

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES,
RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 6340
ANSWERED ON 05.04.2018

NGT OBSERVATIONS ON GANGA RIVER CLEANING

6340. SHRI PINAKI MISRA
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that none of the projects relating to Ganga river cleaning have been able to get any headway in the past several decades despite spending hundred crores of Rupees and if so, the details thereof along with the quantum of funds involved therein and the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether National Green Tribunal (NGT) has made any observations and issued directions to the Government in this regard and if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;
- (c) whether the Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) are responsible for treating only that sewage that is conveyed to it but are not responsible for ensuring the conveyance of the sewage to its plants and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to broaden the scope of the STPs including involvement of private sector players therein and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the strategy adopted/to be adopted by the Government to achieve its goal of cleaning Ganga river and the time by which the said goal is likely to be achieved?

ANSWER

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

(DR. SATYA PAL SINGH)

(a) Government of India has approved Namami Gange Programme in May 2015 for conservation of river Ganga at a total outlay of Rs 20,000 crore for supplementing the efforts of the State Governments. Namami Gange Programme is an umbrella programme which integrates previous and currently ongoing initiatives by enhancing efficiency, extracting synergies and supplementing them with more comprehensive & better coordinated interventions.

Under Namami Gange Programme, towards cleaning of river, a total of 100 projects have been sanctioned for development of sewerage infrastructure to provide a treatment capacity of 3067.88 Million Litres per Day (MLD) and laying of sewerage network of 4722.71 km at an estimated cost of Rs. 16626.24 crore. Out of these 20 projects have been completed.

Further, 65 projects have been sanctioned for River Front Development, development of Ghats and Crematoria, Ghat cleaning and river surface cleaning activities at an estimated cost of Rs 1761.59 crore. Out of these 24 projects have been completed and other projects are at various stages of implementation.

(b) National Green Tribunal (NGT) has made observations and issued directions dated 13th July, 2017 in the matter O.A. No. 200 of 2014 to Government for taking requisite measures for the prevention, control and abatement of pollution and rejuvenation of river Ganga and its tributaries. Accordingly, as per the NGT's judgment a Supervisory Committee and Implementation Committee have been constituted. Implementation Committee has reviewed the action plan prepared by all stakeholders for compliance of order in the judgment. Supervisory Committee has taken review of the progress of action plan from time to time. Till date, five meetings of Supervisory Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation and nine meetings of Implementation Committee under the Chairmanship of Principle Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh (U.P.) has been held to monitor the progress on various activities of Central Ground Water Authority, *Central Water Commission*, Department of Agriculture U.P, Irrigation Department U.P, Kanpur Municipal Commissioner, Industries of Jajmau, Banthar & Unnao, Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam, National Mission for Clean Ganga and others. The monitoring of progress continues to be overseen by these committees.

(c) The sewerage projects approved under Namami Gange does focus on conveyance of the Sewage and its treatment in the Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs). The projects either include comprehensive sewerage network or interception & diversion of drains for conveyance of the sewage to the STPs for treatment.

(d) The Government approves and gets the projects implemented through executing agencies of the concerned State Government. The executing agencies award these projects to agencies including those from private sector through competitive bidding process for execution. The project execution is supervised by the concerned executing agency.

(e) Namami Gange programme is being carried out through various coordinated activities including treatment of municipal sewage, treatment of industrial effluent, river surface cleaning, rural sanitation, River Front Development, Ghats and Crematoria, afforestation & biodiversity conservation, public outreach etc.

Cleaning of river is a continuous process and all out efforts are being made to complete these projects by the year 2020.