

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES,
RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2611
ANSWERED ON 27.12.2018

E-FLOW NORMS OF GANGA RIVER

2611. SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any study to ascertain that over extraction of ground water is one of the reasons behind the low level of Ganga river and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the measures being taken for treatment of sewage water to be used for agriculture purpose;
- (c) whether the e-flow norms of Ganga river have been made effective across all project sites and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken/to be taken to maintain the e-flow of the said river?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION & PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

- (a) Level of water in Ganga river depends on a number of factors which generally includes climatic changes, rain-fall pattern, diversion of surface river water/exploitation of ground water for various purposes etc.
- (b) 'Namami Gange programme' promotes treated water reuse and accordingly, has directed all States to make provisions for reuse of at least 20% of the treated water at initial stages and move towards 50% reuse in a defined time frame for all the approved projects. Further, MoWR, RD & GR is coordinating with other Central Government Ministries for development of suitable policies for the reuse of the treated sewage.
- (c) The Gazette notification for minimum environmental flows in river Ganga (for reach of river Ganga from its origin to Unnao) is applicable to all existing, under-construction and future projects. The existing projects, which currently do not meet the norms of these environmental flows, shall comply and ensure that the desired environmental flow norms are complied within a period of three years from the date of issue of the notification. While, the projects which are at different stages of construction, where physical progress on ground has been initiated, shall also make necessary provisions to maintain the stipulated environmental flows before/after commissioning of the projects. However, the mini and micro projects which do not alter the flow characteristics of the river/ stream significantly have been exempted from these environmental flows.
- (d) Central Water Commission (CWC) under this Ministry has been tasked with the responsibility of supervision, monitoring, regulation of environmental flows and their subsequent reporting. They have identified eleven projects, eight in the State of Uttarakhand and three in the State of Uttar Pradesh for monitoring of environmental flows in Upper Ganga River Basin (upto Haridwar) and in the main stem of river Ganga (upto Unnao) and accordingly the concerned project authorities have been directed to provide hourly flow data on daily basis starting from 01st January, 2019.
