

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2457

ANSWERED ON 03.08.2023

NAMAMI GANGE PROGRAMME

†2457. SHRI KANUMURU RAGHU RAMA KRISHNA RAJU
SHRI KOMATI REDDY VENKAT REDDY
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Will the Minister of **JAL SHAKTI** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether large-scale human efforts have been undertaken under the Namami Gange Programme, since 2014, to clean the river Ganga and rejuvenate its marine life, especially turtles, has been playing a key role in rejuvenation and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change joined hands with the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) in implementing this Programme and running the turtle breeding and rehabilitation centre in some parts of the country with about a dozen of the 29 turtle species in the country and if so, the present status thereof along with the funds sanctioned thereon;
- (c) whether the quality of water in river Ganga has improved and the turtles have a role as they feed on meat and waste products thrown in the river and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether similar steps would also be taken up in cleaning the Rivers like Musi and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) Under Namami Gange Programme, a comprehensive set of interventions such as wastewater treatment, solid waste management, river front management (ghats and crematoria development), e-flow, afforestation, biodiversity conservation and Public Participation etc. have been taken up for rejuvenation of river Ganga and its tributaries. This also includes ecological surveys, capacity development, community mobilization, conservation education and awareness, fish ranching, livelihood enhancement for conservation & rejuvenation of Ganga initially in the five Ganga River States, which has now been up scaled to the entire Ganga basin.

So far, a total of 442 projects have been taken up at an estimated cost of Rs. 37,395.51 Crore, out of which 254 projects have been completed. Majority of the projects pertain to creation of sewage infrastructure as the untreated domestic/industrial wastewater is the main reason for pollution in the river. 193 sewerage infrastructure projects have been taken up with a cost of Rs. 30,797.24 crore for creation & rehabilitation of 6029.75 Million Litres per Day (MLD) of Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) capacity and laying of around 5,250.98 km sewerage network. Out of these, 106 sewerage projects have been completed and balance are at various stages of implementation. With the completed

projects, 2664.05 MLD STP capacity has been created/rehabilitated and 4436.26 km sewer network has been laid.

(b) National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has collaborated with Wildlife Institute of India (WII), an autonomous institute of the Ministry of Environment Forests and Climate Change for the conservation and restoration of aquatic biodiversity of the river Ganga, including turtles. Accordingly, NMCG has sanctioned a project titled “Planning and Management for Aquatic Species Conservation and Maintenance of Ecosystem Services in The Ganga river Basin for Clean Ganga” to WII at a cost of Rs. 113.99 crore, with turtle conservation & restoration as a part of the project.

The Ganga basin has 15 species of turtles. Turtle rescue centers have been established under the WII project at Narora & Sarnath in Uttar Pradesh, Bhagalpur in Bihar, Barackpore in West Bengal and Bhind in Madhya Pradesh. WII has informed that through these centers, 6057 turtles of different species have been rescued and 6469 turtles have been released since 2016. A cadre of "Ganga-Praharis" have also been developed for conservation & restoration of aquatic biodiversity of river Ganga, including freshwater turtles.

(c) Cleaning of river Ganga is a continuous process and National Mission for Clean Ganga is implementing various projects for conservation and rejuvenation of river Ganga and its tributaries.

Based on the water quality assessment by CPCB in 5 Ganga main stem states in 2022, the observed water quality of river Ganga indicates that Dissolved Oxygen (DO), which is an indicator of river health has been found to be within acceptable limits of notified primary bathing water quality criteria and is satisfactory to support the ecosystem of the river for almost the entire stretch of the river Ganga. As a result of multi sectoral interventions, as per comparison of median data of water quality parameters viz., DO, Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Faecal Coliforms (FC) of year 2014 and 2022; DO (Median) has improved at 32 locations; BOD at 41 locations and FC at 27 locations, respectively.

Turtles and other aquatic animals are a part of the river ecosystem, and their presence can contribute to the overall ecological balance of the river. While turtles are omnivorous and can consume various types of food, such as dead bodies including dead organic matter, small aquatic animals, and aquatic plants, their impact on large-scale water quality improvement is limited. Pollution abatement & other conservation works play a much larger role in Water Quality improvement.

(d) Under National River Conservation Plan (NRCP), this Ministry has been supplementing efforts of the States/UTs by providing financial and technical assistance for pollution abatement of rivers, excluding Ganga and its tributaries, relating to interception & diversion of raw sewage, construction of sewerage system, setting up of sewage treatment plant (STP), low cost sanitation, river front/bathing ghat development, etc. in identified polluted stretches of rivers in the country including Musi in Telangana.

In Telangana, pollution abatement works were sanctioned and completed under NRCP for conservation of river Musi at a cost of Rs.335.65 crore where 4 STPs of 593 million liters per day (MLD) total capacity were created and commissioned during 2007 to 2013 in Hyderabad. Under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) scheme, sewerage master plan for priority zones in Rajendranagar Circle was taken up wherein two STPs of 23 MLD & 5 MLD were constructed at Attapur & Miralam and commissioned to prevent entry of sewage into Musi river from the catchments of the said STP zones.

Government of Telangana, on its own resource, has also sanctioned 31 STPs of 1259.50 MLD capacity at a cost of Rs.3866.00 crore to achieve 100% treatment of sewage (to cater to the present and future generation of sewage) from Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) area.
