GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 409

ANSWERED ON 06.02.2023

RIVER POLLUTION

409. PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA

Will the Minister of **JAL SHAKTI** be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the dissolved oxygen range of major rivers of the country;

(b) the reason behind the lack of dissolved oxygen range in rivers;

(c) whether it is a fact that mass fish deaths were reported during last year due to water pollution;

(d) if so, the measures taken by Government in this regard;

(e) the details of the State/region that reported the maximum number of fish deaths in the last year; and

(f) the details of steps taken by Government to improve the dissolved oxygen range of water bodies in the country?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU**)**

(a) to (f) Rivers and other water bodies in the country are polluted mainly due to discharge of untreated or partially treated sewage from cities/towns/local bodies and industrial effluents in their respective catchments, poor operation and maintenance of sewage/effluent treatment plants, lack of dilution, dumping of solid waste on their banks and other non-point sources of pollution. Rapid urbanization and industrialization have also compounded the problems.

As per Indian Council of Agricultural Research-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (ICAR-CIFRI), Barrackpore Kolkata, the range of Dissolved Oxygen (DO) in major rivers of the country are given below:

S.No	River	Dissolved Oxygen range (mg/l)	Monitoring Year(s)
1	Chaliyar	3.6- 8.9	2017 -19
2	Cauvery	4.83-8.27	2018 - 20
3	Tapti	5.9- 9.40	2018 - 20
4	Godavari	1.0 – 11.20	2018 - 20
5	Siang	7.9 – 10.6	2018 - 20
6	Ganga	4.0-12.0	2022

Mass mortality of fishes in river stretches identified by ICAR-CIFRI during the year 2021 and 2022 is at **Annexure.**

It is the responsibility of States/Union Territories (UTs) and local bodies to ensure required treatment of sewage and industrial effluent, before discharging into recipient water bodies, land or coastal waters for prevention and control of pollution therein. Government of India is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in addressing the challenges of pollution of rivers by providing financial and technical assistance through schemes like NamamiGange programme, National River Conservation Plan (NRCP), Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), etc.

Govt. of India, vide Notification dated 9th October 2018, has notified minimum environmental flows to be maintained in river Ganga from its origin to Unnao in Uttar Pradesh. The notified environmental flow regime is monitored and supervised by Central Water Commission.

Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) in the Standard Terms of Reference (ToR) for conducting the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) studies for any proposed River Valley and Hydroelectric Project have mentioned the norms for release of Environmental flows which is 30% in monsoon season, 20% in lean season and 25% in non-monsoon season & non-lean season to be followed responding to flow of 90% dependable year. These norms along with the site specific requirements for environmental flow releases as per the studies are then stipulated in the Environment Clearance (EC) letter for compliance.

As per the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution), Act 1974, industrial units are required to install effluent treatment plants (ETPs) and treat their effluents to comply with stipulated environmental standards before discharging into river and water bodies. Accordingly, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) and Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) monitor industries with respect to effluent discharge standards and take punitive action for non-compliance under provisions of these Acts.

Besides, in compliance of the orders of National Green Tribunal (NGT) in Original Application No.673/2018 regarding rejuvenation of polluted river stretches in the country, States/UTs are required to implement approved action plans for restoration of the polluted stretches in their jurisdiction as identified by CPCB and published in their report of 2018, within the stipulated timelines. As per the orders of NGT, regular review on implementation of action plans to mitigate river and other surface water is undertaken in the States/UTs and also at Central level.

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ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (f) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 409 TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.02.2023 REGARDING "RIVER POLLUTION"

Mass mortality of fishes in river stretches identified by ICAR-CIFRI during the year 2021 and 2022

Date	River stretches and State	Major identified causes
07.02.2021	Alakananda river (Downstream of Vishnuprayag, Chamoli) in Uttarakhand	Chamoli flash flood
08.02.2021	Panchaganga river, Terwad barrage, Maharashtra	Industry effluent
18.03.2021	Kshipra river, Triveni, Madhya Pradesh	Stop dam breach
19.07.2021	Betwa river, Bina, Madhya Pradesh	Not known
30.10.2021	Kameng river, Arunachal Pradesh	Water pollution due to quake/ development activities in China
03.11.2021	Udhyavara, Udupi, Karnataka	Fish mill effluent
02.02.2022	River Cauvery, Erode, Tamil Nadu	Textile processing industry (during low discharge from Mettur dam)
17.02.2022	Brengi river (Waddevalgam village, Kokernag), Jammu & Kashmir	Sinkhole in river bed made river dry
24.02.2022	Panchaganga (Rajaram barrage to Shiya bridge) Kohlapur, Maharashtra	Sugar factory effluent
24.02.2022	Panchaganga (Ichalkaranji), Maharashtra	Textile factory effluent
03.03.2022	Gandak river, Mahuri village, Maharajganj, Siwan, Bihar	Pollution by chemical effluent
22.03.2022	Yamuna river, Agra, Uttar Pradesh	Pollution in low water level
10.04.2022	Suheli river, Assam	Poisoning by people
11.04.2022	TaalKhad, Palampur, Himachal Pradesh	Pollution
13.04.2022	Gaula river, Haldwani barrage, Uttarakhand	Dairy effluent
25.04.2022	Phalguni, Gurupura, Mangalore, Karnataka	Industrial & domestic effluent
26.04.2022	Kunwari river, Morena, Madhya Pradesh	Dairy effluent
09.05.2022	Yamuna river, Baghpat, Uttar Pradesh	Industrial effluent
17.05.2022	Har-Ki-Pauri Ghat, Uttarakhand	Pollution in low water level
26.05.2022	Sutlej (Eastern canal), Punjab	Pollution
16.07.2022	Krishna river (Nagthane to Sangli Mai Ghat), Maharashtra	Mollases from industry
16.07.2022	Basantar river, Jammu & Kashmir	Toxic effluent from factories
24.07.2022	Ganga river, Shivala Ghat, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh	Not known
25.07.2022	Ennore creek, Chennai, Tamil Nadu	Industry effluent
09.11.2022	Confluence of Hindon & Kali rivers with Yamuna river, Uttar Pradesh	Untreated effluent
03.11.2022	Adyar estuary, Chennai, Tamil Nadu	Local pollution

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