

Action plan for pollution free rivers

1661. SARDAR BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that, day by day, the rivers of the country including Ganga, Yamuna, Ghaggar and others are stinking like a sewer drain due to pollution;
- (b) if so, the detailed report thereof;
- (c) whether Government is serious to take effective and time bound action plan to make pollution free rivers; and
- (d) if so, the details of proposal and technical reports thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI (SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA): (a) and (b) Discharge of untreated sewage and industrial effluents cause pollution in the rivers of the country and deterioration in the quality of water. Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) under National Water Quality Monitoring Programme has published a report in September, 2018 identifying polluted river stretches in country.

The polluted river stretches are categorised in five priority classes based on Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) concentration

- i) priority 1: exceeding to BOD levels >30 mg/l,
- ii) priority 2: BOD between 20 & 30 mg/l,
- iii) priority 3: BOD between 10 & 20 mg/l,
- iv) priority 4: BOD between 6-10 mg/l and
- v) priority 5: BOD between 3 & 6 mg/l.

The 351 river stretches on 323 rivers are prioritised based on BOD values in five classes. Polluted River Stretches of Priority 1 and 2 are located in 20 States and Union Territories, whereas polluted stretches of Priority 3, 4 and 5 are located in 28 States and Union Territories.

(c) and (d) 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 river Ganga by providing financial and technical assistance. Under Namami Gange Programme which is an integrated umbrella programme to ensure effective abatement of pollution and conservation of river Ganga and its tributaries by adopting a river

basin approach for comprehensive planning and management, a diverse set of interventions for cleaning and rejuvenation of river Ganga have been taken up which have had positive effect on the Ganga rejuvenation. These include pollution abatement activities including sewage, industrial effluent, solid waste etc., river front management, aviral dhara, rural sanitation, afforestation, biodiversity conservation, public participation etc.

So far, a total of 298 projects have been sanctioned at an estimated cost of ₹ 28,451.22 crore, out of which 98 projects have been completed and made operational; rest of the projects are at various stages of implementation.

Towards cleaning of river Ganga, 150 Sewerage infrastructure projects (111 on Ganga main stem and 39 on tributaries) have been taken up with a sanctioned cost of ₹23,130.95 crore for creation of new sewage treatment capacity 3729.92 Million Litres per Day (MLD), rehabilitation of 1114.39 MLD capacity and laying of around 4972.35 KM sewerage network.

Regarding other rivers, the Government has been supplementing the efforts of State Governments in abatement of pollution in rivers under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) Schemes on a cost sharing basis.

Government's efforts in cleaning river Ganga

†1662. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that every efforts of Government to clean the river Ganga have not got desired results;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) if not, the time period required by Government to clean the river Ganga?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI (SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. 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 river Ganga by providing financial and technical assistance. Under Namami Gange Programme which is an integrated umbrella programme to ensure effective abatement of pollution and conservation of river Ganga and its tributaries by adopting a river basin approach for comprehensive planning and management, a diverse set of interventions for cleaning and rejuvenation of river Ganga have been taken up which

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.