

Ganga Guard CORPS

790. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to create Ganga Guard Corps;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with its aims and objectives;
- (c) the reasons for delay in starting the work to clean Ganga; and
- (d) the corrective steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI SANWAR LAL JAT): (a) and (b) A proposal for raising of 4 Battalions of Composite Eco Task force named as Ganga Task Force has been approved in principle by Ministry of Defence in December, 2014. Ganga Task Force shall be responsible for (i) plantation of trees in upper reaches and banks of Ganga, (ii) strengthening of pollution monitoring mechanism on ground, (iii) management of public awareness and participation programmes, (iv) watch and ward for protection of bio-diversity in Ganga, (v) assistance in management of Ghats especially during major congregations and (vi) assisting during floods and natural calamities etc.

(c) and (d) With the objective of improving the water quality of river Ganga, Ganga Action Plan (GAP) Phase-I was launched as a centrally funded scheme in 1985 and later GAP Phase-II was initiated in 1993 on 70:30 cost sharing basis between Centre & States. Under both phases of GAP, effluent treatment capacity of 1098 million litre per day (mld) (domestic sewage: 1078 mld, industrial effluent: 20 mld) have been established.

Further, the Government has set up the 'National Ganga River Basin Authority' (NGRBA) on 20.2.2009 (reconstituted on 29.09.2014) under the Environment Protection Act of 1986 for funding pollution abatement projects on 70:30 cost sharing basis between Centre and States. Treatment capacity of 702.23 mld (including 64 mld for rehabilitation of old STPs) shall be created on implementation of sanctioned sewerage projects, of which a treatment capacity of 123 mld has been created so far. These include a World Bank assisted National Ganga River Basin Project (NGRBP) for 7000 crore, a Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) assisted Project at Varanasi for 496.90 crore and projects with Government's own resources.

The Union budget 2014-15 has announced the Integrated Ganga Conservation Mission – 'Namami Gange' in June, 2014. It approaches Ganga Rejuvenation based

on learning lessons from the past, and by consolidating the existing ongoing efforts and planning for integrated and comprehensive action plan for 'Short-term' (3 years), 'Medium-term' (5 years) and 'Long-term' (10 years and more). The projects and activities under this plan include pollution abatement measures for different sources of pollution and other policy initiatives.

Repairs, renovation and restoration of water bodies in NER

791. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of water bodies identified by Government for repairs, renovation and restoration, State-wise in North Eastern Region (NER);
- (b) the details of programmes/schemes initiated by Government in consultation with the State Governments in this regard; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to expedite the programmes/schemes for the purpose in the region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI SANWAR LAL JAT): (a) to (c) The Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) scheme of this Ministry has multiple objectives such as reclamation of lost irrigation potential, improvement of command area/catchment area of the tanks, restoring/increase in storage capacity of water bodies, Recharge of ground water and development of tourism and cultural activities. The respective State Governments need to submit their proposal of water bodies as per the guidelines for RRR scheme for obtaining the Central Assistance. Government has identified 42 water bodies in the NER for assistance under the scheme as per details given in the Statement.

Statement

Details of water bodies identified by North Eastern States for Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) scheme

State	No. of water bodies	Category	Proposed Cost (₹ in crore)
Assam	9	Special	98.00
Nagaland	19	Special	14.579
Manipur	4	Special	85.12
Meghalaya	10	Special	14.26