GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES,

River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation

**RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1575**

ANSWERED ON 24.12.2018

**Under-utilisation of budget sanctioned for NGP**

1575. SHRI SANJAY SINGH

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of Rs.20,000 crores sanctioned for the Namami Gange Programme (NGP) for cleaning of river Ganga, only Rs.3639.89 crores have been spent during 2014-2018;

(b) if so, the reasons for the underutilisation of the budget sanctioned for the project considering the fact that the project ends in 2020 and if so, the details of the budget spent, year-wise since 2014;

(c) the number of Sewage Treatment Plants which have been made functional from 2014 till date; and

(d) the details of rise in ambient quality level of water of river Ganga during the last three years, year-wise?

# ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION & HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

(DR. SATYA PAL SINGH)

(a)Out of Rs.20,000 crores sanctioned for the Namami gange Programe (NGP) for cleaning of river Ganga, Rs.6,131.22 crore has been released by Government of India to National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) from 2014-15 to 2018-19 till 30 November 2018. Subsequently NMCG has released to State Governments / State Programme Management Groups / Other Executing Agencies of State Governments Rs.4,994.10 crore, under Namami Gange Programme.

(b)An amount of Rs.20,000 crore has been allocated over a period of five years to be spent by December 2020. During this period, i.e. 2014-15 to till 2018-19, an amount of Rs.6,131.22 crore was released to NMCG against Revised Esitamtes of Rs.10,771.42 crore. As against this, NMCG has incurred an expenditure of Rs.4,994.10 crore till date (by 30 November 2018).

Under-utilization of funds is on account of slow pace of execution of projects on account of, inter-alia, delays in acquisition of land and obtaining No Objection Certificates (NoCs) from concerned regulatory authorities; poor response to tenders from contractors resulting in retendering; labour trouble; poor performance by contractors resulting in cancellation of contracts etc. However, after the constitution of NMCG as an authority and its operationalization by December 2016, the pace of sanction of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs), Inspection & Diversion Works and associated projects, as also various other projects leading to capital creation have gained pace and are at different stages of implementation and execution on the ground. This is likely to result in achievement of not only physical targets but also higher expenditure as can be seen from following table.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Financial Year** | **Budget allocation** | **Revised allocation** | **Released by Government of India** | **Actual Expenditure by NMCG** |
| 2014-15 | 2,137.00 | 2,053.00 | 326.00 | 170.99 |
| 2015-16 | 2,750.00 | 1,650.00 | 1,632.00 | 602.60 |
| 2016-17 | 2,500.00 | 1,675.00 | 1,675.00 | 1,062.81 |
| 2017-18 | 2,550.00 | 3,023.42 | 1,423.22 | 1,625.11 |
| 2018-19\* | 3,070.00 | 2,370.00 | 1,075.00 | 1,532.59 |
| Total | 13,007.00 | 10,771.42 | 6,131.22 | 4,994.10 |

(\* updated upto 30 November 2018)

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It is important to mention that the expenditure in the years have been increasing since 2014-15.

(c)Namami Gange programme is an umbrella programme which is being carried out through various coordinated activities including treatment of municipal sewage, industrial effluent, river surface cleaning, rural sanitation, river front development, construction of ghats and crematoria, afforestation & biodiversity conservation, public outreach programmes etc. Under Namami Gange programme, continuous coordination is made with the state government to monitor implementation of projects sanctioned under Namami Gange or other schemes, with an objective that pollution at river Ganga is minimized.

Under Namami Gange programme, till date, 131 sewage projects have been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs 19742 Cr. Through these projects new STP capacity of 3075.56 MLD will be created along with rehabilitation of 887 MLD. Out of these, till date, 20 new STPs have been made functional with a total capacity of 468.19 MLD and 3 STPs have been rehabilitated with a total capacity of 92 MLD.

A study has also been undertaken by NMCG for performance assessment of 84 Old STPs created under previous schemes like Ganga Action Plan (GAP-I), GAP-II, National River Conservation Plan (NRCP), National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) and Namami Gange etc. The study outcome indicates that out of 84 STPs,

1. 39 are functioning well having a treatment capacity of 733 MLD.
2. 31 (270 MLD) are found to be defunct and
3. 14 (581 MLD) are found to be operational but non-compliant and under utilized

In order to make these STPs functional, Govt. of India have taken the following steps:

1. For 12 STPs (91 MLD) upgradation and long term Operation & Maintenance (O&M) has been sanctioned;
2. 8 STPs (530 MLD) integrated under One City One Operator
3. For 23 STPs, tender for upgradation in process.
4. 2 STPs have been discarded and new STPs have been proposed.

(d)Under the Namami Gange programme, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is carrying out the water quality monitoring of river Ganga. The observed water quality of last three years indicates that Dissolved Oxygen which is an indicator of river health has been found to be within acceptable limits of notified primary bathing water quality criteria and satisfactory to support the ecosystem of river across all seasons and also for almost entire stretch of river Ganga.

Due to various pollution abatement initiatives taken by the Government under the Namami Gange programme, the river water quality assessment in 2018 has shown improved water quality trend as compared to 2017. The Dissolved Oxygen levels have improved at 39 locations, Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) levels and Faecal coliforms have decreased at 42 and 47 locations, respectively.

River Cleaning is a continuous process and under the Namami Gange programme, several initiatives have been taken by Government of India which includes abatement and control of pollution at the source of pollution generation by adopting activities such as establishment/upgradation of Sewage Treatment Plants for the towns located on Ganga main stem and its tributaries, surface cleaning activities and solid waste management.The outputs of these projects have started yielding results and the water quality will further improve once all the projects are operationalized.

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