

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1660**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.08.2023

**Garbage dumps around Mahanadi river**

1660. DR. PRASHANTA NANDA:  
SMT. SULATA DEO:  
SHRI MANAS RANJAN MANGARAJ:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is committed to protect the river bank of Mahanadi in the State of Odisha from the incessant dumping of garbage;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the National Green Tribunal has issued fresh instruction to the Empowered Committee to submit a comprehensive proposal to develop the river bank as a pollution-free, eco-friendly site; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

**(a) to (d)**

It is the responsibility of the States/UTs/ Local Bodies and Industrial Units to ensure required treatment of sewage and industrial effluents to the prescribed standards before discharging into water bodies, seas or land to prevent and control water pollution. As per information received from Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB), no incident of dumping of garbage along the river banks of Mahanadi has been observed.

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) executes National Water Quality Monitoring Programme (NWMP) in association with respective State Pollution Control Board (SPCB)/ Pollution Control Committee (PCC) for monitoring of aquatic resources at 4484 locations in the country including 35 locations on river Mahanadi in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, and Odisha.

The Hon'ble NGT constituted two Joint Committees vide its order dated 15.12.2020 and 21.01.2021 in the matters of OA 22/2020/EZ (Dilip Kumar Samantaray vs. State of Odisha Board & Ors.) and OA 68/2020/EZ (Pradip Kumar Pattnaik vs. Union of India & Ors.) respectively, primarily based on the grievance of illegal construction and sand filling operations in the Mahanadi river bed which was causing damage to the environment and riverine ecosystem.

The Committees carried out “Floodplain Zoning Study for the Identified Stretches (between Munduli Barrage to Jobra Barrage) of Mahanadi River Basin” and also “Study on ecological and hydrological aspects and vulnerability assessment of the identified Floodplain.”

Thereafter, based on the recommendations of the Committee Reports, the State of Odisha was further directed by the Hon’ble Tribunal for compliance vide its order dated 21.09.2022.

\*\*\*