange programme while Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEF & CC) has been supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in abatement of pollution in identified stretches of various rivers under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP).

Under NGRBA, 96 projects has been sanctioned in 53 towns. These include 58 projects related to creation of 808.23 MLD new STP and rehabilitation of 1089.00 MLD and laying / rehabilitation of 3627.15 Km sewer network. As on 29th Feb 2016, 28 infrastructure schemes have been completed and a treatment capacity of 126.5 mld created.

NRCP (excluding Ganga and its tributaries) has covered polluted stretches of 31 rivers in 75 towns spread over 14 States at a sanctioned cost of Rs.4517.82 crore. Execution of sanctioned works under NRCP is carried out by the implementing agencies of the State Governments. Sewage treatment capacity of 2373 million litres per day (mld) (excluding Ganga and its tributaries) has been created so far under NRCP.
