

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES,
RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1543
ANSWERED ON 26.07.2018

CONTAMINATION FREE RIVERS

1543. SHRI M.I. SHANAVAS

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

- (a) whether any stretches of Ganga or other major rivers have become contamination free and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether any town/city on the river banks have succeeded in treating all wastes before they are released into rivers and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the amount of money spent during the last three years and the current year for river development projects and the physical targets achieved thereunder so far?

ANSWER

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

(DR. SATYA PAL SINGH)

(a) River cleaning and development is a continuous process and National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) supplements the efforts of state government in cleaning of river Ganga and its tributaries by providing financial assistance to the state government. The river water quality assessment carried out in 2017 indicates improvement in water quality trends as compared to 2016. The Dissolved Oxygen levels have improved at 33 locations and is above the primary bathing water quality requirements of 5 mg/l, Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) levels and Faecal coliforms have decreased at 26 locations and at 30 locations, respectively.

Some stretches, where the improvement has been observed.

- (i) Ganga at Rishikesh U/S
- (ii) Ganga at Haridwar D/S
- (iii) Ganga at Allahabad D/S (Sangam),
- (iv) Ganga at Kanpur D/S (Jajmau Pumping Station)
- (v) Ganga at Varanasi U/S (Assighat)
- (vi) Ganga at Buxar, Ramrekhaghat
- (vii) Ganga at Punpun, Patna
- (viii) Ganga at Diamond Harbour
- (ix) Ganga at Garden Reach
- (x) Ganga at Baharampur
- (xi) Ganga at Howrah Shivpur

For other major rivers (excluding Ganga and its tributaries), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF & CC) under National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) has taken up works which includes interception & diversion of raw sewage, construction of sewerage systems, setting up of sewage treatment plants, low cost sanitation, river front / bathing ghat development, etc.

(b) Government 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 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 STP capacity are at advance stages of completion. In addition, the projects for creation of 769 MLD have been approved and under tendering.

With the completion of sanctioned projects, 51 towns/cities along Ganga will succeed in treating the sewage currently generated. Out of these, in 6 towns namely Gangotri, Devprayag, Tapovan (Tehri), Gayeshpur, Kalyani and Bhatpara suitable sewage treatment capacity have already been established to treat the current sewage generation.

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

(c) An amount of Rs.3,696.49 crore has been released by NMCG during the last three years and current year, so far, to State Governments/State Programme Management Groups/ Other Executing Agencies of State Governments under the Namami Gange Program. Against the estimated sewage generation of 2953 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 apart from developing additional sewerage networks and projects in other sectors of mission.

During the last three years and current year, Central share of Rs.351.87 crore has been released to various State Government and 176.02 Million Litres per Day (MLD) treatment capacity has been created under NRCP.