GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation

**RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1543**

ANSWERED ON 02.12.2019

**National Mission for Clean Ganga**

1543. SHRI SANJAY SINGH

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

(a) status of the National Mission for Clean Ganga;

(b) the percentage reduction in the pollution levels of the river Ganga; and

(c) the details of the steps being taken?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI  & SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(shri RATTAN LAL KATARIA)

(a)National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in addressing the challenges of pollution of river Ganga by providing financial and technical assistance.

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

For Ganga mainstem cities/town, projects have been taken up to create 3308 Million Litres per Day (MLD) sewage treatment capacity against the generation of 2953 MLD (Year 2016). The sewage treatment capacity in Ganga main stem towns have now increased from 1305 MLD (Year 2014) to 1954 MLD, excluding 410 MLD sewage treatment through East Kolkata Wetland. Cleaning of rivers is a continuous process; close monitoring and efforts are being made to complete all the sanctioned projects by March 2022, creating required sewage treatment capacity.

(b) Water quality in River Ganga gets affected due to discharge of sewage from drains, industrial effluents and to an extent by solid waste. The observed water quality 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 water quality assessment of river Ganga in 2019 has shown improved water quality trends as compared to 2014. The Dissolved Oxygen levels have improved at 32 locations, Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) levels and Faecal coliforms have decreased at 39 and 18 locations, respectively.

Contd…P/2

//2//

This has also been elaborated by reduction in key parameters such as (a) Estimated effluent generation has been reduced from 433 MLD (Million litres per day) in 2017 to 301 MLD in 2018(30% reduction) (b) Estimated pollution load has been reduced from 23 TPD (Tonnes per day) in 2017 to 19 TPD in 2018 (17 % reduction) (c) Compliance of industries with respect to effluent discharge norms has been increased i.e. from 39% in 2017 to 69% in 2018 (d) Zero discharge of spent wash/black liquor achieved from Distillery / Pulp & Paper Industries. (e) Six percent reduction in discharge from 148 drains in 2019 as compared to 151 drains in 2018.

(c) Following steps have been taken for reduction of pollution level in Ganga to ensure cleaning of the river at the earliest in a sustainable manner:

1. Scientific assessment of sewage treatment capacity along Ganga for projected population in 2035 and long term operation and maintenance for 15 years have been made part of the project cost for ensuring sustained performance.
2. Effective interventions, under the basin-approach, have been made for pollution abatement efforts for various polluted stretches of the key tributaries of river Ganga such as Yamuna, Ramganga, Kali, Gomti, Saryu, Gandak, Ghaghara, etc.
3. Inventorisation of Grossly Polluting Industries (GPI) along Ganga with 100% annual inspection thereof by independent institution and action on non-complying industries have led to improvement in compliance.
4. 20 MLD Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) project for Jajmau tannery cluster at Kanpur has been taken up.
5. All 4465 Ganga villages have been made Open Defecation Free (ODF).
6. River Surface cleaning activities through trash skimmers and projects for cleaning of ghats have been taken up.
7. Environmental flows have been notified on October 9, 2018, mandating a minimum level of flow for Ganga in Uttarakhand and upto Unnao in Uttar Pradesh.

\*\*\*\*\*