

2016 under Namami Gange Programme. These projects pertain to modernization and/or development of ghats, Crematoria, setting up biodiversity centers, deploying trash skimmers for river surface cleaning, setting up Sewage treatment plants, sewage pumping stations, fisheries centre, pilot projects for *in-situ* treatment of waste water in drains, ghat cleaning, medicinal plantations, afforestation etc. along Namami Gange Programme to be taken in various towns along Ganga and its tributaries. A total of 123 Ghats, 65 Crematoria, 8 sewage infrastructure and 35 other projects have been taken up.

(c) The target set for completion of these projects range between 18 months to 24 months.

Implementation of Namami Gange Programme

850. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) the implementation status of steps taken by Government in the Namami Gange Programme;

(b) whether Government has partnered with any private agencies in the project and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any studies have been conducted to identify grossly polluting industries which cause major damage to water bodies across the country, including Ganga; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action being taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) The steps taken by the Government include holding regular meetings of the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA), High Level Task Force (HLTF) and Empowered Steering Committee (ESC) to expedite the implementation of Namami Gange Programme.

The status of the Namami Gange Programme as on 30th June 2016 is given below:

97 projects has been sanctioned under Namami Gange programme (including the existing projects sanctioned under NGRBA programme) in 53 towns at an estimated project cost of ₹ 8588.21 Crore. Out of these, 12 projects have been sanctioned exclusively under new component of Namami Gange programme at a sanctioned cost of ₹ 351.42 Crore.

Apart from above, the other initiatives taken include:

- "River Surface and Ghat Cleaning" programme using thrash skimmers has been taken up initially in 6 cities namely Mathura-Vrindavan, Kanpur, Allahabad, Varanasi, Patna and New Delhi under the Namami Gange programme.
- Five Central Public Sector Undertakings namely WAPCOS, EIL, NBCC, NPCC, EPIL have been recently engaged to carry out work on condition Assessment and Feasibility Studies and Entry level activities under Namami Gange Programme in their respective river stretches in Uttarakhand, UP, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal. 59 towns have been surveyed so far and 27 pre-feasibility reports prepared and received. The other activities taken up under entry level activities include repair and modernization of Ghats, provision of public amenities, village level drain (VLD) treatment, repair and modernization of crematoria etc.
- 1242 ghats, 369 crematoria and 411 VLDs identified so far from the surveys and out of these 191 Ghats and 64 Crematoriums are recommended by ESC till date.

(b) No, Sir. The Government has not partnered with any private agencies in this project. The works are implemented through open tendering and all eligible parties, including private players, are free to compete in the tendering process.

(c) and (d) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) studies show that 5 key industrial sectors (Pulp & paper, Distillery, Sugar, Textile and Tannery) have been contributing 90% of organic pollution load (118 tonnes/day) from 674 industrial units out of 764 identified units. CPCB has issued directions (March, 2015) under Section 18 (1) (b) of Water Act, 1974 to five State Pollution Control Boards on the main stem of Ganga, for obtaining the action plan from the said industrial units for achieving Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) standards. Regular monitoring of the industrial units is being carried out by CPCB for the compliance verification of discharge standards. Closure notices have been issued to defaulters.

Toxic pollutant in ground water

851. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 100 million people in the country live in areas where the ground water is infected with atleast one toxic pollutant;