

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2452

ANSWERED ON 03.08.2023

ARTH GANGA PROJECT

†2452. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI

Will the Minister of **JAL SHAKTI** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the technology based capacity building programme has been launched for leveraging community and local resources under the Arth Ganga project aimed at empowering the local communities of the Ganga basin by working towards their economic upliftment through ecological perception and if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) the details of progress and achievements made so far in the said direction?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) Arth Ganga refers to the self-sustainable economic model based on the symbiotic relationship between nature and society, by primarily strengthening people-river connect and adopting an ecologically conscious sustainable development framework is based on the concept given by the Hon'ble PM in the 1st National Ganga Council meeting in 2019. It comprises six pillars - zero budget natural farming, monetization and reuse of sludge and treated wastewater, promotion of livelihood generation opportunities, increased public participation, revival of cultural heritage and tourism and institutional capacity building.

Promoting Livelihood generation opportunities and public participation are two of the important interventions under Arth Ganga which involves capacity building through various training, workshops and projects.

NMCG has sanctioned a 'Capacity Building Programme for Leveraging Community and Local Resources Based on Technology' to Himalayan Environmental Studies and Conservation Organisation (HESCO), Dehradun in September 2022 for a period of 3 Years.

This Program focuses on science and technology-based interventions for developing and harnessing local resources in the economy. The program aims to address technology gaps in resource development and create innovations and interventions for the local ecosystem, with a strong emphasis on the local population's involvement and benefit.

This program promotes sustainable agriculture and horticulture, supports ecotourism, and focus on water conservation by integrating science and technology. It also focuses on skill building of the local community for livelihood generation and support. Another project, "Jalaj- Connecting River and People to Realize Arth Ganga" sanctioned to Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun for promotion of skill-based capacity building programmes.

(b) The progress and achievements made so far are as under:

- i. Have organized series of Natural Farming (NF) training workshops at different locations in the Ganga basin with the support of States'/Districts' Agricultural Departments, District Ganga Committees, SPMG and trainers from National Centre for Organic and Natural Farming (NCONF);
- ii. MoU with Sahakar Bharati for setting up "Sahakar Ganga Grams was signed on 16th August, 2022. Sahakar Bharati has formed 314 block level cooperative societies (FPOs) for capacity building and marketing of natural farming products out of which 10 such societies have been registered in Uttarakhand;
- iii. Workshops are being organized for the promotion of Millet Farming in coordination with WII – Dehradun
- iv. Meetings were organized in association with HESCO and other NGOs for promotion of millet (Mota-anaj) based products, produced locally (from local Mati) by self help women (Mahila) groups in the temples (Mandirs) on the banks of River Ganga (Ma Ganga) as Prasad (bhog) under the 5 Ma- concept of an initiative titled 'Ganga Bhog – Gangotri Se Ganga Sagar Tak' to promote livelihood generation among locals.
- v. Promoting the concept of Ghat pe Haat for marketing of local produce.
- vi. An Arth Ganga Centre has been created in Shuklapur village of Dehradun district for training activities. The Center has been utilizing both digital and physical tools to provide comprehensive training to the community. A total of 10 hands-on training and capacity-building workshops have been organized. So far, a total of 1215 community members have been trained in various disciplines including advanced agriculture techniques, protective cultivation techniques, composting techniques, recharging of springs/streams/rivers, river rejuvenation, utilization of local resources, value addition in agricultural and horticultural produce, crafts, nursery techniques, and more;
- vii. At Uttarkashi, a low-cost mushroom cultivation technique has been implemented, where a mushroom hut has been created in the field. Additionally, a spawn technique training program was conducted to enhance their skills;
- viii. A herbal gulal processing technique, utilizing local resources, has been introduced in Uttarakhand. Five groups from the region have been actively involved in implementing these techniques.
- ix. The following training programs have also been organized :
 - Value addition in agri-horticultural produce covering about 200 women in Prayagraj, Begusarai and Sahibganj;
 - Tomato sauce making in Pratapgarh;
 - Incense stick making from waste flowers in Sahibganj, Jharkhand and Prayagraj covering about 75 women;
 - Dhoopbatti making from waste flowers in Yamunanagar, Haryana;
 - Awareness and Aarti training Workshops organized in Parmarth Niketan, Rishikesh for promotion of Ganga Aarti at Ghats;
