SIXTY-SECOND REPORT

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE (1987-88)

(EIGHTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (GANGA PROJECT DIRECTORATE)

GANGA ACTION PLAN



Presented to Lok Sabha on 21-4-1988

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT NEW DELHI

April, 1988/Chaitra, 1910(Saka)

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ESTIMATES COMMITTEE (1987-88)

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^{*}Elected on 6th August, 1987 vice Prof. Narain Chand Parashar resigned from 18ths Committee w.e.f. 3rd June, 1987.

^{**} Coased to be Members of the Committee on 14-2-1988 on being appointed Ministers of State in the Union Council of Ministers.

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- 2. Shri J.C. Malhotra-Dy. Secretary.
- 3. Shri A. Subramanian-Senior Financial Committee Officer.

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INTRODUCTION

- I, the Chairman of Estimates Committee, having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Sixty-Second Report on the Ministry of Environment and Forests—(Ganga Project Directorate)—Ganga Action Plan.
- 2. The Estimates Committee (1987-88) took the evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Environment and Forests on 23rd and 25th November, 1987. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the officers of the Ministry of Environment and Forests for placing before them the material and information which they desired in connection with the examination of the subject and for giving evidence before the Committee
- 3. The Report was considered and adopted by the Estimates Committee (1987-88) on 6 April, 1988.
- 4. For facility of reference, the recommendations/observations of the Committee have been printed in thick type in the body of the Report and have also been reproduced in a consolidated form in Appendix I to the Report.

New Delh; April 13, 1988 Chaitra 24, 1910(S) CHANDRA TRIPATHI,

Chairman,

Estimates Committee.

GANGA ACTION PLAN

A. Introductory

- 1. The river Ganga occupies a unique position in our country and economy. It drains an area of 8.61 lakh sq. km., spread over 8 States and Union Territories; 43% of the total irrigated area of the country is located in the Garga basin and 37% of the population of the country is dependent on the river; on its banks are located 29 class I cities having a population of more than one lakh and 70 other towns. The river flows for a length of about 2525 km. in the 3 States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal before discharge into the Bay of Beneal. It provides an important arm for navigation and water ways and a large number of major industries are located on its banks.
- 2. To identify the sources of pollution of the Ganga, the Central Board for the Prevention and Control of Water Pollution conducted a study of the river basin and published its findings under the River Basin Series ADSORBS/2/80-81. In addition, the Planning Commission initiated, in the year 1981, a programme to study the various aspects of the river Ganga, involving the leading Universities located along its course. These research projects cover a wide variety, some of which are as under:—
 - characterisation of the river water in terms of chemical and physical parameters;
 - inventory of macro and micro-flora and fauna of the river;
 - identification of bio-indicators of pollution;
 - investigation of the presence and fate of heavy metals and pesticides in the river;
 - microbiological and benthic studies.
- 3. The study undertaken by the Central Board indicates the main sources of pollution from urban areas as follows:
 - (i) Domestic waste water flowing into the river.
 - (ii) Industrial waste water.
 - . (iii) Solid waste dumped into the river.
 - (iv) Surface run off from agricultural land.
 - (v) Surface run off where solid industrial wastes are dumped.
- 4. So far as the main stem of the Ganga is concerned it is estimated that pollution from the domestic wastes is about two-thirds of the total

pollution load. The study further concludes that out of this pollution from domestic sources waste water from class I cities accounts for about 80% of the total.

- 5. Based on the study by the Central Board, the Ganga Action Plan document was prepared by the then Department of Environment in December, 1984, with the focus of attention drawn on abatement of pollution of the river from the domestic sources and on improvement of its quality to acceptable standards. Under the Action Plan, importance has been given to schemes for interception of waste water flowing into the river and its diversion away to treatment locations. Since open defecation on the banks of the river is one of the sources of pollution, improvement of facilities on the river front for public conveniences, bathing, washing etc. are also considered in the Action Plan. In addition, the Action Plan provides for taking up schemes of biological conservation whereby the resources of acquatic flora and fauna which perform an important function in maintaining the ecological balance in the river, can be sustained.
- 6. The major types of schemes to be taken up under the Ganga Action Plan have been identified as:
 - (i) Schemes for interception and diversion of waste water.
 - (ii) Treatment of waste water with resource recovery.
 - (iii) Low cost sanitation.
 - (iv) River front development.
 - (v) Biological conservation.
- 7. The implementation of these schemes is expected to reduce the pollution load in the river and result in considerable improvement of the river quality are over a long term, the recuperative capacity of the river will be considerably strengthened.
- 8. It is estimated that about 900 million litres of raw sewage per day generally find their way into the river from the class I cities which are covered under Ganga Action Plan. This quantity is an approximation based on water supply in the different cities and the assumption that about 70% thereof becomes sewage. The quantity of such waste water can be firmly assessed only when detailed schemes for sewerage in different locations are prepared and finalised. Such assessment has been made in respect of Hardwar-Rishikesh, Kanpur, Allahabad, Varanasi and Patna. In the case of the Calcutta Metropolitan District nearly 60% of the waste water flows away from the river into other drainage systems but such discharges are ultimately linked with Ganga through a network of an interconnection canal and drainage channels etc. While the assessment more or less tallies

with the Action Plan estimates in the case of Kanpur and Patna, about 33% and 22% of the waste water flows into the tributaries of Ganga such as Pandu and Punpun.

9. Clarifying why Ganga has been accorded the first priority for cleaning when other major rivers in the country are equally polluted, the Secretary has stated during evidence:—

"We have studied the major rivers in India. All of them are equally and badly polluted-Ganga, Cauvery, Krishna, Narmada. I have before me the statistics to show that all the 14 major river systems are polluted. Secondly one of the most polluted rivers is Sabarmati at Ahmedabad. The question is very often asked: Why Ganga, why not Cauvery, Krishna, Godavari, Narmada etc.? The answer is that every one of these rivers has to be treated. form or other something like 150 million to 200 million people of India depend upon Ganga. The Ganga is the longest river of India. But the most important is, something slightly more than one-third of India's pollution is dependent upon Ganga, dependent for water for bathing, agricultural and other purposes. That is the predominant reason as to why Ganga is the first. Other rivers will come later. This question has been asked and the Hon. Prime Minister has answered on the floor of the House. We will take up other rivers consistent with the availability of resources. If the Government gives me Rs. 3,000 crores, I will take up all the rivers tomorrow."

10. Asked whether the Ganga Project included cleaning of tributaries of Ganga also, the representative of the Ministry replied in the negative. Asked unless the cleaning of tributaries was also taken up, how it would be possible to clean the mainstream, the Secretary clarified:—

"Before the Ganga Plan was taken up a fairly extensive survey of the tributaries including the Ganga Basin, was done by the Central Pollution Board. It was found that the main pollution was occurring in the Ganga river itself. It is even said that Yamuna pollution does affect the Ganga also. The factual position is Yamuna as a river is certainly polluted, but by the time it comes to the Chambal side and at Allahabad the water of Yamuna is clear, and the water of Yamuna is better than that of Ganga. Similarly Ramgahga and other rivers have also been studied. On the basis of the quantum of pollution in the mainstream of Ganga river it is considered that the pollution of the main river is much more significant. The tributaries stand on their own and it is not as if the pollution is carried in the same quantity by the same river."

11. The Committee need hardly point out that Ganga has a very important place in the lives of a vast majority of the people in the country inasmuch as it serves more than 150 to 200 million people, not only for water, but for agriculture and other purposes also. It also occupies a unique place in the holy scriptures like Bhagwad Gita, Upanishads etc. A very large chunk of India's population does not consider Ganga as just another river but treats it with reverence and call it as "Ma Ganga". It is evident from the fact that Government gave precedence to the cleaning of Ganga in comparison to other major rivers which are stated to be equally polluted. The Committee commend the Government for launching a very prestigious project in cleaning Ganga and restoring its past glory. The Committee have an earnest desire that the Ganga Cleaning Project will be completed well in time and the aspirations of the people which touched a new peak with the launching of this project will be amply realised. The Committee do hope that such ambitious projects will also be launched so far as the other major rivers of the country are concerned.

B. Organisational Set-up

- 12. By a Government Resolution dated 16th February, 1985, the Central Ganga Authority (CGA) with the Hon. Prime Minister as Chairman and Chief Ministers of U.P., Bihar and West Bengal and the concerned Union Ministers, etc. as members, was constituted as a non-statutory authority to oversee the implementation of the Ganga Action Plan. In addition under the same resolution, a Steering Committee with the Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forest as Chairman, was set up for coordinating the Action Plan and preparation and execution of the scheme. The compositions of the Central Ganga Authority and the Steering Committee are given in appendices I and II. In the Ministry, the Ganga Project Directorate (GPD) has been formed which is responsible for the appraisal and sanction of schemes, monitoring of progress, coordination and execution etc.
 - 13. Asked whether the desirability of constituting a centralised authority (similar to Narmada Central Authority) with the responsibility for formulation, expeditious implementation and management of Ganga Project had been considered, the Ministry has informed that while formulating the Ganga Action Plan and in setting up of the organisational structure for its implementation, it was clearly recognised that pollution control in the river involved many organisations like local bodies, industrial units, etc. An appropriate mechanism had to be established for coordination at various levels. Focus of Action Plan in the first phase being on preventing the pollution from municipal waste, the concerned State Governments have to assume major responsibility for successful implementation of the programme.

The organisational structure for the Ganga Action Plan fully involves the different levels of the Central and State Governments concerned for its successful implementation.

- 14. The Committee have been informed that the schemes to be executed which number about 260, will be at a number of locations in the 27 cities. The State Governments already have technical and engineering departments and special agencies with requisite field experience and awareness of local conditions. The Action Plan has been taken as an opportunity to mobilise organisational resources available with States and utilises these organisations instead of setting up of a separate machinery. Special efforts have also been made to strengthen the organisational resources at the State and City level. The progress of monitoring by Ganga Project Directorate is carried out through its own set up supplemented by Consultants. The existing organisational arrangements have, therefore, helped mobilise the existing facilities to advantage. In the circumstances any proposal for setting up a separate centralised authority similar to Narmada Central Authority has not been considered. Asked during the evidence whether the Central Ganga Authority had any statutory authority, the representative of the Ministry replied in the negative.
- 15. The Committee note that Central Ganga Authority has been created by a Government's Resolution dated 16th February, 1985 to oversee the implementation of the Ganga Action Plan They, however, feel that since the Central Ganga Authority has to deal with a very large number of local bodies, industries etc., it should have been vested with some statutory powers. The Committee only hope that the organisational set up as at present in existence will be able to cater to the onerous job of completing the project as per time schedule.

C. Financial Outlay and Expenditure

16. At the meeting of the Central Ganga Anthority held on 7th October 1985, overall approval to the works programme costing Rs. 291 crores for abatement of pollution from domestic sources as proposed by the three States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal, was granted subject to the stipulation that the expenditure in the 7th Plan would be restricted to Rs. 240 crores. Based on the overall sanction, the individual schemes are to be examined and sanction accorded by the Ganga Project Directorate. An analysis of the cost of various works to be undertaken in various States and the implementing agencies that have been identified for execution of the works, has indicated the following position:—

	U.P.		BIHAR		WEST	WEST BENGAL
	Approxima- tely Cost (in crores)	Agency for Implementation	Approximately Cost	Agency for Implementation	Approximately Cost	Agency for Implementation
Interception and Diversion	40.95	Jal Nigam	16,70	State Board	59.94	Calcutta Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA).
					72.96	State Cove. Department (Public Health Engineering).
Treatment Plants	64.83		10.80		26.27	CMDA State Govt. Department
Low Cost Sanitation	7.79	Municipal Authority	3.65	- op-	7.59	CMDA Municipalities
River Front Development	5.79	ФР	0.63	op	7.62	CMDA State Govt. Department
Monitoring of Water/Quality Other City Development schemes in some areas.	0.52	State Board Municipal Authority	5.25	- op-	3.41	Municipality CMDA State Government Department.
Total	130.35		37.03		3.69	
NOT THE REAL PROPERTY AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY	The same of the sa	Permitten March (Fr. St. schallesteining des seins falber i se	Abia da abiabatan da ma cama Managada	Grand Total: Rs. 291.71 crores	Rs. 291.71 c	rores

17. The Committee have been informed that the schemes sanctioned so far are expected to divert about 800 million litres per day (MLD) of waste water out of about 900 mld of waste water estimated to be Generated in locations covered. The estimated cost of 63 schemes is about Rs. 65.88 crores. It involves interception of drains into sewers, laying of rising main and sewers, construction of pumping stations.

Treatment of Waste Water

18. Under the Ganga Action Plan a total of 10 sewage treatment plants are to be renovated and another 25 new plants are to be constructed in different locations. Renovation of 3 treatments in Patna and Varanasi have been completed. Another 5 plants in Varanasi, Titagarh, Bhatpara in West Bengal are expected to be completed by March, 1988. Another 2 plants are under execution in Varanasi and Chandannagar in West Bengal.

Tenders are under preparation in respect of 7 plants, while design concepts are under study in another 11 plants, in all cases, considerable site preparation, has been completed to ensure that the schemes are taken up immediately after sanction. These schemes are to be executed on a turnkey basis and the average time of construction is 24 months. The total cost of schemes sanctioned so far is Rs. 78,36 crores.

Low Cost Sanitation

- 19. A total outlay of Rs. 15.52 crores has been sanctioned so far. These schemes cover conversion of dry latrines, construction of new latrines and public community teilet complexes. It is also proposed to combine investments in this sector under Ganga Action Plan with these under other ongoing programmes of the State Governments, Ministry of Welfare, Government of India to extend the coverage and to render towns scavenger-free.
- 20. Schemes for construction of electric crematoria has been sanctioned at a total cost of Rs. 8.22 crores.

Expenditure

21. During the years 1985-86 and 1986-87, against budget allotmert of Rs. 10 crores and Rs. 52 crores respectively, the actual expenditure amounted to Rs. 6.24 crores and Rs. 25.80 crores. In the circumstances, to cover the total estimated outlay of Rs. 240 crores for the 7th Plan the extent of funds to be provided for in the remaining period of 7th Plan would amount to Rs. 208 crores. The Ministry has stated that a scheme by scheme review has been done in consultation with the State Governments which indicated that the progress of execution of schemes has considerably picked,

up, and that during the remaining period of the 7th Five Year Plan the projected requirement of funds will be as under:

_	-				
	1987-88			. Rs. 60 crores	
	1988-89			Rs. 80 ,,	
	1989-90			Rs. 66	
	TOTAL.			. Rs. 206 ,,	

- 22. However, according to the budget estimates for the year 1987-88, the provision made for that year has been only Rs. 48.50 crores. In the revised estimates for the year 1987-88 and the budget estimates for the year 1988-89 as presented to Parliament, the provision for 1987-88 has been reduced to Rs. 45.50 crores only and Rs. 57 crores have been provided for 1988-89, bringing the overall provision and expenditure to Rs. 134.54 crores, only up to end of 1988-89, as against the projected demand of Rs. 172.04 crores upto 1988-89. This would leave a sum of Rs. 106 crores to be provided for in the last year of the 7th Plan if the target of Rs. 240 crores is to be reached by end of Seventh Plan.
- 23. Out of the total expenditure of Rs. 32.04 crores incurred to end of 1986-87, an expenditure of Rs. 19.69 lakhs in 1985-86 and Rs. 60.26 lakhs in 1986-87 (in all Rs. 79.95 lakhs) was incurred towards organisational expenditure and a sum of Rs. 31.27 crores was released to various executing agencies as detailed below:—

SI. Agency No.	Funds rel	leased (Rs.	in lakhs)
	1985-86	1986-87	Total
1. U.P. Jal Nigam, U.P.	322.36	1,552 . 45	1874.81
2. Varanasi Nagar Mahapalika, Varanasi	88.29	25.00	113.29
3. Hardwar Nagar Mahapalika, Hardwar .	•.•	7.00	7.00
 Industrial Toxicology Research Centre, Lucknow 		33.10	33.10
5. U.P. Pollution Control Board, Lucknow		5.99	5.99
6. Central Board for the Prevention & Control of Water Pollution, N. Delhi		15.00	15.00
7. Bihar State Water & Sewage Board, Patna.	45.22	249.00	294.22
8. Calcutta Metropolitan Development Authority, Calcutta	100.00	592.00	692.00
9. National Environmental Engineering Re- search Institute, Nagpur	0.75	0.10	0.85
10. Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage, New Delhi	15. 0 0	. ::	15.00
11. Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay	::	1.00	1.00
12. Railway Board	50.00	25.00	75.00
	621.62	2505.64	3127.26

During the year 1987-88 upto September, 1987, a sum of Rs. 14.38 crores was released to various executing agencies, bringing the total funds to the agencies to Rs. 45.65 crores.

24. The various executing agencies are reported to have incurred expenditure to the following extent:

(In crores of rupees)

			1985-86	1986-87 (Upto Septe	1987-88 ember, 1987)	Total
Uttar Pradesh	-		2.46	12.83	9.21	24.50
Bihar .			0.10	1.70	2.61	4.41
West Bengal	· ·		0.31	6.47	4.20	10.98
TOTAL		•	2.87	21.00	16.02	39.89

25. The implementing agencies are required to furnish utilisation certificates for the amounts released from time to time. So far utilisation certificates have been received by the GPD to the extent noted against each:—

Allahabad Nagar Palika	. Rs. 80.50 lakhs upto July, 1987.
U.P. Jal Nigam	. Rs. 421.67 lakhs upto June. 1987 for scheme in Hardwar-Rishikesh.
U.P. Jal Nigam	 Rs. 110.35 lakhs upto March, 1987 for 3 schemes being executed by Kanpur Units.
U.P. Jal Nigam	. Rs. 73.16 lakhs upto June, 1987 for 2 schemes being executed by Kanpur Unit.
TOTAL	. Rs. 685.68 lakhs

- 26. In regard to delay in receiving utilisation certificates, the Ministry has stated that though the certificate are generally furnished on completion of particular scheme for which funds are provided and utilised, the agencies also furnish utilisation certificates on a continuing basis corresponding to the various amounts received, which may span beyond a particular year.
- 27. Asked how much money had been given to the State Boards, the representative of the Ministry has stated during evidence:

"Expenditure from 1985 up till now, in the first two years is Rs. 32 crores and out of this something like half a crore has been for various scientific activities and the rest is given to the State Government agencies."

28. Asked whether the Ministry was satisfied that the State Boards had utilised the money properly, the representative of the Ministry has replied:—

"We ask for schemewise expenditure data. We take utilisation certificate for the funds released in the previous year. We also take a statement from them that the funds for the previous quarter have been utilised. All these are State Government agencies and they are liable to audit by the Auditor General."

29. Asked after these agencies had submitted the utilisation certificates and audited accounts, whether the Ministry sent some one to verify for physical check up, the witness has stated:—

"We send our own officers and consultants to physically verify the progress. We have computerised monitoring system set-up. For each of the scheme we have format for monitoring. Out of a total of 260 schemes and as on date about a little less than 200 schemes have been sanctioned. We break down each scheme into tender packages. We monitor it through computerised system. In addition to that some people from Finance go and visit to find out that funds are applied for the purpose for which they were sanctioned."

30. From the workwise position for sanction of schemes release of funds and utilisation thereof, as intimated by the Ministry, following position emanages for the three States for all important sites where the Ganga Action Plan is being executed.

UTTAR PRADESH

(Rs. in lakhs)

	Hardwar	Kanpur	Allahaba	d Varanasi	Total
Amount sanctioned .	. 864.03	2413.84	1363.77	381,2.18	8453.82
Funds released in			-		
1985-86	160.78	80.67	56.15	147.94	445.54
1986-87	221.53	214.49	305.99	783.645	15257655
1987-88	167.50	108.00	159.50	266.50	701.50
Total	549.81	403.16	521.64	1198.085	2672.695
Amount utilised in					
1985-86	154.727		6.75	18.52	1.79.997
1986-87 .	233.117	124.98	282.26	573.55	1213.907
1987-88 .	60.842	352.955	192.845	361.08	967.722
Total .	448.686	477.935	481.855	953.15	2361.626
No. of works	•				
sanctioned .	. 16	9	13	28	66
completed	. 4	NIL	1	3	8

31. The completed works in Uttar Pradesh included one work relating to "Renovation of Sewage Pumping Station in Ghats" costing Rs. 96 lakhs but for this work, no funds have been released so far. The list of completed work also included following four works in Uttar Pradesh costing over Rs. 10 lakhs, and in these cases, the actuals have exceeded the sanctioned cost to the extent indicated below:

(In lakhs of rupees)

		Sanctioned cost	Funds given	Expenditure incurred	Excess
(L)	Hardwar – Immediate works – Phase I	62.43	62.43	70.33	7.90
(2)	Rishikesh—Immediate works— Phase I	98.35	98.35	108.85	10.50
(3)	Intercepting Sewer Muni-ke- Reti Laxmun Jhoola, Rishikesh	13.48	13.50	18.12	4.64
(4)	Renovation of Sewage Format Naini	12.38	11.98	12.61	0.23
	Total	186.64	186.26	209.91	23.27

BIHAR	(Rupees in lakhs)

		Patna	Chapra	Lunger	Bhagalpu	Total
Amount sanctioned Funds released in	-	633.18	116.29	77.77	196.12	1023.36
1985-86 .						
1 986-87 .		183.40	32.95	22.80	25.00	264.15
1987-88 .		185.03	32.95	22.80	25.00	265.78
Total		368.43	65.90	45.60	50.00	529.93
Amount utilised in				,		
1985-86			• •			
1,986-87		101.16	6.74	6.15	5.64	119.69
1987-88 .		287.67	78.13	23.64	32.11	421.55
Total .		388.83	84.87	29.79	37.75	541.24
No. of works sanctioned	ł	20	2	2	3	27
completed		1.				1

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According to details furnished by the Ministry, the scheduled time schedule for completion of the works in Bihar State has been as under:

Due for completion	by December 1986	8
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	by March 1987	3
••	by December 1987	-7
.**	by March 1988	3
	by March 1989	6

WEST BENGAL

(Rs. in lakhs)

	Chandan- nagar	Seram- pur	Calcutta Corpora- tion Area	Howrah Bally	Six others (6 & above)	Total
Amount sanctioned	451.76	. 317.34	3867.27	363.32	3765.29	8764.98
Funds released in						
1985-86	. 88.00	100.91		28.82	331.46	549.19
1986-87	. 88.00	100.91		28.82	410.36	.628.09
Total	176.00	201.82		57.64	741.82	1177.28
Amount utilised in						
1985-86	. 5					
1986-87	109.73	60.46		13.56	438.15	621.90
1987-88	164.59	108.38	101.18	36.45	644.83	1055.43
Total.	274.32	168.84	101.18	50.01	1083.63	1677.38
No. of works						
Sanctioned .	. 6	6	· 12	7	62	93
Completed .	. Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	1

32. On the progress made in according sanctions to individual schemes the Ministry has indicated the following position:—

(In crores of rupees

Year	v	No. of Schemes sanctioned	Amount
1005.06		• :	
1985-86		34	34.23
1986-87		108	66.79
1987-88 (Upto December 1987)		46	86.48
		188	187.50

- 33. The Ministry has stated that it expects the State Governments to prepare by March, 1988 for the consideration of the Ganga Project Directorate, schemes estimates to cost the total outlay provided in the 7th Plan to the extent of Rs. 240 crores. On the progress made in completion of the schemes, the Ministry has stated that 5 schemes estimated to cost Rs. 2.25 crores were completed in 1986-87 and that 42 schemes, estimated to cost Rs. 19.39 crores are expected to be completed in 1987-88. During the year 1988-89, the Ministry expects 52 schemes estimated to cost Rs. 29.83 crores to be completed. Thus 99 out of 260 schemes are expected to be completed by 1988-89 at an estimated cost of Rs. 51.47 crores. In 1989-90, it is envisaged that most of the high cost high gestation schemes involving laying of sewers over a considerable length, construction of large pumping stations and high capacity treatment plants, etc. will be completed.
- 34. The completion of 5 schemes in 1986-87 in Hardwar-Rishikesh and Varanasi stretches has resulted in diversion of substantial quantity of waste water which were flowing into the Ganga. The completion of 42 schemes in 1987-88 is expected to result in arrangement by renovation of existing facilities for treatment of about 55 million litres of waste water per day and for diversion of 300 mld of waste water to sewage forms. The schemes to be completed in 1988-89 include construction of a treatment plant at Varanasi improvement of river front facilities, construction of about 2000 low cost sanitation units and diversion of about 200 mld of waste water.
- 35. The schemes under Ganga Action Plan have also been in tegrated with other ongoing urban development schemes. In Kanpur, intermediate pumping stations and laying of branches and lateral sewers are being prepared under the Sate programme. There is a provision of Rs. 7.07 croies for this purpose under the U.P. Urban Development Project as against Rs. 29.30 crores under the Ganga Action Plan. For low cost sanitation, the State programme has provided for Rs. 2.57 crores as against the provision of Rs. 1 crore under the Ganga Action Plan.
- 36. In Allahabad Rs. 6 crores is the provision for sewerage and sanitation under the U.P. Urban Development Programme as against Rs. 24 crores under Ganga Action Plan. Efforts are also being made to pool the resources available from the Ministry of Welfare for investments under the Ganga Action Plan to render the towns scavanger free.
- 37. In Varanasi the provision for sewerage schemes is Rs. 4 crores under the U.P. Urban Development Project. The provision under Ganga Action Plan is Rs. 43.05 crores. In addition, the State Government has renovated the sewage pumping stations at a cost of Rs. 0.96 crores and sanctioned the construction of an electric crematorium and is providing 5% of the cost

for some of the schemes under the Ganga Action such as improvement of circulation facilities, low cost sanitation and biclogical conservation.

- 38. In West Bengal in the Calcutta Metropolitan area the provision under the Calcuta Urban Development Project for drainage, sanitation and slum improvement, accounts for Rs. 112 crores. The corresponding outlay under the Ganga Action Plan is Rs. 110 crores. The investment under the low cost sanitation programme is about Rs. 9 crores. The State Government has already submitted schemes for obtaining financial assistance from the Ministry of Welfare and HUDCO for some of the schemes in the low cost sanitation sector.
- 39. The Committee attach great importance to the timely completion of the Ganga Action Plan which is being executed at a considerable cost to the Central Government. The Committee have been assured by the Ganga Project Directorate that the plans of action are proceeding according to schedule. that all schemes for execution during the 7th Plan will be sanctioned in time and expected to be implemented by the end of the Plan. The Committee are. however, perturbed to note that in the first two years of its operation the Ganga Project Directorate has failed to utilise the financial provisions to the extent of Rs. 30 crores as against the prevision of Rs. 62 crores; for the year 1987-88 the requirement of funds has been estimated at Rs. 60 crores whereas in the original estimates the provision made was only Rs. 48.50 crores and in the revised estimates the provision has been reduced by Rs. 3 crores to Rs. 45-50 crores (about 75% of the requirement only). The Committee also note that for the year 1988-89 the projected requirement is stated to be Rs. 80 crores whereas the provision has been only Rs. 57 crores (less than 75%) in the budget recently presented to Parliament. The present trend of provision of funds leaves over Rs. 100 crores for the last year of the 7th Plan as against the estimated requirement of funds to the extent of Rs. 64 crores. The Committee therefore feel that the provision of funds and presumably the progress of work have not kept pace with each other adequately so far and that, with the present trend of progress, the desired target of completion of work and removal of pollution to the extent of 90 % due to domestic sources may not be achieved by the end of the 7th Plan. The Committee, therefore, suggest a fresh look at the progress of action as at present so as to put the targets in their right realistic perspective and the steps that should be taken to accelerate the tempo of work.
- 40. The Committee note that in respect of 4 completed works in Uttar Pradesh, the actual expenditure has exceeded the sanctioned by Rs. 23.27 lakhs i.e. by nearly 13%. The Committee apprehend that similar trend, if existing in other works on completion, could result in the financial estimation going away. The Committee, therefore, recommend that adequate financial control

may be exercised at every stage so as to ensure that costs of works are contained within the estimates.

- 41. The Committee note that one of the schemes undertaken in Uttar Pradesh is electrification of street lights leading to ghats at Varanasi at a cost of Rs. 18.78 lakhs. The Committee are of the view that the admissibility of this type of work for being financed out of Ganga Action Plan funds may be reviewed by the Ministry.
- 42. The Committee are surprised to note that for one work costing Rs. 96 lakhs, no funds have been released though the work has been completed and that at Kanpur, expenditure incurred has been far in excess of the funds released. The Committee recommend that the causes may be looked into for appropriate action.
- 43. The Committee are perturbed to note that out of 20 works taken up for execution at Patna, 18 of them are already overdue for completion, but only one work has been completed. The works overdue for completion include as many as eleven works which ought to have been completed by January, 1987. The Committee recommend that the slow progress may be looked into for necessary remedial action.
- 44. The Committee also note that as against funds released to the extent of Rs. 529.93 lakhs for all the locations in Bihar State, the total expenditure so far incurred has already exceeded the funds released by Rs. 11.31 lakhs. The Committee also note that this trend is due to the position obtaining at Patna and Chapra wherein funds released were Rs. 434.33 lakhs, whereas expenditure incurred has been Rs. 473.70 lakhs. The Committee recommend that the contributory causes in this regard should be reviewed,
- 45. The Committee note that out of the total estimated cost of Rs. 291 crores the expenditure to be incurred in and around Calcutta has been to the extent of about Rs. 124 crores. While the Committee attach great importance to the schemes concerned with local sanitation and drainage facilities for control of pollution, they would like the Ministry to consider whether the cleaning of Ganga beyond Calcutta port is called for to the proposed extent, because beyond that point, the river is greatly affected by tidal condition because of which the port authorities are undertaking dredging of the river basin for navigation purposes at a considerable cost to the Central exchequer.
- 46. The Committee note from the table relating to West Bengal that the progress of works has not caught up with the speed needed though works costing substantial outlay have been sanctioned. For Calcutta Comporation Area (Rs. 38.67 crores) and the Kamarhatti Baranagar region (Rs. 11.05 crores) no funds have been released for the former and only Rs. 64 lakhs

have been released for the latter. The Committee also note that as against funds needed to the extent of Rs. 87.64 crores for West Bengal, funds released have been to the extent of Rs. 11.77 crores so far. As against this, the expenditure incurred has, however, been in excess of funds released by Rs. 5 crores. The Committee feel that there exists some lack of coordination of undertaking works and release of funds and would recommend that a review of the position may be conducted to put the whole operations on proper footings.

47. The Committee note that the executing agencies have furnished certificates of utilisation of funds to the extent of only Rs. 4.86 crores as against release of funds to the extent of over Rs. 31 crores. The Committee also note that one of the organisations that has furnished certificate of utilisation is Allahabad Nagar Mahapalika whereas according to the statement furnished to the Committee, no funds were released to the Nagar Mahapalika in 1985-86 or 1986-87. The Committee desire this discrepancy to be reconciled. They also recommend that the progress of utilisation by the executing agencies may be duly monitored by ensuring periodical scrutiny of the accounts by internal audit.

D. Industrial Pollution

- 48. In regard to industrial pollution an Expert Group set up by the Ganga Project Directorate (GPD) reviewed the position of medium and big industries discharging waste into the river. It listed 264 units (191 in UP, 6 in Bihar and 67 in West Bengal) in the three States and out of this, identified 68 industrial units as gross polluters considering the volume of discharge (1 MLD), characteristics of waste etc. 34 of them are located in UP, 5 in Bihar and 29 in West Bengal. The major concentration is near Kanpur (21 units) and Calcutta (24 units). The total discharge from these units is about 350 mld of waste water.
- 49. When the Ganga Action Plan was taken up, only 10 out of these 68 units had set up some facility of treatment. As a result of measures subsequently taken till 31st December, 1987 a total of 24 units have set up ETPs while in another 12 units, ETPs are under construction. Another 15 units have taken action to prepare schemes while another 5 units are presently lying closed. Concerned Departments of the Central Government and State Governments have initiated action against the remaining defaulting units.
- 50. Asked to indicate the percentage of polluted water to the total water coming into the river daily, the witness has replied;

"The total volumetric domestic pollution is 75% and industrial is 25%. But in toxic terms, industrial pollution is much more than the domestic pollution because the industries produce chromium, mercury and all that. So, even though volume wise it is 25%, toxic-wise it is much more

than that. After the Ganga Action Plan period, we expect that most of the total waste domestic water will be stopped from flowing into the Ganga. The remaining quantity will spill over the period. By about 1991-92, we hope to prevent the total amount of domestic waste water that is flowing into the Ganga from 27 Class-I cities."

51. Asked to what percentage the pollution in Ganga would be reduced by the year 1990, the witness has submitted:—

"Domestic pollution will be reduced to at least 90% but industrial pollution, which as I said, is 300 million litres volumetrically is also expected to be accomplished, except in the lower reach of Ganga, through the Calcutta metropolitan district, where we have technically, a very complicated situation. Because of the intensity of industrialisation, domestic waste and industrial waste in the Calcutta metropolitan area are terribly maximum and segregation is extremely expensive and technologically difficult to accomplish."

- 52. He further added that as far as the industry was concerned, the Government was not taking on the responsibility which the industrialist has to perform under the laws of the land.
- 53. Asked about the public sector industries which contributed to pollution, the witness has stated:

"As part of the Ganga Action Plan though we have not assumed direct responsibility, one of the exercises we did was that we made assessment how many industries are directly discharging their waste in the Ganga river. That number was 250. Out of those we wanted to be selective and established that 68 industries were discharging more than 1000 kls. of waste water and in some cases, toxic material. In those 68 industries, we found in the beginning of the Ganga Action Plan that only 20 had some kind of effluent treatment facility. We have been putting through the State Pollution Control/Boards and also through appropriate administrative Ministries a lot of pressure in getting the effluent treatment plant and so on. Today the position is that 20 have already been established, 13 units have since taken up construction of effluent treatment plants, 5 industries have closed down for other reasons. The balance is 30. With regard to these 30 industries, we are putting a lot of pressure. In respect of 8 we have also issued notices under the Environment Protection Act."

54. Asked whether the Central Board did not have the enforcement powers to apply in the case of remaining industries, the witness has replied

"The State Boards have the enforcement powers and we try to utilise the State Boards to apply their enforcement powers. In addi-

- tion to that, we are taking recourse to the provisions of the Environment Protection Act as well."
- 55. Asked how long these industries would take to establish the treatment plants, the witness stated that it would be difficult to put down the date. But judging from past experience, it was felt that in another 2/3 years time all the units would instal the treatment plants.
- 56. The Committee find that even though the industrial pollution of river Ganga in terms of quantity is to the extent of 25% only, in toxic terms it equals or is more than the extent of pollution by domestic sources. The Committee are informed that the Ganga Project Authority has not assumed direct responsibility to control industrial pollution and this menace has to be dealt with as per laws of the land. The Committee would like the Ministry/Central Board to issue a directive to the State Boards for taking recourse to the powers vested in them to deal with the situation effectively. The decision of the Supreme Court in the case of M.C. Mehta vs. Union of India in September last is an eye opener in this direction.

E. Ganga Action Plan at Kanpur

- 57. A study group of Estimates Committee visited Kanpur and noted the following position in regard to pollution of Ganga and steps taken under the Ganga Action Plan.
- 58. A skeleton sewerage system was first introduced at Kanpur in the year 1904. A comprehensive sewerage reorganisation was further taken up by the Kanpur Development Authority (KDA) in 1952. Under this, trunk sewers, intermediate pumping stations along with sewage farm also were taken up. This was further extended in 1970 by laying trunk, main and branch sewers. A pumping station was also constructed for control of pollution at Sidhnath Temple.
- 59. At present only the main city and some of the areas developed by K.D.A. are sewered. But many sewers existing in the city area are silted up and chocked rendering the system in-operative. This is as a result of poor maintenance of the system and due to the tremendous increase of population. For years together, the system has not been improved to cope up with the situation, not even the systematic cleaning of sewers was ever carried out. The local authorities resorted to random cleaning and arrangement of over flow of sewers into normally running sewers and storm water Nalas. Thus, most of sewerage of the town is being discharged into existing 13 storm water Nalas, which have final disposal into river Ganga.

As a result, there is serious insanitary condition prevailing in the city and river Ganga is being polluted day by day.

- 60. The pumping plants, installed at Jajmau main sewage pumping station, are about 30 years old and have become totally worn out of their useful life and their pumping efficiency have gone considerably below their rated capacities. Moreover at Jajmau, the existing sewage farm channels and distributaries/minors which were constructed some time in the year 1951 or so, are broken and heavily silted due to which only about 400 hectares of land is being irrigated at present out of 3080 hectares of available cultivable land. Because of this, at present, there is no alternative left but to allow overflow of sewage through bye pass channels directly into the river Ganga.
- 61. Apart from Jajmau sewerage bye pass channel, the river is polluted by 13 other drains carrying municipal sewage into the river Ganga, along the entire stretch starting from Nawab Ganj area towards down stream up to Jajmau. The actual discharge of these 13 nalas along with bye pass channel at Jajmau is estimated to be 186 MLD, which include about 5 MLD tannery waste water.
- 62. Apart from these thirteen nalas polluting the river Ganga, four main nalas carrying sewage also pollute river Pandu in south of the city which meets river Ganga at a distance of 15 kms. down stream of Kanpur. Pandu being the tributory of river Ganga these four nalas ultimately pollute the river Ganga to the extent of about 100 MLD.
- 63. In addition, the sullage, sewage, textile waste, power plant and tannery effluents from the city are discharged into the river without any treatment through the existing nallah/sewerage systems. The 155 industrial units which thus pollute the Ganga in Kanpur are categorised as given below:—

1. Chemical and Fertilisers	. 21 nos.
2. Tanneries .	. 68 nos.
3. Textiles	. 34 nos.
4. Vegetable and food product industries.	. 11 nos.
5. Engineering industries	13 n os.
6. Paper & Pulp	1 nos.
7. Thermal Power plant	2 nos.
8. Miscella neous	5 nos.

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Ganga Action Plan in Kampur

64. Under the Ganga Action Plan, the position in regard to identification of schemes in different sectors with tentative cost is as follows:—

	No. of schemes	(Rs. Cr.)
1. Interception and diversion	3	2.41
2. Treatment of sewage (130 mld plant)	1	20.23
3. Low Cost Sanitation	2	0.98
4. Other schemes as River Front Development and construc- tion of crematorium	2	0.83
5. Integral Sanitation Project for the Jajmau area	1	12.20

- 65. As per the current estimates the total cost of the schemes identified will be about Rs. 36.65 crores. All these schemes are expected to be completed by March, 1990.
- 66. Till 31st December, 1987, 8 schemes at a cost of Rs. 23.94 crores have been sanctioned. The remaining identified schemes are expected to be sanctioned by Maich, 1988.
- 67. In regard to industrial pollution, 21 large and medium units have been identified as major polluters, besides a group of small scale tanneries. The progress taken by these units to establish ETPs has been as under:—

1. No. of units in which ETPs plants have already been constructed	4
2. ETPs under construction	6
3. Schemes under preparation/tenders under scrutiny	8
4. No since closed	1
5. Notice issued under legal provisions	2
	21

- 68. In respect of small scale tanneries, the Supreme Court has ordered that 29 tanneries should be closed down immediately. In addition 7 units having primary treatment plants have been permitted to continue their operation and the remaining 39 units have been given six months time to construct their treatment plants.
- 69. The Committee consider it unfortunate that the city sewage system established in 1952 and improved upon in 1970 at a considerable cost, had not been maintained properly by the local authorities, as a result of which the domestic wastes are being allowed to overflow from the sewage line and pollute the river Ganga day by day. The Committee also feel that lack of proper

maintenance has resulted in the Jajman main sewage pumping station to become obsolete and wornout because under normal maintenance, main sewage pumping stations function at other places for considerably long period.

- 70. The Committee feel that a similar situation must be existing in other cities as well wherein under the Ganga Action Plan the existing facilities are upgraded or renewed or fresh facilities are provided. The Committee recommend that both for Kanpur and for other places the matter relating to maintenance of the facilities and financial provision therefor should be fully looked into and provided for now itself so that the investments that are now being made, do not become infructuous after some passage of time.
- 71. The Committee noticed during the visit that the dredging of the river near Kanpur is being resorted to for providing adequate water supply in the river basin at Kanpur. The Committee have been informed that it would be necessary for the dredging offerations to continue indefinitely to maintain the river flow at the present level. The Committee, however, desire that the establishment of a water treatment plant at or near the site where the river Ganga is now flowing after changing its course, which is at a distance of about 8 kms. may be considered. This will help in pumping the drinking water supply from the site directly to the city by providing the pipelines. The Committee consider that even though the capital expenditure could be initially heavy, this will prove substantially economical later. Moreover the need for continuous dredging of the river at Kanpur will be obviated by allowing the river to have its chosen course of flow without interruption. The basin of the river through which the river does not flow now could also be profitably utilised for development activities of the city after reclamation.
- 72. The Committee are surprised to learn that the dredged material out of the by pass of the river basin, adjacent to the Kanpur city, is being pumped back into the basin of the river itself. The Committee feel this situation to be odd and would like the concerned authorities to examine how far it is in order to pump the dredged material into the basin itself instead of damping it at a site from which it could not possibly flow back into the river.

F. Monitoring

- 73. A monitoring committee for Ganga Action Plan has been set up on 25th October, 1985. The Committee had constituted two sub-groups, viz.,
- 1. Sub-group on Data-base for water quality Monitoring for river Ganga:
- 74. The task or this sub-group is (i) to identify the parameters relevant to the river quality sampling locations, frequency of sampling method of

sampling and analytical procedures, (ii) to recommend studies, scope and methodology for bio-monitoring, (iii) to review ongoing programmes for water quality monitoring formulated by Central Board for Pollution Control ITRC, Central Water Commission and other organisation, (iv) to recommend appropriate agencies to undertake the relevant parameters for monitoring as well as agency to ensure quality assurance.

- II. Sub-group for preparation of computerised format for Project Progress monitoring:
- 75. The task of this sub-group is (i) to devise formats for data submission by executing agencies, Data may include PERT/CPM information break down of cost and budgets, current status of work, problem analysis and corrective action reports, re-planning and re-scheduling, etc. (ii) to recommend appropriate methodologies for storage, and analysis of data for ready access. (iii) to recommend methodologies for preparation of management information system for submission to appropriate authorities.
- 76. The Department has stated that the monitoring committee has been regularly monitoring the progress made under Ganga Action Plan and is also providing guidance to research projects and engineering schemes including water quality menitoring and modelling.
 - 77. The Committee do-not consider that monitoring of the implementation of the Ganga Action Plan has yet come to an effective stage because the progress of work at various places has not kept adequate pace for achievement of the prescribed targets by the due dates and the financial provision has also fallen short of the estimated needs, at least upto the end of 1988-89. It is difficult to reconcile that whereas in certain places funds released have remained unutilised, there are other places wherein expenditure incurred has been far in excess of the funds released, yet in other cases sanctioned funds have not been released. The Committee urge that the monitoring mechanism should be further strengthened and geared up so that it becomes an effective instrument for keeping a strict watch on the regular flow of funds and also timely implementation of the various projects. The Committee also recommend that the monitoring mechanism should evaluate the performance of each completed work vis-a-vis its objectives to be achieved by it on a regular basis so that shortcomings could be rectified and effectiveness improved. This is all the more necessary since Ganga Action Plan is an epoch making project and the difficulties being encountered in its execution and solutions found for the same can be gainfully taken note of when similar projects are undertaken subsequently for other rivers.

APPENDIX

Summary of Observations/Recommendations

S. No.	Para No. of the Report	Recommendation/Observation
1	2	3
1.	11	The Committee need hardly point out that Ganga has a very important place in the lives of a vast majority of the people in the country in as much as it serves more than 150 to 200 million people not only for water but for the agriculture and other purposes also. It also occupies a unique place in the holy scriptures like Bhagwad Gita, Upanishads etc. A very large chunk of India's population does not consider Ganga as just another river but treats it with reverence and call it as "Ma Ganga". It is evident from the fact that Government gave precedence to the cleaning of Ganga in comparison to other major rivers which are stated to be equally polluted. The Committee commend the Government for launching a very prestigious project in cleaning Ganga and restoring its past glory. The Committee have an earnest desire that the Ganga Cleaning Project will be completed well in time and the aspiration of the people which touched a new peak with the launching of this project will be amply realised. The Committee do hope that such ambitious projects will also be launched so far as the other major rivers of the country are concerned:
2.	15	The Committee note that Central Ganga Authority has been created by a Government's Resolution dated 16th February, 1985 to oversee the implementation of

the Ganga Action Plan. They however, feel that since the Central Ganga Authority has to deal with a very large number of local bodies, industries etc., it should have been vested with some statutory powers. The 1 2 3

Committee only hope that the organisational set up as at present in existence will be able to cater to the onerous job of completing the project as per time schedule.

3. 39

The Committee attach great importance to the timely completion of the Ganga Action Plan which is being executed at a considerable cost to the Central Government. The Committee have been assured by the Ganga Project Directorate that the plans of action are proceeding according to schedule, that all schemes for execution during the 7th Plan will be sanctioned in time and expected to be implemented by the end of the Plan. The Committee are, however, perturbed to note that in the first two years of its operation the Ganga Project Directorate has failed to utilise the financial provisions to the extent of Rs. 30 crores as against the provision of Rs. 62 crores for the year 1987-88 the requirement of funds has been estimated at Rs. 60 crores where as in the original estimates the provision made was only Rs. 48.50 crores and in the revised estimates the provision has been reduced by Rs. 3 crores to Rs. 45--50 crores (about 75 % of the requirement only). The Committee also note that for the year 1988-89 the projected requirement is stated to be Rs. 80 crores whereas the provision has been only Rs. 57 crores (less than 75%) in the budget recently presented to Parliament. The present trend of provision of funds leaves over Rs. 100 crores for the last year of the 7th Plan as against the estimated requirement of funds to the extent of Rs. 64 crores. The Committee therefore feel that the provision of funds and presumably the pro gress of work have not kept pace with each other adequately so far and that, with the present trend of progress, the desired target of completion of work and removal of pollution to the extent of 90% due to domestic sources may not be achieved by the end of the 7th Plan. The Committee, therefore, suggest a fresh look at the progress of action as at present so as to put the target in their right realistic perspective and the steps that should be taken to accelerate the tempo of work.

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The Committee find that even though the industrial pollution of river Ganga in terms of quantity is to the extent of 25% only, in toxic terms, it equals or is more than the extent of pollution by domestic sources. The Committee are informed that the Ganga Project Authority has not assumed direct responsibility to control industrial pollution and this menace has to be dealt with as per laws of the land. The Committee would like the Ministry/Central Board to issue a directive to the State Boards for taking recourse to the powers vested in them to deal with the situation effectively. The decision of the Supreme Court in the case of M.C. Mehta vs Union of India in September last is an eye opener in this direction.

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14. 70

The Committee feel that a similar situation must be existing in other cities as well wherein under the Ganga Action Plan the existing facilities are upgraded or renewed or fresh facilities are provided. The Committee recommend that both for Kanpur and for other places the matter relating to maintenance of the facilities and financial provision therefore should be fully looked into and provided for now itself so that the investments that

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are now being made, do not become infructuous after some passage of time.

15. 71

The Committee noticed during the visit that the dredging of the river near Kanpur is being resorted to for providing adequate water supply in the river basin at Kanpur. The Committee have been informed that it would be necessary for the dredging operations to continue indefinitely to maintain the river flow at the present level. The Committee, however, desire that the establishment of a water treatment plant at or near the site where the river Ganga is now flowing after changing, its course, which is at a distance of about 8 kms., may be considered. This will help in pumping the drinking water supply from the site directly to the city by providing the pipelines. The Committee consider that even though the capital expenditure could be initially heavy, this will prove substantially economical later. the need for continuous diedging of the river at Kanpur will be obviated by allowing the river to have its chosen course of flow interruption. The basin of the river through which the river does not flow now could also be profitably utilised for developmental activities of the city after reclamation.

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