

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

**LOK SABHA**

**STARRED QUESTION NO. †\*18**

ANSWERED ON 02.02.2023

**FORESTRY INTERVENTIONS UNDER NAMAMI GANGE PROGRAMME**

†\*18 SHRI RAMESH CHANDER KAUSHIK

MS. LOCKET CHATTERJEE

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any financial aid has been provided to implement forestry interventions under Namami Gange Programme in States located in the Gangetic plains such as Haryana, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and West Bengal as well as in Bhagalpur, Bihar as per the Detailed Project Report (DPR) prepared by the Forest Research Institute (FRI), Dehradun from the year 2016-17 and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the changes seen in the purity of the Ganges and its tributaries, particularly in Bhagalpur and the benefits earned from the said forestry interventions, State/UT and district-wise;
- (c) whether any examination and study has been conducted in this regard and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the concerned department do not place/present the progress report of the Namami Gange Programme before the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA), particularly in Bhagalpur; and
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF JAL SHAKTI**

(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (e) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. \*18 FOR 02.02.2023 REGARDING “FORESTRY INTERVENTIONS UNDER NAMAMI GANGE PROGRAMME”**

(a) Under the Namami Gange Programme (NGP), financial assistance is provided for implementing forestry interventions in the five Ganga bank states of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand & West Bengal as per the DPR prepared by Forest Research Institute (FRI), Dehradun since the year 2016-17 onwards. The forestry interventions in Bihar State include Bhagalpur.

So far no forestry interventions have been carried out in Haryana under Namami Gange Programme.

Since 2016-17 to till date, 30,071 hectare plantation has so far been carried out under Namami Gange Programme, for which an expenditure of Rs. 347.02 crores has been incurred by the State Forest Departments in the 5 states of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, and West Bengal with details as below:

<b>State</b>	<b>Area in ha.</b>	<b>Expenditure (Rs. In Cr.)</b>
Uttarakhand	10357	128.54
Uttar Pradesh	8820	71.08
Bihar	7895	97.76
Jharkhand	884	26.25
West Bengal	2115	23.39
<b>Total</b>	<b>30071</b>	<b>347.02</b>

As per information provided by State Forest Department, Bihar, in Bhagalpur, forestry works have been carried in 1228.32 ha. area for which an expenditure of Rs. 39.878 crore has been incurred.

It is also mentioned that funds are sanctioned to the State Forest Departments of the respective States only.

(b) & (c) Based on the water quality assessment by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in 5 Ganga main stem States in 2022 (January to October), the observed water quality indicates that median value of Dissolved Oxygen which is an indicator of river health has been found to be within acceptable limits of notified primary bathing water quality criteria and satisfactory to support the ecosystem of river for almost entire stretch of river Ganga.

Further, as a result of multi sectoral interventions, as per comparison of median data of water quality parameters viz., DO and Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), Faecal Coliforms (FC) of year 2014 and 2022 (January to October); DO (Median) has improved at 33 locations, BOD (Median) has improved at 40 locations and FC (Median) has improved 28 locations, respectively. Under the Namami Gange Programme (NGP), manual water quality monitoring was conducted at 3 locations in Bhagalpur district of Bihar during the year 2014. However, number of stations gradually increased based on available resources and water quality problems. River water quality is assessed

for primary water quality criteria notified for outdoor bathing criteria in terms of pH (6.5-8.5), Dissolved Oxygen ( $DO \geq 5\text{mg/L}$ ), Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand ( $BOD \leq 3\text{mg/L}$ ) and Faecal Coliform ( $FC \leq 2500 \text{MPN}/100\text{ml}$ ). Monthly data (median values) of parameters such as pH, DO, BOD and FC of the year 2014 and 2022 (January to October) is compared for 3 locations. The following observations are made:

- pH is maintained and has been complying the water quality norms throughout the years.
- DO and BOD has been complying and also have improved at all 3 locations namely Sultanganj (Bhagalpur), Bhagalpur and Kahalgaon.

It is not possible to isolate improvement in Water Quality due to one intervention alone. Large no. of intervention viz. Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP), e-flow, afforestation, biodiversity conservation etc. have integrated impact on riverine water quality. it is mentioned that a study project was sanctioned to Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), Bhopal in February, 2021 for “Mid-term evaluation of forestry plantations funded by NMCG”, to know the efficacy of the interventions in five Ganga States. The final report was submitted to NMCG on 18th June 2022. The findings of the project indicates overall good survival rate (percent survival rate varied between 60% to 84%) and growth of the plants due to good practices and adoption of suitable plantation models in natural, assisted and reconstructive Ganga riverscape / landscape.

**(d) & (e)** Namami Gange Programme is not included for monitoring under District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) as per guidelines issued by Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India.

However, National Mission for Clean Ganga( NMCG) has constituted District Ganga Committees which are chaired by District Magistrate of the District concerned. At present, 139 District Ganga Committees (52 on main stem and 87 on tributaries of River Ganga) have been constituted. An initiative called DGC forum (District Ganga Committee, 4M- Monthly Mandated, Minuted & Monitored) meeting has been taken up since April, 2022. NMCG directed District Magistrates to have DGC Meetings on fixed days of the month (preferably on 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday). So far, details of 611 meetings have been uploaded on the Digital Dashboard for District Ganga Committees (DGCs) Performance Monitoring System’ (GDPMS). The District Ganga Committee including District Bhagalpur holds meetings as per decided agenda which inter-alia includes progress of activities under Namami Gange Programme (NGP) and the decision during deliberation are recorded as Minutes of Meeting (MoM).

\*\*\*\*\*