

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4081

ANSWERED ON:10.08.2017

Cleaning of Ganga River

Pandula Dr. Ravindra Babu

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

- (a) the current status of cleaning of Ganga river;
- (b) whether it is a fact that in spite of spending crores of rupees, the pollution level in Ganga river has not come down; and
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government to overcome the same?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION

(DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) Cleaning of river is a continuous process. Namami Gange Programme has been launched as a holistic approach covering all existing ongoing projects and new initiative. Under Namami Gange Programme total number of 173 projects for various activities such as sewage infrastructure, river front development, ghat & crematoria, ghat cleaning, river surface cleaning, afforestation & biodiversity conservation and rural sanitation etc. have been sanctioned. Out of 173 projects 41 numbers of projects have been completed so far.

(b) & (c) The long term assessment of water quality data does not indicate any definite trend. However, the river water quality conforms to the bathing criteria for Dissolved Oxygen (DO) at most of the locations.

Various factors like non existence of proper sewerage network in cities and towns of Ganga basin, unplanned urbanization, poor management of domestic wastewater, septage and solid waste by local bodies etc. has led to significant quantity of untreated waste water being discharged into the river. Further, delay in tendering process, retendering in some of the cases, land non-availability, legal issues, natural calamities such as floods, delay in permission from local authorities for road cutting/crossing etc. affect timely completion of sanctioned projects.

In order to ensure timely implementation of the projects following steps are taken:

â€¢ Bottlenecks which delay the project implementation are being addressed by increasing co-ordination with the state governments and their agencies.

â€¢ Project Management Consultants/supervision consultants are appointed at project level for effective monitoring and supervision of projects;

â€¢ Monthly progress report and Quarterly reporting of project progress are ensured;

â€¢ Further, the cabinet has approved "The River Ganga (Rejuvenation, Protection and Management) Authorities Order, 2016" which lays down a new institutional structure from national level to district level for policy making and implementation in fast track manner. It also empowers National Mission for Clean Ganga to discharge its functions in an independent and accountable manner through an order under the Environment Protection Act, 1986 (29 of 1986).
