

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 1133

ANSWERED ON:17.07.2014

REJUVENATION OF RIVERS

RAJAN BABURAO VICHARE

- (a) whether the Government has set up two separate committees of Secretaries to work out a plan to rejuvenate the Ganga and Yamuna, and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the committees have set a time frame to complete the cleaning of Ganga and Yamuna and if so, the details thereof and the amount earmarked for this purpose;
- (c) whether the same parameters will be implemented to clean up rivers in the country including Godavari, Baandi and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the National Centre for Compositional Characterisation of Materials (NCCCM), Hyderabad which functions under the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre has stated that bathing in the holy river Ganga might pose the danger of cancer and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Union Government has issued advisory to the States concerned to prevent untreated sewage from being discharged into the rivers and if so, the details thereof?

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

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES. RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION; PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TEXTILES (INDEPENDENT CHARGE).(SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a) The Government has set up a Group of Secretaries (GoS) for preparing a detailed plan for cleaning of the Ganges and to find out ways to rejuvenate the holy river. Headed by the Secretary, Min. of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, the Committee includes Secretaries from Surface Transport, Shipping and Tourism Ministries of Government of India as also Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests. The group coopts officer from other Ministries as and when required.

(b) & (c) Government is committed for rejuvenation of River Ganga. Consultation with different stakeholders viz., Ministries such as Ministry of Environment & Forests; Water Resources, Ganga Rejuvenation and River Development; Urban Development; Tourism; Shipping; Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation; Rural Development, etc., as well as academics, technical experts and NGOs associated with cleaning of Ganga, is in progress. Crystallisation of action plan, including framing of its salient features, time line and likely expenditure would be known only after the finalisation of the action plan for cleaning of River Ganga. Based on the results of the action plan for Ganga, Government may extend the action plan in a phased manner for other major rivers of the country.

(d) No information is available in the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.

(e) Ministry of Environment & Forests have informed that water and sanitation are State subjects, and the major sources of pollution in rivers fall under the responsibilities of local and state authorities. With the role of Central Government being limited to supplement the efforts of state governments, generally no such advisories are being issued. However, in the first meeting of National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA), held on 5 October, 2009. under the chairmanship of Hon`ble Prime Minister, it was agreed that under the Mission Clean Ganga, it will be ensured that by 2020 no untreated municipal sewage or industrial effluents flows into the Ganga.