

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1677

ANSWERED ON 15.12.2025

NATIONAL MISSION FOR CLEAN GANGA

1677. Dr. SIKANDER KUMAR:

Will the Minister of **Jal Shakti** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has approved any research projects in 67th Executive Committee (EC) meeting of the National Mission for Clean Ganga;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the total budget allocated and the key areas focused;
- (c) whether any mechanisms has been put in place to ensure that the scientific outputs translate into actionable measures at State and district levels, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the initiative taken by Government to improve water quality, flood risk reduction, and sustainable groundwater management in the State of Himachal Pradesh?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) & (b) 67th Executive Committee placed a strong emphasis on research-led river rejuvenation, approving major research projects aimed at strengthening scientific understanding and data-driven planning across the Ganga basin. These initiatives span critical areas from Monitoring of Key Himalayan Ganga Headstream glaciers, Digital Twin development for the Ganga, and high-resolution SONAR-based riverbed surveys, to manage aquifer recharge via paleo channels and the creation of a historic geospatial river database. Together, these research interventions mark a significant advancement in NMCG's strategy to integrate cutting-edge science, AI tools, and real-time hydrological modelling into long-term river basin management. The total cost of all five research projects is approximately Rs.16 crores.

(c) National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has focused on ensuring that researches bring out actionable outcomes on the ground. It has developed a mechanism to have a broad-based representation in project implementation/steering committees from various organizations such as Central Water Commission, Central Ground Water Board, National Institute of Hydrology etc., depending on the focus area of the project to have actionable outcomes dovetailed to project objectives. To illustrate, the research study on Managed Aquifer Recharge and identification of paleo channels has been taken forward on the ground through National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) and Uttar Pradesh State Groundwater Board. Drone Surveys and LiDAR data have led to the development of a prototype of a drain dashboard for decision-making and finalizing DPRs of Pollution Abatement Infrastructure.

(d) For the pollution abatement of the river Yamuna in Himachal Pradesh, an Interception & Diversion (I&D) and STP (1.72 MLD) project at Ponta Sahib has been sanctioned, amounting to ₹ 11.57 crores. The project has been completed and is operated by the Department of Irrigation and Public Health, Government of Himachal Pradesh.
