

Merging of CWC and CGWB

1428. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Mihir Shah which has recommended merging of the Central Water Commission (CWC) and the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) to make the National Water Commission (NWC);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons behind such a recommendation;

(c) whether the proposed NWC is going to work under the Ministry or is going to work as independently as an autonomous body;

(d) whether the consultations on formation of NWC have been held with States; and

(e) if so, the outcome of such consultations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation has constituted a Committee on Restructuring of CWC and CGWB in September, 2015 for optimal development of Water Resources in the country in the backdrop of Integrated Water Resources Management under the Chairmanship of Dr. Mihir Shah. The Committee has submitted its report in July 2016, which is under consideration in the Ministry.

Cleaning of rivers

†1429. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no step has been taken so far with regard to cleaning of Ganga, Yamuna and other important rivers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, the present status thereof; and

(d) by when the rivers would be made pollution free?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI VIJAY GOEL):

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) No, Sir. The Union Government has accorded top priority to address the challenges and issues with regard to cleaning of Ganga, Yamuna and other important tributaries of Ganga. A comprehensive Ganga Conservation Mission—'Namami Gange' has been launched and the same is under implementation covering short term; medium term and long term activities. Activities under Namami Gange include pollution abatement projects on main stem Ganga, Yamuna, Ram Ganga, Kali and others.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As on 30th September 2016, 128 projects have been sanctioned under Namami Gange Programme (including the existing projects sanctioned under NGRBA Programme) at an estimated project cost of ₹ 9419 crore. Out of these, 42 projects are sanctioned exclusively under new components of Namami Gange Programme with a sanctioned cost of ₹ 977.07 crore. 58 project are sanctioned to create 808.23 MLD new STP and rehabilitation of 1089.00 MLD of STP and laying/rehabilitation of 3627.15 km sewer network. 8 projects are completed which has created 127.90 MLD of STP and laid 847.36 km of sewerage network.

(d) The NGRBA has resolved that no untreated municipal sewage or industrial effluent will be discharged into River Ganga by year 2020.

Ground water crisis

1430. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the States that rely heavily on agriculture, especially Punjab, are facing acute ground water crisis;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government has conducted any study to ascertain the long term effects on agriculture production due to shrinking ground water levels in Punjab; and

(d) if so, what are the steps proposed to ensure that there is optimum usage of water without affecting crop production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) to (d) Dependence on ground water to meet the requirement of irrigation is high in several parts of the Country including the State of Punjab. As per the Dynamic Ground Water Resources Assessment, out of 138 assessment units in Punjab, 110 units are under 'over-exploited' category. The resource estimation studies undertaken by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) in collaboration with the