Kejriwal, Gadkari tell DJB to expedite projects related to Yamuna cleanup
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Work on all interceptor sewage system in the national capital will be completed by this December putting a check on the untreated sewage flowing into Yamuna through three major drains, Delhi Jal Board officials committed to the Centre and city government on Thursday.

According to estimates, treatment of sewer from Najafgarh, Shahdara and supplementary drains will bring down the Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) of the Yamuna by almost 75%. BOD is an indication of the pollution levels in water. Originally, these works were to be completed in June 2014.

The DJB officials informed a high-level meeting chaired by Union Water Resources Minister Nitin Gadkari and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday that work of one package is complete and the other five packages will be over by this year end. These systems are being built to intercept the sewage from the three drains and to channelise them to the sewage treatment plant (STPs). The existing STPs are running below their capacity.

Gadkari and Kejriwal also asked the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) to wind up committees that are unnecessarily delaying the award of projects by months.

"More committee means more problems. Don’t play ‘committee game’ and focus on starting and completing projects fast. People from Mathura often visit me and complain about the bad quality water in Yamnua. We have to clean the river in Delhi," Gadkari told officials.

Till now only four out of the eight approved projects under Yamuna Action Plan worth Rs 1,600 crore have been awarded by the DJB. The instances of committees going through bids approved by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and technical panels was highlighted at a meeting as one of the reasons for delay in award of works.

JICA representatives said they receive frequent revision in bidding documents and every time they need to scrutinise them. Gadkari asked the funding agency to share the check list for DJB to prepare the detailed project reports and bid documents. The meeting was attended by top officials from water resources ministry and Delhi government including its chief secretary Anshu Prakash.

Gadkari also suggested the Delhi government and Delhi Development Authority to explore the possibility of developing a huge recreational area along 35 km Yamuna river front on the lines of Garden by the Bay in Singapore.