

set up Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) of adequate capacity and provide underground sewerage system to cover the entire local / urban areas and to bridge the treatment gap. Along with enforcement of consent management in line with standards for sewage treatment, CPCB also issued reminder letter for expediting the action taken report.

CPCB also issued direction u/s 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to Municipal authorities of Dehradun, Kanpur, Lucknow, Allahabad, Varanasi, Patna, Dhanbad, Kolkata for treatment and utilization of sewage for restoration of water quality of rivers.

Steps have also been taken under Namami Gange Programme to set up new STP and upgrade existing STPs to bridge the gap between sewage generation and sewage treatment capacity. National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has engaged 5 Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) for taking condition assessment feasibility study for 118 towns located on the bank of river Ganga so as to plan for required sewerage infrastructure including STPs in a systematic manner.

Cleaning of Ganga

2231. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) major steps taken for the cleaning of Ganga and particularly for preventing its further contamination, since 2014;
- (b) the major areas in which people have remarkably participated in cleaning Ganga or preventing its contamination; and
- (c) the public awareness measures taken by Government, so far, in this regard and the success of these efforts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) Cabinet approved the Namami Gange program on 13th May, 2015 as a comprehensive approach to rejuvenate the river Ganga and its all tributaries under one umbrella by integrating the ongoing projects and new projects by adopting a holistic approach with the river basin as the unit of planning. 'Namami Gange' implementation covers short term, medium term and long term activities. Under short term action plan, certain interventions have been visualized under the heading of 'Entry Level Activities' which covers development of ghats, crematoria and river surface cleaning activities.

Under medium term action plan, existing Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) and Effluent Treatment Plants (ETPs) will be upgraded and new STPs and ETPs will be established with an aim to stop untreated sewerage and industrial wastes falling in the river. Besides, rural sanitation has been taken up in the villages on the banks of River Ganga.

The long term action plan involves restoration of wholesomeness of River Ganga, maintaining the ecological and geological integrity of the river.

(b) Community has come forward and participated in awareness programmes like Ganga run, voluntary action for ghat cleaning, plantation drives, cleanliness drives along Ghats in form of ShramDaan, contribution in clean Ganga Fund (a contributory fund for Namami Gange Programme), various cultural activities viz. slogan writing, painting and sports competition by the schools and colleges to facilitate people-river connect, fishing communities are following practices so as to conserve the fish stock of the river, farmers along the river has started using organic farming, some of the villages along the Ganga are contributing in achieving the status of open defecation free villages and management of sewage.

(c) Public Awareness is being carried out through print, electronic, social and outdoor media. Newspaper advertisements and press releases are issued on regular basis. To motivate the public, Namami Gange song / short movies are played during important events and in movie theatres. Print material in the form of brochures, handouts etc. are developed and distributed in public gathering and during exhibitions/workshops/seminars etc. Hoardings, banners, and exhibitions etc. are other form of outdoor publicity and awareness activities which are carried out from time to time.

Consultations with Public representatives, administrators, volunteers, are also being organized for facilitating the active involvement of key stakeholders.

In addition to the above, few activities specific to villages are also being undertaken such as (i). Development of Ganga Grams: Sanitation related awareness, (ii) Exposure visit of Gram Pradhans from the villages along Ganga to Seenchewal village to understand and replicate Seenchewal model, (iii) Youth volunteers of Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan are also involved in public outreach and awareness activities in villages, (iv) Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) under its Adult Literacy programme has developed a booklet named 'Ganga Rahi Pukar' which is being widely distributed. For accepting suggestions and for voluntary action, a separate portal- 'Ganga Vichar Manch' has also been developed.

Study on ground water

†2232. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that lakhs of litres of sewerage from houses, cities and industries directly goes into rivers ponds and drains on daily basis which not only pollute rivers, ponds and drains but also pollute ground water on large scale and several diseases thrive due to drinking of polluted water;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.