

MR. SPEAKER : Next question.
Shri Satyendra Narain Sinha.

Decision to Constitute Ganga Authority

*60. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAIN SINHA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons behind his decision to constitute the Ganga Authority;

(b) the terms of its constitution, its personnel and the projects to be entrusted to it;

(c) whether these projects are to be implemented by state Governments; and

(d) if so, how does the Authority propose to achieve its objective in view of the record of State Governments so far in neglecting the anti-pollution measures for the Ganga ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BIR SEN) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The Ganga is not only the longest river of India but is also interwoven with the lives of millions of Indians. With the increase of population and growing size of cities on the banks of the river, pollution of the river has assumed serious proportions endangering the life of millions of people using Ganga for bathing and drinking water purposes. It has become imperative to take appropriate steps to control pollution. A comprehensive survey of the Ganga basin was carried out by the Central Pollution Control Board. The findings of the survey indicate that the pollution problem of the river can

be tackled through suitable preventive measures. Hence it has been decided to set up the Ganga authority for speedy implementation of pollution control in the river.

(b) The authority will have a four-tier structure with an apex body which would be chaired by the Prime Minister and would include the Chief Ministers of the concerned States as members. The other members of the apex body would include : Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission; Ministers of State for Environment and Forests, for Science and technology, and for Planning; Member, in-charge of Environment and Science in the Planning Commission. There would be a Steering Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Environment with representatives from all concerned Central and State Government agencies. In each State there would be a High Level Committee chaired by the concerned Chief Secretary to oversee the implementation of the programme. A monitoring Mechanism with Computer back-up would be set up under the chairmanship of Member, incharge of Science and Environment, Planning Commission.

(c) The programme will be implemented jointly by the Central and State Government agencies on a time bound project basis. The project components would include :

—renovation of the existing sewage pumping and treatment plants.

—renovation of the existing sewage system.

—Installation of new sewage treatment plants in selected towns to treat sewage and have resource recovery in terms of bio-gas and manure besides provision for irrigation and aquaculture.

- (d) Though sewage treatment facilities have been installed at many locations along the Ganga, the municipalities and local bodies who have the responsibility to run these have been unable to do so effectively, largely due to lack of resources, diversion of available resources to other activities, internal management problems etc. For ensuring proper implementation of the programme, it is proposed to allocate adequate resources and assign specific responsibilities to Central and State Government agencies. The State Governments would have to take direct responsibility to ensure successful operation and maintenance of these plants and work closely with the Central authorities in these matters. The proposed four-tier structure of the Authority would be overseeing the implementation of the programme.

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAIN SINHA : I pay my compliments to the Government for the decision to set up this Ganga Authority. I would like to know whether the mechanics of the project expenditure have been worked out, and if so what will be the total expenditure likely to be incurred on the various activities which the Ganga Authority is going to undertake.

SHRI BIR SEN : I could not follow the question.

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAIN SINHA : I wanted to know the estimates of expenditure likely to be incurred under this Ganga Authority.

SHRI BIR SEN : The estimate of expenditure is Rs. 250 crores.

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAIN SINHA : My second question is about Part (c) of the question, wherein it has been stated that project components would include renovation of the existing sewage pumping and treatment plants; renovation of the existing sewage system; and installation of new sewage treatment plants in selected towns to treat sewage and have resource recovery in terms of bio-gas and manure, besides provision for irrigation and aquaculture.

I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether any estimate has been made about the likely income which the Government is likely to get by selling bio-gas and providing irrigation facilities.

SHRI BIV SEN : A tentative estimate has been made and it is estimated that per capita Rs. 37 will be the income and the expenditure will be some thing like Rs. 24 per capita. Per capita means it will relate to the population of the State which we are going to take up.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV : Mr. Speaker Sir, first of all I on behalf of the millions of our countrymen express my thanks and gratitude to the Prime Minister for undertaking this heavy responsibility in his initial programme.

[*English*]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Instead of asking a question he may give a ruling.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV : Ganga river not only influences the life of millions of people of this country but also influences the culture, religion and civilisation of the countrymen.

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask the question.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV : I want to ask two or three questions about the facts stated in Part (c) of the answer. First, the period for which this amount of Rs. 25 crores has been allocated is not clear—whether it is for one year, two years or more.

Secondly, the programme will be implemented by the Central and State Government agencies. A major part of Ganga passes through Uttar Pradesh but it has been our experience that there is no co-ordination between Water Corporation and Sewage Board and there has been often confrontation between them. Keeping this fact in view, if only one agency is created for the purpose, it will be possible to successfully accomplish this task.

Thirdly, it has been stated in the reply that the project will consist of three components—renovation, installation of sewage treatment plants in selected towns, etc. But there is no mention of the fact that many other major rivers like Yamuna and Gomati joins the Ganga before it reaches Patna and thus creates pollution in the Ganga. I want to know the arrangements to be made to check it? Moreover, the drainage system has been totally blocked due to excessive silting. Flow of water in the Ganga beyond Patna is low not only in summer but in winter also.

Fourthly, Pollution Control Board has been unable to control the pollution caused by discharge of effluents from industrial units situated on the banks of Ganga. This Project should, therefore, include measures to control it and steps should also be taken to remove silting. Hence it is suggested that several agencies working at present should be abolished and in their place a Central agency should be created to implement this project.

SHRI BIR SEN : The Hon. Member has first of all asked about the estimated cost. As far as this amount is concerned, it is for five years and it will be spent on those cities which have a population of more than one lakh.

Other points raised by the Hon. Member are in the form of suggestions. As far as industrial pollution is concerned, treatment plants are proposed to be installed for the purpose, standards are being laid down and every industry is being instructed to check pollution according to the norms fixed in this regard.

As regards implementation, a steering agency is being constituted in every State which will oversee the working of the State pollution Boards and in case any flaw is detected, it will get the same rectified.

[English]

SHRI V. SOBHANEDREOSWARA RAO : Will the Hon. Prime Minister show the same kind of interest in the work of another Ganga namely Telugu Ganga Project which is awaiting his clearance and which is going to quench the thirst of millions of people in Rayalaseema and Madras city?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : As a matter of interest, we are looking at the rivers in the south. We have not yet decided which river to take up. We will consult you on that and we will be taking up the river in the south as soon as possible.

Reorganisation of N.T.C.

*61. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal