

**Expert opinion for cleaning Ganga**

†885. DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA: Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is seeking expert opinion or help from abroad, in order to make river Ganga devoid of any impurity, if so, the details thereof;

(b) details of the funds allocated, released and utilised under 'Namami Gange Project' till date, State-wise; and

(c) by when this river would be completely clean and the steps being taken by Government to make it pollution free?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI (SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA): (a) Under Namami Gange Programme, External Aided funding has been taken from World Bank and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for various pollution abatement projects of river Ganga. Besides funding, necessary capacity building and expert opinions are also provided for efficient execution of the projects. In addition, technical and professional expertise has also been provided to various aspects of the program by other foreign institutions and organisations such as GIZ, Germany, Indo European Water Partnership, PTB, Germany, Arcadis through joint venture with Tata Consulting Engineers, Solidaridad, Netherland and Stahl BV.

(b) The details of funds allocated, released and utilised under 'Namami Gange Project' are as under:

(₹ in crore)			
Period	Budget Allocation	Released by Govt. of India	Expenditure/ Releases by NMCG
2014-15 to 31.10.2019	12,741.42	8,463.62	7,493.60

Further, the State-wise details of expenditure/ releases under Namami Gange Programme, is given below:-

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	State	Expenditure/ Release under Namami Gange Programme (2014-15 till 31/10/19)
1.	Uttarakhand	669.19
2.	Uttar Pradesh	2,517.62
3.	Bihar	2,014.60
4.	Jharkhand	197.02
5.	West Bengal	889.78
6.	Delhi	399.39
7.	Haryana	89.61
8.	Environmental Planning and Coordination Organisation, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh	9.89
9.	Urban Improvement Trust, Kota, Rajasthan	20.00
	TOTAL	6,807

*Note:* The total expenditure, including basin wide interventions is ₹ 7,493.60 crore.

(c) 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.

The Government has undertaken diverse set up interventions under Namami Gange Programme including sewage, industrial effluent, solid waste etc., river front management, aviral dhara, rural sanitation, afforestation, biodiversity conservation and public participation for restoring the wholesomeness of the river Ganga.

So far, a total of 305 projects have been sanctioned under Namami Gange programme at an estimated cost of ₹28,613.75 crore, out of which 109 projects have been completed and made operational; rest of the projects are at various stages of implementation.

Under Namami Gange Programme, till September 2019, 150 Sewerage infrastructure projects (111 as Ganga main stem and 39 on tributaries) have been taken up with a sanctioned cost of ₹23,130.95 crore for creation of new capacity of 3731.14 MLD, rehabilitation of 1114.39 MLD capacity and laying of around 4972.35 km. sewerage network.

As on September 2019, 45 of these projects have been completed resulting in creation of 612.84 MLD of STP capacity and laying of 2645.6 km sewage network.

**Contamination of groundwater due to arsenic**

886. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Green Tribunal has recommended that Government may look into the matter of groundwater contamination due to Arsenic and relook the existing plan to combat Arsenic menace;

(b) whether Government has taken/ plans to take any step in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI (SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) In March 2016 released an amount of ₹ 1,000 crore to various Arsenic and Fluoride affected States/ UTs for installation of Community water purification plants and commissioning of piped water supply schemes.

Further, in March 2017, National Water Quality Sub-Mission (NWQSM) was launched by DoDW&S to provide safe drinking water to 27,544 Arsenic/ Fluoride affected rural habitations in the country as a part of National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), which has been subsumed under JJM. State wise physical progress of Arsenic affected habitations under NWQSM is given in the Statement.