

**Steps taken for cleaning Ganga**

†949. SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH :

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps taken by Government for cleaning Ganga during the last two years and the resentment expressed by the National Green Tribunal in this regard; and

(b) the amount spent on the existing basic infrastructure and resources during that period towards cleaning Ganga?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI SANWAR LAL JAT): (a) and (b) The following steps have been taken by the Government, for cleaning Ganga in the last two years:

- (i) The work of Ganga cleaning has been brought under Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation for better coordination and support of technical agencies like the Central Water Commission.
- (ii) An Integrated Ganga Conservation Mission called “Namami Gange” has been set up and approved by the Cabinet. Recognizing the multi-sectoral, multi-dimensional and multi-stakeholder nature of the Ganga Rejuvenation challenge, the key Ministries comprising of WR, RD & GR, Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shipping, Tourism, Urban Development, Drinking Water and Sanitation and Rural Development have been working together to arrive at an integrated action plan.
- (iii) The already sanctioned, ongoing schemes, under NGRBA are under implementation. (Uttarakhand-20, UP-15, Bihar-14, Jharkhand-1, West-Bengal-30). In addition, other projects for cleaning of Ganga have been undertaken during 2013-14 and 2014-15 at a cost of ₹ 303.95 and 326.00 crore respectively.

The National Green Tribunal has expressed concern in general about the pollution caused by the discharge of untreated industrial and domestic effluent in river Ganga by various industries/municipalities and asked the concerned industries/municipalities and the States concerned, through which the river Ganga and its tributaries flow,

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

to furnish the details of the remedial action taken for controlling pollution in river Ganga. The action taken by the industries, Municipalities, Central Government, State Governments and other statutory authorities is being monitored by the National Green Tribunal from time to time.

#### **Receding ground water level**

†950. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that waterfalls in the hilly regions are drying and the ground water level is receding in the plains continuously;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last five years;

(c) whether Government is taking any steps to recharge the ground water reserves;

(d) the rate of ground water receding and whether there is a possibility of shortage of drinking water in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI SANWAR LAL JAT): (a) and (b) Assessment of ground water level monitoring data for the plains by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), for pre-monsoon 2015, compared with last five years mean of pre-monsoon (2010-2014), indicates that out of total 14346 wells analysed, around 46% of the wells are showing decline in ground water levels in various parts of the Country. In the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Meghalaya, Puducherry, Punjab, Telangana, and Uttarakhand, more than 50% of the monitored wells have registered decline in ground water levels. No information is centrally maintained with regard to drying up of waterfalls by this Ministry.

(c) Government has taken several steps emphasizing rain water harvesting measures in various parts of the Country:

- Ministry of Water Resources, RD and GR has circulated a Model Bill to all the States/UTs to enable them to enact suitable ground water

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