

Interlinking of rivers

*8. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent till date from ₹ 100 crores allocated for preparation of detailed project reports on interlinking of rivers;

(b) the amount spent till date from ₹ 100 crore which was set aside for the development and beautification of ghats in Kedarnath, Haridwar, Kanpur, Varanasi, Allahabad, Patna and Delhi;

(c) what is the level of progress achieved, till date; and

(d) the detailed break-up of amount spent in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SUSHRI UMA BHARATI): (a) The requisite funds have been made available to National Water Development Agency (NWDA) for carrying out the required investigation and Studies and preparing the Feasibility Reports (FR) and DPRs of Interlinking of Rivers Projects. The DPR of Par-Tapi -Narmada link project has been completed in August, 2015. Further, NWDA has also taken up the DPR of four intra State links of Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Odisha and Tamil Nadu. So far NWDA has completed 137 Water Balance studies, 32 Prefeasibility studies and 16 Feasibility Reports.

(b) to (d) The 100 crore allocated for the development and beautification of ghats has been transferred to the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG). In turn, NMCG has decided to develop River Front Development (RFD) projects at 7 places along river Ganga namely Kedarnath, Haridwar, Kanpur, Allahabad, Varanasi, Patna and Delhi. Accordingly, State Governments have been informed to develop necessary project proposals and submit to NMCG for further consideration and approval. The current status is as follows:

- (1) For Haridwar, Administrative Approval and Expenditure Sanction (AA&ES) for "Development of Chandighat" has been issued at an estimated cost of ₹ 50.36 crore.
- (2) For Delhi, one project pertaining to Chatghat Delhi was earlier submitted by Government, of Delhi and the same has been currently revised at an estimated cost of ₹ 2.5 crore.
- (3) For Kedarnath, feasibility report for proposed pollution abatement and river front development works in Kedarpuri, Kedarnath, and Uttarakhand have been appraised

in Twelfth Empowered Steering Committee (ESC) meeting and was recommended for preparing the DPRs.

- (4) The proposals for the rest of the four towns are being developed by the concerned State Government.
- (5) In addition, 5 leading CPSUs namely WAPCOS, EIL, NBCC, NPCC and EPIL have been entrusted the work of ghat repair/modernization works along Ganga in all the 5 States. Proposals for repair/modernization/ development of 28 ghats (including 11 crematoria) have been approved in Uttarakhand at an estimated cost of ₹ 71 crore. Sixty one more ghats (including 13 crematoria) are under approval in Uttarakhand, UP and Bihar, as proposed by these CPSUs.

Electricity from gas produced from human waste

*9. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry is aware that gas produced from decaying human waste can be used as a source of electricity while improving sanitary condition;
- (b) whether the Ministry has made an assessment in this regard and whether this form of renewable energy can be scaled up;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Yes, Sir. The processing of human excreta through specially designed anaerobic digesters produces biogas. If biogas is produced in large quantity, the same can be utilized as a source of generating electricity. The process also helps in improving sanitation.

(b) to (d) No, Sir. However, wherever, the human waste is available in the large quantity, the biogas technology can be deployed for useful purpose. Under the National Biogas and Manure Management Programme (NBMMP) scheme of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, household biogas plants based on cattle dung waste, are linked with the sanitary toilets which also depend upon the acceptability of the individual household. The process of scaling up of toilet linked biogas plants and their acceptance is directly related with the perceptions of the rural and semi-urban masses. The large systems of excreta disposal through biogas plants to be technically effective requires fulfillment of certain requirements, such as —