

**Action plan for cleaning rivers**

†913. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state the details of the phased action plan to cleanse and purify the water of various rivers including river Ganga and the details of various measures taken to achieve this target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (DR. SATYA PAL SINGH): Cleaning of river is a continuous process and the Government of India is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in addressing the challenges of pollution of rivers including Ganga by providing financial and technical assistance.

River Conservation Program in the country was initiated with the launching of Ganga Action Plan in 1985 which was expanded to cover other rivers under National River Conservation Plan in 1995. NRCP 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 National River Conservation Plan (NRCP).

To ensure proper treatment of municipal wastewater before discharge into the rivers, Central Pollution Control Board (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 State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/Pollution Control Committees (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.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

For Ganga and its tributaries, the Government of India 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 and crematoria and river surface cleaning activities etc. have been taken up. Under medium term activities, existing Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) and Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) are being upgraded and new STP and ETPs are being established. Besides, 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 afforestation, bio-diversity conservation and maintaining its ecological and geological identity of river. Towards the long term planning Central Government have issued notification on minimum environmental flow on river Ganga to be maintained at various locations on the river.

Under Namami Gange Programme, variety of coordinated activities meant for cleaning of river Ganga have been taken up. So far, a total of 261 projects have been sanctioned at an estimated cost of ₹ 25563.48 crore, out of which 76 projects have been completed and made operational. Rest of the projects are at various stages of implementation.

Efforts are being made to complete the short term and medium term activities by 2020.

**Completion of irrigation project in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana**

914. DR. BANDA PRAKASH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of incomplete irrigation projects which commenced five years ago in States of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana;
- (b) the reasons for not completing the projects so far;
- (c) the current status of these projects; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government for early completion of these projects to avoid time and cost overruns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): (a) to (c) As per information available in the Ministry/received from concerned States, presently, there are 34 and 24 ongoing irrigation projects in the State of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana respectively. Normal gestation period of a major irrigation project is about 15-20 years and that of medium project is about 5-10