

In XII Plan, so far 1354 water bodies have been included under RRR of water bodies scheme and works in 464 water bodies have been completed.

**Policy on silt management of river Ganga**

2075. SHRI K.T.S. TULSI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any policy on silt management in the backdrop of reduction of depth of Ganga river on account of siltation which added to the floods of 2016; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, by when will Government be able to frame such a policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) and (b) Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has issued Sustainable Sand Mining Management Guidelines 2016 which has been prepared with extensive consultations with states and other stakeholders. The guidelines amongst its other objectives are also aimed at:—

- (I) Ensuring conservation of the river equilibrium and its natural environment by protection and restoration of the ecological system,
- (II) Ensuring that the rivers are protected from bank and bed erosion beyond its stable profile,
- (III) Avoiding pollution of river water leading to water quality deterioration,
- (IV) Maintaining the river equilibrium with the application of sediment transport.

Further, Government has constituted a Committee for preparation of Guidelines for desiltation of river Ganga from Bhimgauda (Uttarakhand) to Farakka (West Bengal) under the Chairmanship of Shri Madhav Chitale (former Expert Member, National Ganga River Basin Authority and Ex Secretary to the Government of India), with Secretary (Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation) and Secretary (Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) as other members. The report of the committee has been submitted.