

the NPRPS by M/s PWC India Pvt. Ltd have been completed. The CBIPM project was closed on 31.03.2018.

NGT directions on cleaning river

1973. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Green Tribunal has directed all States and Union Territories to prepare action plans within two months to clean the polluted stretches of rivers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the action plans should aim at improving the polluted stretches for at least bathing purposes; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that further action is needed to restore the minimum prescribed standards for all the rivers of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (c) As per the report published by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in September 2018, 351 polluted river stretches have been identified on 323 rivers based on Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), a key indicator of organic pollution. Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT), Principal Bench, New Delhi has passed an order on 20.09.2018 in Original Application No. 673/2018 directing all the States and Union Territories to prepare action plans within 2 months for improving the water quality of the polluted river stretches upto the bathing standards [*i.e.* BOD<3 milligrams/litre and fecal coliform<500 Most Probable Number (MPN)/100 millilitre]. Hon'ble NGT has also directed the States for constitution of River Rejuvenation Committees (RRCs) comprising of Director-Environment, Director-Urban Development, Director-Industries and Member Secretary-State Pollution Control Board (SPCB)/Pollution Control Committee (PCC) for preparation and finalization of the action plans. The RRCs will function under the overall supervision and coordination of the Principal Secretary, Environment of the concerned State/Union Territory.

(d) Pollution abatement of rivers is a continuous and ongoing process. It is the responsibility of the State Governments/concerned local bodies to set up facilities for collection, transportation and treatment of sewage being generated and ensure that untreated sewage does not fall into the rivers, thereby polluting them. This Ministry has been supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in abatement of pollution in identified stretches of various rivers under the scheme of National

River Conservation Plan (NRCP), on a cost sharing basis between the Central and State Governments.

NRCP [excluding Ganga and its tributaries, which are handled by Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (MoWR, RD&GR) from 01.08.2014 onwards] has so far covered polluted stretches of 33 rivers in 76 towns spread over 15 States in the country at a sanctioned cost of ₹ 4801.57 crore, and Central share of ₹ 2337.73 crore has been released to the State Governments for implementation of various pollution abatement schemes. Sewage treatment capacity of 2520.43 mld (million litres per day) has been created so far under the NRCP.

State Governments, apart from their own budgetary allocation, are also accessing financial assistance for creation of sewerage infrastructure, including Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs), in various cities/towns under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) and Smart Cities Mission of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs as well as Namami Gange programme of MoWR, RD&GR.

To ensure proper treatment of municipal wastewater before discharge into the rivers, CPCB has issued directions under Section 18 1(b) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 in April, 2015 to all the SPCBs/PCCs in the country for setting up of STPs in their respective States. CPCB has also issued directions in October, 2015 to municipal authorities of 66 metropolitan cities and State capitals under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to ensure proper treatment and disposal of sewage generated for abatement of pollution of rivers.

Further, to control discharge of industrial effluents, CPCB and respective SPCBs/PCCs monitor industries with respect to effluent discharge standards and take action for non-compliance under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. To improve the monitoring of compliance, directions have been issued by CPCB to specific industries to install online 24x7 effluent monitoring systems. Steps have also been taken by CPCB to promote low waste concept in grossly water polluting industries, particularly those located on the river banks.

Implementation of NCAP

†1974. SHRIMATI KANTA KARDAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has launched a National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) to tackle the problem of increasing air pollution during winter season;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.