

| 1          | 2                              | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8  | 9  |
|------------|--------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|
| <b>UTs</b> |                                |     |     |     |     |     |    |    |
| 1.         | Andaman and<br>Nicobar Islands |     |     |     |     | 1   |    |    |
| 2.         | Chandigarh                     |     |     |     |     |     |    |    |
| 3.         | Dadra and Nagar<br>Haveli      |     |     |     |     |     |    |    |
| 4.         | Daman and Diu                  |     |     |     | 1   |     |    |    |
| 5.         | Puducherry                     |     |     |     |     |     |    |    |
| TOTAL      |                                | 212 | 335 | 386 | 153 | 301 | 93 | 24 |

**Under utilisation of budget for NGP**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that out of ₹ 20,000 crores sanctioned for the Namami Gange Project (NGP) for cleaning Ganga, only ₹ 7,000 crores has been spent till 2018;

(b) if so, the reasons for the underutilisation of the budget sanctioned for the project considering the fact that the project is supposed to end in 2020; and

(c) the details of the rise in ambient quality level of water of the river Ganga during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (DR. SATYA PAL SINGH):

(a) No, Sir. Out of 20,000 crores sanctioned for the Namami Gange Program (NGP) for cleaning of Ganga, ₹ 5,523.22 crore has been released by Government of India to National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) from 2014-15 to 2018-19 till 30th June 2018. Subsequently NMCG has released to State Governments/State Programme Management Groups/Other Executing Agencies of State Governments ₹ 3,867.48 crore, under the Namami Gange Program.

(b) An amount of ₹ 20,000 crore has been allotted over a period of five years to be spent by December 2020. During this period, *i.e.* 2014-2015 to 2018-2019, an amount of ₹ 5,523.22 crore was released to NMCG. Against this, NMCG has incurred ₹ 3,867.48 crore till 30 June 2018 which is 70.02 percent of funds released.

Most of the infrastructure projects are implemented by States and their executing agencies. Under-utilization of funds is on account of slow pace of execution of projects on account of, *inter alia*, delays in acquisition of land, obtaining No Objection Certificates (NOCs) from concerned regulatory authorities, poor response to tenders from contractors resulting in retendering, labor trouble, poor performance by contractors resulting in cancellation of contracts etc. However, after the constitution of NMCG as an authority and its operationalization by December 2016, the pace of sanction of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs), Interception and Diversion Works and associated projects, as also various other projects leading to capital assets creation have gained pace and are at different stages of implementation and execution on the ground. This is likely to result in achievement of not only physical targets but also higher expenditure as can be seen from following table.

(₹ in crore)

| F.Y.                   | Actual Expenditure by NMCG |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2014-15                | 170.99                     |
| 2015-16                | 602.60                     |
| 2016-17                | 1,062.81                   |
| 2017-18                | 1,625.11                   |
| 2018-19                | 405.97                     |
| (Till 30th June, 2018) |                            |

(c) 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 (2015-2017) 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 water quality criteria and satisfactory to support the ecosystem of river across all seasons and for almost entire stretch of river Ganga.

Further, the river water quality monitoring carried out in 2017 indicates improvement in water quality trends as compared to 2016. The Dissolved Oxygen levels are improving at 33 locations and is above the quality requirements of 5 mg/l. Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) levels are decreasing at 26 locations and coliform bacteria count is decreasing at 30 locations.

Some examples of stretches showing improvements are:

- (a) Ganga at Rishikesh U/S
- (b) Ganga at Haridwar D/S
- (c) Ganga at Allahabad D/S (Sangam),
- (d) Ganga at Kanpur D/S (Jajmau Pumping Station)
- (e) Ganga at Varanasi U/S (Assighat)
- (f) Ganga at Buxar, Ramrekhaghat
- (g) Ganga at Punpun, Patna
- (h) Ganga at Diamond Harbour
- (i) Ganga at Garden Reach
- (j) Ganga at Baharampur
- (k) Ganga at Howrah Shivpur