

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 84

ANSWERED ON 04.12.2023

SCHEME TO DEVELOP RAINFED RIVERS

84. Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu

Will the Minister of **JAL SHAKTI** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is formulating any scheme to develop several rainfed rivers in various parts of the country, particularly in Tamil Nadu;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government proposes to develop the said rivers to make it more useful for the public by constructing small embankments on rivers and through other means; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) to (d) It is the responsibility of the States/Union Territories (UTs) to ensure the development of rivers within their jurisdiction. Government of India supplements the efforts of State/UT Governments on cost-sharing basis through various schemes.

Government of India has launched Namami Gange Programme (NGP) and National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) mainly for pollution abatement in river Ganga and its tributaries; and other rivers in the country respectively.

Under NGP, diverse set of coordinated activities towards treatment of municipal sewage, treatment of industrial effluent, drain bio-remediation, river surface cleaning, rural sanitation, river front development, development of ghats and crematoria, afforestation & biodiversity conservation, public outreach programme, etc have been undertaken.

NRCP provides coverage to remaining States including Tamil Nadu on cost-sharing basis between Central and State/Union Territories for development of sewerage infrastructure etc.

Under NRCP, pollution abatement projects for conservation of River Cauvery in Tamil Nadu were sanctioned at a total cost of Rs.263.76 crore in 9 different towns namely Bhiwani, Erode, Karur, Kumarapalayam, Kumbakonam, Mayiladuthurai, Pallipalayam, Trichirappalli and Trichy. 10 sewage treatment plants (STPs) with a total capacity of 161.41 million liters per day (MLD), along with low cost sanitation, river front development, bathing ghat, afforestation, etc. have been completed for conservation of River Cauvery in Tamil Nadu.

The Ministry of Rural Development in consultation with the Department of Water Resources, RD & GR and the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare has developed an actionable framework for Natural Resources Management (NRM), titled 'Mission Water Conservation' to ensure gainful utilization of funds. The framework strives to ensure synergies in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), erstwhile integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) now PMKSY Watershed Development Component and Command Area Development & Water Management (CADWM), given their common objectives. Types of common works undertaken under these programmes/ schemes are water conservation and management, water harvesting, soil and moisture conservation, groundwater recharge, flood protection, embankments, land development, Command Area Development & Watershed Management. National Water Mission had launched the "Catch The Rain" campaign to store maximum rain water by developing rain water harvesting structures and water bodies. These could lead to development and rejuvenation of smaller rivers.

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has also released detailed project reports (DPRs) for the rejuvenation of thirteen major rivers, namely Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas, Sutlej, Yamuna, Brahmaputra, Luni, Narmada, Godavari, Mahanadi, Krishna, and Cauvery through forest interventions, national capacity development, and project management. The proposed cumulative outlay of DPRs is Rs. 19342.62 crore, of which Rs. 3069.31 crore is for conservation of the Cauvery river basin, which includes Rs.1235.32 crore for Tami Nadu. The activities focus on protection, afforestation, catchment treatment, ecological restoration, moisture conservation among others by developing river fronts, eco-parks and creating awareness. The implementation of activities proposed in the DPRs is with convergence of schemes of other line departments in the States and funding support from the Government of India.
