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No. Admin-01/2016-17/595/NMCG
Government of India
Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation
National Mission for Clean Ganga

1st Floor,
Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium,
India Gate, New Delhi-110002
Dated: 14th September 2017

Sub:- Second meeting of the Empowered Task Force on River Ganga - reg.

Please find enclosed the minutes of 2nd Meeting of the Empowered Task Force on River Ganga held on 3rd August, 2017 at 4.30 P.M. in the Conference hall at 1st Floor, Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, New Delhi -110002 for information and necessary action.


14.9.17
(Rajiv Kishore)

Executive Director (Admin.)
Contact No. : 011-23049440

To,

1. PS to Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation
2. PS to Union Minister of State for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation
3. Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation
4. Secretary, Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance-Member, ex-officio
5. Chief Executive Officer, Niti Ayog-Member, ex-officio
6. Chief Secretary, Govt. of Uttrakhand-Member, ex-officio
7. Chief Secretary, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh-Member, ex-officio
8. Chief Secretary, Govt. of Bihar-Member, ex-officio
9. Chief Secretary, Govt. of Jharkhand-Member, ex-officio
10. Chief Secretary, Govt. of West Bengal-Member, ex-officio
11. Chief Secretary, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh
12. Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture & Cooperation
13. Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests & Climate Change
14. Secretary, Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation
15. Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development
16. Secretary, Ministry of Tourism
17. Secretary, Ministry of Culture

Copy to:-

PS to DG (NMCG)/PS to DDG & all EDs

Minutes of Second Empowered Task Force (ETF) meeting

Executive Director (Admin), welcomed the Chairperson, Hon'ble Minister (WR, RD & GR) and all members of the Empowered Task Force to the second ETF meeting. With the permission of Chairperson, ED (Admin), started the proceedings with discussion on the agenda items.

Agenda item no.1. The Minutes of the first meeting held on 08.02.2017 and circulated vide letter no. A-01/2016-17/595/NMCG dated 06.03.2017, were confirmed.

Agenda item no.2. A presentation was made on the Action Taken on the decisions/observations of the first ETF meeting.

Agenda item no.5. The Audited Annual Accounts of NMCG for FY 2014-15 & FY 2015-16 were placed before the Task Force which duly approved the same.

The important decisions/proceedings of the meeting are as under:

1. Hon'ble Minister (WR, RD & GR), observed that polluting industries should be dealt with firmly to ensure that they do not discharge untreated effluent in the river Ganga. They should carry out process improvement and adopt green technologies, so that polluted effluents from such industries do not drain into river Ganga. She said that no one should be allowed to take the shelter of employment generation excuse for continuing with polluting industries as the price was being paid by lakhs of common people who fell ill due to the pollution. All such firms should be issued Directions under Section 5 of the EP Act.
2. Hon'ble Minister (WR, RD & GR), regretted that there was no representative from West Bengal, in the meeting. She desired that the issue may be brought to the notice of Cabinet Secretary in forthcoming HLTF meeting.
3. Hon'ble Minister (WR, RD & GR), expressed the view that lot of industrial pollution could be prevented by proper enforcement of Section 5 of the EP Act. NMCG and CPCB/SPCB need to work in tandem for effective implementation of the provisions of EP Act.

Principal Secretary, Urban Development, Uttar Pradesh and PD, SPMG, Uttar Pradesh opined that regulatory action can be taken by State Ganga Committees independently, deriving power from the Authority notification dated 07.10.2016, inspite of constraints like lack of trained manpower, non-availability of testing

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laboratories. States were requested to take practical steps in this regard as State Ganga Committees have been give power to issue direction U/s 5 of EP Act.

4. Hon'ble Minister, MoWR,RD&GR stated that she was very disappointed during her inspection of Jharkhand state as huge expenditure had been made on construction of crematoria even though the local people did not have adequate money to buy medicines. As Jharkhand was chosen as a model stretch, projects there should be properly implemented and regularly monitored.
 5. While reviewing projects related to ghats and crematoria, the Task Force was informed that against provision of Rs. 400 crore under Namami Gange Programme, AA&ES had been issued for more than Rs. 1150 crore projects. It was subsequently found that in many projects there was no 'NOC' from Forest Department, Irrigation Department, local bodies, etc due to various reasons. There are certain ghats which have already been taken up under some other scheme or by some other agency such as Irrigation Department of the State Government. Hence, rationalization exercise has been under taken by NMCG, which will result in substantial reduction in the project cost. However, it is still expected to be more than Rs. 400 crore. The Empowered Task Force therefore directed that the same may be taken up with High Level Committee chaired by Hon'ble Finance Minister or if needed be, to the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.
- PD/SPMG (Uttarakhand), intervened to inform that they had prioritized 46 Ghats at an estimated cost of Rs. 129 crores for which all clearances had been obtained and requested that work on these may be allowed to proceed.
6. The issue of allotted funds under certain sub-heads being exhausted was deliberated upon and the Task Force agreed for re-appropriating of funds amongst the sub- components. Hon'ble Minister (WR, RD & GR), directed that the proposal may be taken to the competent authority for obtaining approval for re-appropriation.
 7. DG (NMCG), stated that sewage and solid waste management was mainly the responsibility of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), but unfortunately the ULBs had developed a tendency to wait for Namami Gange funds even for such basic things like provision of dustbins. DG (NMCG), laid emphasis on providing last mile house connectivity due to which the STPs which were being setup could not deliver optimum results. Secretary, Urban Development, stated that providing drinking water facility was first priority under AMRUT. However, State could take up house-connection on priority under AMRUT.

8. DG (NMCG), informed that the number of gross polluting industries had increased from 764 to 1109 and showcause & closure notices had been given to the non-competent polluting units.
9. Rivers like Ram Ganga, Kali (east) and Hindon were polluted more because of industrial effluent than sewerage.
10. There was general agreement that either ULBs or the State Government should give funds for house connectivity.
11. There was general agreement that there should be convergence of the works of Urban Development and NMCG. Secretary, Tourism, also intervened to offer schemes under her Ministry with those of Urban Development and NMCG for obtaining better synergy.
12. Secretary (WR, RD & GR), stated that states should prioritize the location where STPs should be built on the banks of river Ganga.
13. Hon'ble Minister (WR, RD & GR), raised the issue of funds under CAMPA, being made available for forest interventions in Ganga.

Secretary (MoE,F&CC), explained the different uses for which CAMPA funds could be made available. He further informed that except for Uttarakhand, none of the other Ganga States had sufficient funds under CAMPA. On intervention of Hon'ble Minister (WR, RD & GR), he agreed to make funds available under the CAMPA, in Uttarakhand, for afforestation along the banks of river Ganga.
14. Secretary (MoE,F&CC), agreed for convergence of states Annual Plan of Operations with that of APOs of NMCG.
15. PD SPMG (Uttarakhand), requested for an institutional mechanism to be setup for coordination between SPMG and CPCB/SPCB. Secretary (MoE,F&CC), agreed to the proposal.
16. DG, NMCG informed that around 40 nos. of NMCG employees of NMCG had visited different districts in the five main stem states during which they located Solid Waste dump sites and unlisted drains flowing in the Ganga. Secretary, urban Development asked for details of these dump sites.
17. The house was informed that first contract under the Hybrid Annuity Model had been awarded for setting up sewerage treatment plant at Haridwar, which was widely commended as being a path breaking development. DG(NMCG), informed that the next challenge was to award comprehensive contract under hybrid annuity model for maintaining city wise STPs.

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18. A presentation was made by Sh Akshay Rout, OSD in Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation on 24 Model "Ganga Grams" to be developed in 5 States. It was shown that 3 villages in Uttarakhand, 10 in Uttar Pradesh, 4 in Bihar, 5 in Jharkhand and 2 villages in West Bengal have been identified.

He further presented the salient features of Ganga grams which were based on guidelines issued by NMCG. The features include, proper disposal of waste water through drainage system, proper disposal of solid waste, water conservation activities including rain water harvesting/ground water recharge/maintaining of wells and ponds, encourage growing of medicinal plants and organic farming cultivation, construction of crematorium with modern techniques, renovation of village ponds, promotion of sprinkler irrigation and promotion of tourism.

The Strategy for Implementation of Ganga grams would include situational analysis, qualitative data to be collected from community participatory exercises, community consultation and capacity building, community level institution building for execution, monitoring and evaluation, preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) and community endorsement of DPR and finally action plan in Gram Sabha followed by execution of action plans.

He also highlighted some of the challenges/constraints in developing the Ganga grams like the wide geographical spread of villages, non-availability of sand in the States, floods in Ganga Plains, assembly Elections in UP, issues of Diyar villages, and non-availability of funds etc.,

19. Remaining agenda items could not be taken up for paucity of time.
20. The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.

Attendees of Empowered Task Force Meeting on 03/08/2017

Sr. No.	Name	Designation	Organization
1	Hon'ble Minister		MoWR,RD&GR
2	Dr. Amarjit Singh	Secretary	MoWR,RD&GR
3	Mr. U. P Singh	Director General	NMCG
4	Shri. Parameswaran Iyer	Secretary (DWS)	Ministry of Drinking Water Sanitation
5	Shri Durga Shanker Mishra	Secretary	Ministry of Urban Development
6	Shri Ajay Narayan Jha	Secretary	MoEF&CC
7	Smt. Rashmi Verma	Secretary	Ministry of Tourism
8	Smt. Rashmi Verma	Secretary	Ministry of Culture
9	Mr. Pankaj Rag	Joint Secretary	Ministry of Culture
10	Mrs. A. Neerja	Joint Secretary	Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
11	Shri Akshay Rout	OSD	Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation
12	Mr. Avinash Mishra	Jt. Adviser, Niti Ayog	Niti Ayog
13	Mr. Arvind Kumar Jha	Assistant Director, DMA Cum Nodal Officer	Bihar
14	Mr. Manoj Kumar Singh	Principal Secretary, Urban Development (PD, UPSPMG)	UP SPMG
15	Dr. Raghav Langer	Project Director,	SPMG Uttarakhand
16	Sh. C. V. Dharma Rao	Deputy Director General	NMCG
17	Shri Rajiv Kishore	ED(Admin)	NMCG
18	Shri Hitesh Kr. S. Makwana	ED (Project)	NMCG
19	Shri Rozy Agarwal	ED (Finance)	NMCG
20	Shri D.P. Mathuria	ED (Tech)	NMCG