

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,  
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 905**  
ANSWERED ON 27.06.2019

**DEVELOPMENT OF GANGA'S FRONT**

905. SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJI KUNDARIYA

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government in consultation with Ministry of Tourism is developing river front to boost tourism as well as special diversion mandated points to perform all sorts of rituals at all locations identified on entire stretch of river Ganga;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether any awareness is being carried out at identified locations of river Ganga falls under zero tolerance from interference and would attract severe penal action; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI & SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT  
(SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA)

(a) & (b) Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned the following projects under the Scheme Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spirituality Augmentation Drive (PRASAD) along Ganga in and around Varanasi for boosting tourism:

1. The project for an amount of Rs.44.60 crore for development of Street Pedestrianisation & Footpath, Facade Development, Lighting of Ghats, Provision of Audio System at Ghats etc. in Varanasi.
2. A project for an amount of Rs.10.72 crore for development of River Cruise in Varanasi.
3. A project for Rs.2.936 crore for illumination of 3 monuments in Varanasi and Sarnath.

Further, Ghats and Riverfronts along Ganga are being developed by NMCG to make people connect with the river and boost tourism.

(c) & (d) Ministry of Jal Shakti (earlier Ministry of WR, RD & GR) vide Gazette Notification provides that "the bank of river Ganga and its flood plain shall be construction free Zone to reduce pollution sources, pressures and to maintain its natural ground water recharge function". Awareness Programmes like Shram Daan, cultural programmes and other events are carried out regularly on the Ghats and river fronts to involve local community to keep Ghats clean and develop ownership.