

Plastic waste dumped into river Ganga

†1425. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge amount of plastic waste is being dumped in the Ganga river every year increasing the level of pollution every year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has taken a number of stern steps to prevent disposal of plastic waste in Ganga river; and

(d) if so, whether these steps are yielding desired result?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (DR. SATYA PAL SINGH): (a) and (b) No such study particular to Ganga basin has been conducted by this Ministry to ascertain that level of pollution in river Ganga is increasing every year due to plastic waste being dumped into river. However, Central Pollution Control Board carried out a study 'Assessment and Characterisation of plastic waste generation in 60 major cities' in January' 2015. Among these 60 cities studied some were located in Ganga basin viz. Delhi, Lucknow, Allahabad, Meerut, Kanpur, Patna, Kolkata. It was observed that out of total municipal solid waste generated by these cities, 6.92 % is plastic waste. The plastic waste if not managed properly ends up in waterways/ivers.

(c) and (d) Government has notified Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 and Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016. As per these, the generators of waste have been mandated to take steps to minimize generation of plastic waste, not to litter the plastic waste, ensure segregated storage of waste at source and handover segregated waste to local bodies or agencies authorised by the local bodies. The rules also mandate the responsibilities of local bodies, gram panchayats, waste generators, retailers and street vendors to manage plastic waste. The rules mandate the producers, importers and brand owners to work out modalities for waste collection system based on the principle of Extended Producer Responsibility.

Further, for removing solid waste such as religious materials, plastics etc. floating on the surface of river Ganga trash skimmers have been deployed at 11 location on river Ganga and its tributaries. These 11 locations are at Delhi, Haridwar, Garhmukteshwar, Kanpur, Allahabad, Varanasi, Patna, Sahibganj, Howrah, Mathura-Vrindavan, and Nabadwip.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Fund utilisation for cleaning of river Ganga

1426. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the river Ganga has become more dirty and polluted since 2014 even in Varanasi, the constituency of Hon'ble Prime Minister;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of fund allocated, released and utilised during 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 till date; and

(d) the details of projects undertaken, completed and pending since 2014 till date along with money spent for cleaning of river Ganga, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (DR. SATYA PAL SINGH): (a) and (b) Under the Namami Gange Programme, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is carrying out the water quality monitoring of river Ganga from Gangotri to West Bengal. Comparison of observed water quality of last four years at Varanasi (2014–2017) with bathing water quality criteria indicates that Dissolved Oxygen which is an indicator of river health has been found to be within acceptable limits of notified primary bathing water quality criteria and satisfactory to support the ecosystem of river across all season and also for almost entire stretch of river Ganga. Other parameters at monitoring sites located at Varanasi viz. BOD and faecal coliforms have not deteriorated at Varanasi since 2014.

Further, due to various pollution abatement initiatives taken by the Government, under the Namami Gange Programme, the river water quality monitoring carried out in 2017 indicates improvement in water quality trends as compared to 2016. The Dissolved Oxygen levels have improved at 33 locations and is above the primary bathing water quality requirements of 5 mg/l, Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) levels and Faecal coliforms have decreased at 26 locations and at 30 locations, respectively which include the locations at Varanasi also.

The current sewage generation from the Varanasi town is estimated at 300 Million Litres per Day (MLD) which is expected to increase to 390 MLD in year 2030. Currently the 3 operational Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) have 102 MLD treatment capacities. 2 new STPs (Goitha- 120 MLD and Dinapur-140 MLD) are in advance stages of completion while for Assi BHU area, one more STP of 50 MLD

STP at Ramana is under construction. The completion of these projects shall create a total capacity of 412 MLD in Varanasi, adequate to meet the sewage treatment demand till the year 2035.

(c) The details of fund released and utilised during 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2018-19 till 30 June, 2018 are tabulated below:—

(₹ in crore)

Financial Year	Releases by Government of India	Expenditure/Releases by NMCG
2014-15	326.00	170.99
2015-16	1,632.00	602.60
2016-17	1,675.00	1,062.81
2017-18	1,423.22	1,625.11
2018-19*	467.00	405.97
TOTAL	5,523.22	3,867.48

(*upto 30 June 2018)

(d) Under “Namami Gange Programme” since 2014, 165 projects of sewage infrastructure, bioremediation, modular STPs, rural sanitation (construction of Individual Household Latrine (IHHL) across gram panchayat along Ganga river), industrial pollution abatement, river front development, ghats and crematoria development, ghats cleaning, river surface cleaning, biodiversity conservation, afforestation, institutional development (non-infrastructure), project implementation support/research and study projects, and composite ecological task force have been sanctioned. Since 2014, 34 projects have been completed and rest are at different stage of implementation. Details are given below in Table:—

Description	No of Projects	Expenditure (₹ in crores)
No of Projects Sanctioned after 2014	165	
No of Projects Completed, after 2014	34	1163.37*
No of Projects Ongoing	95	3658.56
No of Projects under Tendering	68	-

(*Also include expenditure on the projects which started prior to 2014 and completed after 2014)

Since 2014 to till 30 June, 2018, ₹ 3,867.48 crore has been released by National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) to State Government/State Programme Management Groups/Other Executing Agencies of State Governments.