

(d) The Government of India is reimbursing the expenditure incurred by the Government of Andhra Pradesh on the Polavaram Irrigation Project (PIP), after declaration of this project as National Project with effect from 01.04.2014. Central Assistance (CA) of ₹ 6764.16 crore has been released to the project from time to time. Further, proposal for release of ₹ 393.51 crore was forwarded by PPA/CWC for reimbursement which was referred to Ministry of Finance. Ministry of Finance *vide* its letter dated 26th July, 2018 has sought certain clarifications majorly on two issues— (i) Audited Statement of Expenditure incurred by the State on the project till 31.03.2014, and (ii) Status of Revised Cost Estimates (RCE) of the project at 2013-14 Price Level. The State Government has not submitted the Audited Statement in this regard. Further release of funds is dependent upon compliance by the State Government on the observations of Ministry of Finance.

Water quality of river Ganga

128. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of projects for sewage treatment plants sanctioned and completed under the Clean Ganga Mission Programme; and

(b) whether Government has set a deadline of March, 2019 to ensure a 70 to 80 per cent improvement in the water quality of the river Ganga?

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

(a) Under Namami Gange Programme, a total of 136 sewerage infrastructure projects have been sanctioned and 36 projects have been completed so far; remaining projects are under various stages of implementation.

(b) The Government has launched Namami Gange Programme covering short term, medium term and long term activities. Under short term activities, certain entry level activities which cover development of ghats crematoria and river surface cleaning activities etc have been taken up. Under medium term activities, existing Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) and Effluent Treatment Plants (ETPs) are being upgraded and new STPs and ETPs are being established. Beside, rural sanitation has been taken up in the villages on the banks of river Ganga. The long term action plan involves restoration of wholesomeness of river Ganga and maintaining the ecological and geological integrity of river. The Central Government approved the Namami Gange Program in May, 2015 as a five year program till 2020. However, efforts are being made to achieve substantial progress much before the target date.

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. In addition to this, STP capacity of 3577 MLD is being created in Ganga basin.

Draft National River Ganga Bill, 2018

129. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the draft National River Ganga Bill, 2018, has proposed the setting up of an armed force "Ganga Protection Corps";

(b) if so, the powers allocated to armed personnels for offences and penalties punishable under the Ganga Act; and

(c) whether Government is planning to include in this draft the issues such as building barrages and diverting flow of the river, dredging to make way for inland water ways and hydroelectric projects that impact the flow and massive deforestation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (DR. SATYA PAL SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Draft of "The National River Ganga (Rejuvenation, Protection and Management) Bill 2018" provides for the constitution of Ganga Protection Corps as an armed forces of the union.

(b) The Ganga Protection Corps is proposed to be empowered to arrest or caused to be arrested for offence under the Act, and to take the person to the nearest police station. The Court would take cognizance of the offence on the basis of the complaint filed by the officers who are authorized under the proposed Act.

(c) The draft Act contemplates certain provisions conferring powers to the "National Council for Rejuvenation, Protection and Management of River Ganga" [National Ganga Council] to arrange to carryout or caused to be carried out impact assessment of certain projects and activities which affect or are likely to affect the flow of water in river Ganga, such as building barrages, deforestation on hill slopes, hydroelectric projects etc.

Water stressed regions

130. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that availability of water in many regions of the country