

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,  
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO. \*224**  
ANSWERED ON 09.08.2021

**REJUVENATION PROJECT OF MULA-MUTHA RIVERS BY JICA IN PUNE**

\*224 SMT. VANDANA CHAVAN

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the river rejuvenation project to be executed on the Mula-Mutha rivers of Pune with the help of Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA);
- (b) the reasons for the project not taking off yet;
- (c) whether an Environmental Impact Assessment has been conducted for the project;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) the projected timeline and roadmap of completion of the same; and
- (f) whether stakeholder consultation for this project has been conducted and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

- (a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

\*\*\*\*\*

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. \*224 TO BE ANSWERED ON MONDAY, THE 09.08.2021 ON 'REJUVENATION PROJECT OF MULA-MUTHA RIVERS BY JICA IN PUNE' RAISED BY SMT. VANDANA CHAVAN M.P.**

(a) to (f) It is the responsibility of States/Union Territories (UTs) and local bodies to ensure required treatment of sewage and industrial effluents before discharging into recipient water bodies or land for prevention and control of pollution therein. This Ministry through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) has been supplementing the efforts of States/UTs by providing financial and technical assistance in abatement of pollution in identified stretches of rivers, excluding river Ganga and its tributaries, on cost sharing basis.

The project for pollution abatement of river Mula Mutha at Pune was sanctioned under the NRCP in January, 2016 at a cost of Rs.990.26 crore on 85:15 cost sharing basis between Government of India and Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) respectively with loan assistance from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and implementation period of 6 years. The project involves, *inter-alia*, setting up 11 sewage treatment plants (STPs) of total capacity of 396 million litres per day (MLD), laying of 113.6 kilometers of sewers and renovation/rehabilitation of 4 existing intermediate pumping stations. Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) is the implementing agency for the project.

The project was earlier divided in 13 packages for invitation of bids and award of work thereafter. Works related to the package for laying of sewer lines in Baner area of the city have been declared completed, with about 20 kms. of sewer line having been laid. Tendering process for some of the packages relating to STPs was initiated in July, 2018. However, due to higher rates quoted by the bidders than the estimated ones, tenders could not be concluded and finally rejected with the concurrence of JICA. Later on, to ensure better co-ordination and implementation of works as well as proper governance in subsequent operation and maintenance of assets created, restructuring/clubbing of packages was suggested. Accordingly, after concurrence of JICA, PMC has invited tenders on 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2021 for setting up STPs and associated main sewers under a single package with the last date of submission extended up to 17<sup>th</sup> August, 2021.

One stretch each on Mula, Mutha and Mula Mutha rivers/tributaries are included in the list of 351 polluted river stretches identified by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in their report published in September, 2018 based on monitoring results in terms of Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand, an indicator of organic pollution. The Mula-Mutha project is also, therefore, covered under the ambit of the orders of National Green Tribunal (NGT) in Original Application No.673/2018 regarding polluted river stretches in the country. In compliance of the directions of NGT, the Government of Maharashtra is required to implement the approved action plan for restoration of the said stretches within the stipulated timelines.

//2//

The Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 mandates the requirement of prior environmental clearance for projects/activities listed in the schedule to the said Notification. As sewerage and STP infrastructure projects are not figuring therein, no prior environmental clearance was required for the Mula-Mutha pollution abatement project and, therefore, no EIA was conducted.

PMC has informed that stakeholder consultation was done while formulation of the Developmental Plan for Pune, including locations identified for the STPs proposed under the project.

\*\*\*\*\*