

(b) if so, the details thereof so far, State-wise including Telangana and the amount spent during the last two years to stop misusing ground water in the country; and

(c) the role of NGOs and other private players in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI SANWAR LAL JAT): (a) to (c) The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has been established under the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other national resources including ground water, enforcement of any legal right relating to environment and giving relief and compensation for damages to persons and property and for matters connected therewith.

At present, there are 30 cases being dealt with at NGT wherein Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) is one of the respondents. All these cases have been filed by Non-Government Organisations/Voluntary Organisations/NGT Bar Associations/Companies or individuals.

#### **Scheme for Ganga rejuvenation**

†151. DR. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any scheme for Ganga rejuvenation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time limit for Ganga rejuvenation and the details of State's participation therein?

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

(b) and (c) New initiatives under "Namami Gange" approaches Ganga Rejuvenation by consolidating the existing ongoing efforts and planning for integrated and comprehensive action plan recognizing the multi-sectoral, multi-disciplinary challenges of Ganga rejuvenation and need for collaborative action at different levels. Incorporating the existing projects under the NGRBA, the Ganga rejuvenation plan provides for 'Short-term' (3 years), 'Medium-term' (5 years) and 'Long-term' (10 years and more) action

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

plan. The projects and activities under this 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 etc. and enforcement of standards and other policy initiatives for ensuring Aviral and Nirmal Ganga.

The 5 States on the main stem of Ganga (Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal) have been focused upon presently as priority areas of the action plan. However, the other States in the basin would be involved in the long term action plan based upon the Ganga River Basin Management Plan under development currently by the consortium of IITs.

#### **Restoration of Ganga river**

152. SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the process of restoring ecological balance of the river Ganga has been initiated; if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for the delay;
- (b) whether Government proposes to deal with restoration of the river and what is the funding required for the same;
- (c) whether any expert body/committee has been appointed in an advisory capacity or in any other way to make suggestions, recommendations and solutions to deal with this grave situation; and
- (d) whether Government has any timeline in place for initiation and completion of its restoration and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI SANWAR LAL JAT): (a) Yes Sir. The Central Government by a Notification dated 29.09.2014, has reconstituted the 'National Ganga River Basin Authority' (NGRBA) to ensure effective abatement of pollution and rejuvenation of the river Ganga and to maintain minimum ecological flow in the river Ganga. The Ganga River Basin Management Plan under preparation currently by the Consortium of 7 IITs aims for restoration of the wholesomeness of river Ganga and its tributaries in terms of ensuring "Aviral and Nirmal Dhara", and maintaining the ecological and geological integrity of the river.