

Drive to clean Ganga

151. SHRI PAUL MANOJ PANDIAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that, according to many experts, the drive to clean Ganga has remained cosmetic, so far, as there was no engineering solution in place;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that river Ganga is getting more polluted day by day and places along the river are becoming dirty; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SUSHRI UMA BHARATI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The various types of pollution abatement schemes taken up to clean Ganga may be categorized into core and non-core schemes. Core Schemes include creation of Interception and diversion (I&D) of sewage discharging into the Ganga river and creating treatment infrastructure to treat the intercepted sewage. Non-Core Schemes include providing Low Cost Sanitation (LCS) at community and individual levels at identified locations, Installation of Crematoria (electric as well as wood based improved crematoria), River Front Development (RFD) including bathing ghats, Afforestation, protecting bio-diversity and creating Public awareness and participation.

Under NGRBA, 96 projects have been sanctioned in 53 towns. These include 58 projects for creation of 808.23 MLD new Sewage Treatment Capacity and rehabilitation of 1089.00 MLD existing capacity. It also involves laying / rehabilitation of 3627.15 Km sewer network. In addition, there are 25 river Front Development projects, which include creation of Ghats, Crematoria, Public and River interface and promenades. Of these, 28 schemes have been completed as on 29th Feb., 2016.

(c) and (d) No Sir, In fact, pollution levels, as measured by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), have shown improvement in water quality of river Ganga.

Sewage treatment capacity in Ganga basin States

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

- (a) the present total sewage generation and sewage treatment capacity in the 11 Ganga Basin States;

(b) whether Government has taken any steps to bridge the gap between sewage generated and sewage treatment capacity of Ganga Basin States and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the further steps taken by Government for mandatory sewage treatment in Ganga Basin States?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SUSHRI UMA BHARATI): (a) to (c) The Consortium of IITs has estimated that 12050 mld of sewage is generated from Class-I & II towns in 11 Ganga basin States, of which about 7301 mld is generated from the 175 Class I and 102 Class II towns of 5 Ganga basin States on the main stem of river Ganga namely, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal. The available treatment capacity is about 2125 mld. In addition, STPs for a treatment capacity of about 1188 mld are under construction / approval, thus leaving a gap of about 3988 mld in the 5 basin States.

Proposals for rehabilitation and upgradation of existing STPs, Interception and Diversion of drains and construction of new STPs have been received from States on the main stem of river Ganga, to further minimize the gap in treatment capacity. In addition, 5 central public sector units namely WAPCOS, EIL, NBCC, NPCC, EPIL have been recently engaged to execute entry level activities including cleaning of river surface in their respective river stretches in these States.

Delay in completion of sewage treatment plants

153. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware that the inordinate delay in completion of sewage treatment plants along the river Ganga; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SUSHRI UMA BHARATI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There has not been inordinate delay in completion of sewage treatment plants along river Ganga in general. However, delay in the completion of a few STPs has been noticed. The major reasons for the delay in completion of the STPs include (i) Non availability of land, (ii) Disputes on land ownership, (iii) Delay in grant of permissions for road cutting, forest clearance etc., (iv) Work stoppages due to festivals, (v) Monsoon / floods disaster, (vi) Delays in tendering process. The concerned State Governments have been requested to address these issues and expedite the completion of the projects.