Cleaning of Ganga and Yamuna rivers

2859. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of progress made in the action plans to clean the rivers Ganga and Yamuna; and
- (b) whether there is any comparative report on pollution before initiating the action plan and after it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (DR. SATYA PAL SINGH): (a) The cleaning of rivers is an continuous process and Government of India is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in addressing the challenges of pollution of river Ganga by providing financial assistance. Under Namami Gange Programme variety of coordinated activities meant for cleaning of river Ganga have been taken up. These include treatment of municipal sewage, treatment of industrial effluent, drain bioremediation, river surface cleaning, rural sanitation, river front development, construction of ghats and crematoria, afforestation and biodiversity conservation, public outreach programme etc. A total of 254 projects have been sanctioned till November, 2018 at an estimated cost of ₹24,672 crore. Out of these, 75 projects have been completed.

Against the estimated sewage generation of 2953 Million Litres per Day (MLD) from the towns along main stem of river Ganga, the sewage treatment capacity in the towns along Ganga has increased from 1305 MLD (2014) to 1822 MLD capacity, while the projects for creation of 819 Mid Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) capacity are at advanced stages of completion. In addition, the projects for creation of 731.5 MLD have been approved and are under tendering.

Cleaning of Yamuna is also part of the Namami Gange Programme and this Ministry is supplementing the efforts of the States for checking the rising level of pollution of river Yamuna, a tributary of River Ganga, by providing financial assistance to States of Haryana, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh in phased manner since 1993 under the Yamuna Action Plan (YAP). The total expenditure incurred on conservation of river Yamuna under the YAP Phase - I & II is ₹ 1514.70 crore.

In addition, 17 projects have been taken up under Namami Gange programme in the States of Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh at an estimated cost of ₹4161.77 crore to create / rehabilitate sewage treatment capacity of 1774 MLD. Of these, 2 projects have been completed and remaining are at different stages of implementation.

Further, Government of Delhi has taken up projects for construction of 68 MLD STP Delhi Gate drain, 7 numbers of decentralized waste water treatment plants in Najafgarh zone, laying of sewer lines in unauthorised colonies and rehabilitation of peripheral sewer lines, from its own resources.

(b) Under the Namami Gange Programme, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is carrying out the water quality monitoring of river Ganga. Comparison of observed water quality of last four years 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 seasons and also for almost entire stretch of river Ganga.

Due to various pollution abatement initiatives taken by the Government under the Namami Gange Programme, the river water quality assessment in 2018 has shown improved water quality trend as compared to 2017. The Dissolved Oxygen levels have improved at 39 locations, Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) levels and Faecal Coliforms have decreased at 42 and 47 locations, respectively.

Online grant of NOC for groundwater extraction

2860. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the entire process of grant of No-Objection Certificate (NOC) will be done online through a web based application system of Central Ground Water Authority;