

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

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. *128

ANSWERED ON 15.12.2022

DEVELOPMENT OF RAINFED RIVERS

*128 DR. VISHNU PRASAD M.K

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is formulating any scheme to develop several rainfed rivers in various parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to develop the said rivers to make it more useful for the public by constructing small embankments on rivers and through other means; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (d) A Statement of reply is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.*128 FOR 15.12.2022 REGARDING “DEVELOPMENT OF RAINFED RIVERS”

(a) to (d)

1. Development and rejuvenation of rainfed rivers can be done in the following ways:

- i. Implementing conservation measures to prevent soil erosion and reduce sedimentation in the river, which can help to maintain the river's natural environment flow (e-flow) and prevent it from clogging.
- ii. Planting trees and other vegetation along the river banks, biodiversity conservation and to stabilize soil and prevent erosion which, in turn, will improve the health of the river ecosystem and ensure the base flow into the river from the catchment areas.
- iii. Restoration and conservation of natural flood plains and wetlands which will also help in regulating the e-flow and flooding of rivers.
- iv. Implementing measures to reduce pollution and other forms of anthropogenic degradation by improving domestic and industrial waste management and use of chemicals that harm the river ecosystem.
- v. Working with local communities to promote sustainable practices and raise awareness about the importance of health of rivers and their role in human life.

2. With the above stated objectives, the Central Government has formulated major schemes namely, National Mission for Clean Ganga under the name of "Namami Gange" and National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) for the development of rivers including rainfed rivers. These schemes are being implemented to achieve the above-mentioned objectives on an integrated basin-centric approach for protection, conservation and rejuvenation of the rivers and its tributaries. The conceptual themes namely Aviral (अविरल), Nirmal (निर्मल), Jan (जन), Gyan (ज्ञान) and Arth (अर्थ) for Ganga and its tributary rivers have been propagated to achieve these objectives.

3. Under the Namami Gange Scheme the development/ rejuvenation of rainfed rivers in Ganga basin have also been taken up for eleven Ganga basin States viz., Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. Namami Gange scheme is approved for Rs 22,500 crore for the period 2021-2026. Under this scheme there is also an increased focus on towns along the tributaries of river Ganga. As of October 2022, 406 projects worth Rs 32,898 crore have been sanctioned under various project components, against which 225 projects have been completed and the remaining are under various stages of execution. With regards to sewerage infrastructure, 176 projects worth Rs 26,263 crore have been sanctioned to create/rehabilitate a cumulative treatment capacity of 5,270 MLD and laying of 5,214 km sewer network (98 projects have been completed which has created 1,858 MLD treatment capacity and laid 4,204 km sewer network).

4. Similarly, for rivers other than in Ganga basin, NRCP is aimed for development of rivers, including rainfed rivers, on cost sharing basis. This is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for abatement of pollution in identified stretches of rivers across the country. Under this scheme, abatement of pollution by construction of STPs and sewer networks, plantation/works along stretches of rivers, improvement of ghats and setting up improved crematoria are taken up. NRCP has so far covered 78 polluted stretches on 36 rivers in 80 towns spread over 16 States in the country with the sanctioned cost of projects as Rs. 6,248.16 crore and sewage treatment capacity of 2,745.7 MLD has been created.

5. For development of these rivers including rainfed rivers, District Magistrates of the States of Namami Gange (Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh) have been informed for taking necessary actions to develop action plan and start activities for rejuvenation of small rivers in their districts through convergence of various schemes of Government(s). In this regard in brief guidance document to take up of various steps/ works was also given to the District Magistrates which includes the works of desilting, river

beds and flood plain encroachment removal, pollution abatement activities, afforestation and protection of water bodies, construction of check dams and other activities, watershed management and culture and heritage promotion. Further, district-wise inventory of small rivers in Ganga Basin in GIS platform has been shared with State Governments.

Further, in this regard, Chief Secretaries of all States/UTs have been requested to initiate similar action to be carried out for development of rivers.

6. As per seventh schedule of constitution of India (Article 246), 'Water' is a State subject, and it is the responsibility of the State/UTs to ensure the development of rivers within their jurisdiction. This Ministry supplements the efforts of State Governments on cost sharing basis through various schemes.
