

Karumeniyar and Nambiyar rivers in Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi districts of Tamil Nadu”, which envisaged diversion of surplus flood water from Tambiraparani River to drought prone areas of Sathankulam and Thisaiyanvilai taluks of Thoothukudi and Tirunelveli Districts of Tamil Nadu.

As the Government of Tamil Nadu has not submitted a complete proposal with all mandatory clearances so far, no funds have been released by the Ministry to Government of Tamil Nadu for the above project.

(c) Agriculture is a State’s responsibility including its management in dry areas. The role of Central Government is to provide technical guidance and promotional support for the same. However, in addition to measures generally undertaken by State Governments to encourage and assist the farmers to adopt appropriate cropping pattern suitable to dry areas, the Ministry of Agriculture through Ministry of Home Affairs also provides Central assistance to States under National Disaster Relief Fund (NDRF) for immediate relief measures in case of acute droughts.

The States are also provided Central assistance under various schemes of the Ministry for their projects as per the guidelines.

#### **Plan to clean River Ganga**

147. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the river Ganga is one of the most polluted river in India and Government is making efforts to clean it;

(b) if so, what are the efforts made by previous Government in this direction during the last five years and how much money was spent on it;

(c) what is the result of such spending of time and money; and

(d) what is the planning of the present Government to make the river clean and what are the money kept reserved for it and the time-frame within which the river is completely pollution and garbage free?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI SANWAR LAL JAT): (a) As per the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the Ganga river stretches at downstream of Haridwar, Kannauj to downstream of Varanasi, and downstream of Dakshineswar have been identified as polluted.

(b) The Central Government by a Notification dated 20.02.2009, has set up the 'National Ganga River Basin Authority' (NGRBA) for effective abatement of pollution and conservation of river Ganga with the river basin as the unit of planning. During the last five years till March., 2014, 72 projects have been taken up an estimated cost of ₹ 4607.82 crores and an expenditure of ₹838.76 crores was reported by the State Governments and other implementing agencies.

(c) These projects are to create additional sewage treatment capacity of 586.43 million litres per day (MLD), out of which 123.00 MLD treatment capacity has been created so far.

(d) New initiatives under "Namami Gange" approaches Ganga Rejuvenation by consolidating the existing ongoing efforts and planning for integrated and comprehensive action plan. It also recognizes the multi-sectoral, multi-disciplinary challenges of Ganga rejuvenation and need for collaborative action at different levels. While incorporating the existing projects in the action plan, the Ganga rejuvenation plan provides for 'Short-term' 'Medium-term' and 'Long-term' action plan for ensuring Aviral and Nirmal Ganga. The allocation of ₹ 2037 crores has been made for Namami Gange in the budget for 2014-15.

#### **Plan for cleaning of Ganga**

148. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether, in the light of recent observations of Supreme Court on depolluting river Ganga, Government has drawn up any time-phased plan for cleaning of the river; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to restore Ganga to its pristine glory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI SANWAR LAL JAT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The projects and activities under Ganga Rejuvenation plan include pollution abatement measures for different sources of pollution, river front development, Afforestation and conservation of aquatic life, Communication and public outreach, water quality monitoring and enforcement of standards and other policy initiatives for ensuring Aviral and Nirmal Ganga.