

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES,
RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †1499
ANSWERED ON 26.07.2018

CLEANING OF GANGA RIVER AND ITS TRIBUTARIES

†1499. SHRI MUKESH RAJPUT
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH

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

- (a) the reasons identified for increasing pollution levels in various rivers of the country including the Ganga and its tributaries;
- (b) whether any measures by the Government are being considered to check and reduce this increasing pollution level in rivers and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the schemes launched by the Government during the last three years to mitigate the pollution in Ganga river and its subsidiaries/tributaries along with the extent of success achieved through these schemes including tapping of said tributaries;
- (d) the targets fixed by the Government for making the rivers pollution free; and
- (e) whether the Government has formulated any concrete policy for water conservation and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(DR. SATYA PAL SINGH)

(a) to (c) The major reasons identified for increasing pollution levels in various rivers are industrial pollution and domestic sewage.

Govt. of India is supplementing the efforts of the state governments in addressing the pollution of river Ganga by providing financial assistance to the states. Government of India has approved Namami Gange Programme in May 2015 for conservation of river Ganga with total outlay of Rs.20,000 Crores. 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.

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.

Against the estimated sewage generation of 2953 Million Litres per Day (MLD) from the towns along main stem of river Ganga, the sewage treatment capacity in the towns along Ganga has increased from 1305 MLD (2014) to 1681 MLD capacity while the projects for creation of 784 mld Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) capacity are at advance stages of completion. In addition, the projects for creation of 769 MLD have been approved and are under tendering.

Under Namami Gange scheme, projects are being taken up on subsidiary tributaries of Ganga like Yamuna, Kali, Ramganga, Gomti, Hindon, Saryu, Son, Gandak, BurhiGandak, Kiul, Kosi, Mahananada and Damodar. Till date 10 projects have been taken up on tributaries namely Yamuna, Kali, Ramganga, Saryu and Kosi to create STP capacity of 1353.5 MLD.

(d) National Ganga River Basin Authority in its 1st meeting held on 05/10/2009 has resolved that by 2020 no untreated municipal sewage or industrial effluent flows into river Ganga.

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

(e) The National Water Policy (NWP), 2012, formulated by Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, inter-alia recommends adoption of various measures for conservation, promotion and protection of water resources. Some of the recommendations of NWP, 2012 are as under:

- Conservation of rivers, river corridors, water bodies and infrastructure should be undertaken in a scientifically planned manner through community participation. The storage capacities of water bodies and water courses and/or associated wetlands, the flood plains, ecological buffer and areas required for specific aesthetic recreational and/or social needs may be managed to the extent possible in an integrated manner to balance the flooding, environment and social issues as per prevalent laws through planned development of urban areas, in particular.
- States should be encouraged and incentivized to undertake reforms and progressive measures for innovations, conservation and efficient utilization of water resources.
