

PSUs biggest donors to Clean Ganga Fund

Nearly 90% of the dedicated fund that the Water Ministry has collected as part of donations for various projects to clean the Ganga is sourced from State and Central government public sector units (PSU), according to information from the Lok Sabha. The Clean Ganga Fund (CGF), as it is called, was created in 2014 and envisioned as a source of funds from private companies, individuals and institutions.

On Monday, in response to a question from Congress MP Rajeev Gowda, Minister of State Satyapal Singh reported that 220 crore was donated to the CGF as of January 2018. Private companies contributed around 20 crore and the public sector, Central public sector and Government Departments contributed about 177 crore. The rest were from individual donations.

“In the early days, many letters were written to public sector units for donations...recently, the Water Minister [Nitin Gadkari] has directed that focus should be on getting money from the private sector,” Rajiv Ranjan Mishra, Director-General, National Mission for Clean Ganga, which coordinates programme activities.

The government will be putting in place nearly 288 projects, worth 20,000 crore, and clean up 70%-80% of the river by March.

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