

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2019

ANSWERED ON 07.08.2023

RESTORATION OF RIVERS AND WATER BODIES IN GREATER CHENNAI REGION

2019.

SHRI R. GIRIRAJAN

DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU

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

- (a) whether Government has taken adequate steps to provide financial and technical support to Government of Tamil Nadu in the restoration of rivers and water bodies, particularly in and around Greater Chennai region, Kanchipuram, Tiruvallur Districts;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated in the last five years;
- (c) whether Government has received any plea for the restoration and preservation of Adyar River Estuary and Creek, River Coovum, Kosasthalaiyar, Buckingham Channel as well as the Pallikkaranaï Marsh lands and Ennore creek; and
- (d) if so, action taken by Government in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) to (d) Cleaning and rejuvenation of rivers is an ongoing process. It is the responsibility of the States/Union Territories (UTs) and local bodies to ensure required treatment of sewage and industrial effluents to the prescribed norms before discharging into river and other water bodies, coastal waters or land to prevent and control of pollution therein. For conservation of rivers, this Ministry has been supplementing efforts of the States/UTs by providing financial and technical assistance for abatement of pollution in identified stretches of rivers in the country through the Central Sector Scheme of Namami Gange for rivers in Ganga basin and the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) for other rivers. Different pollution abatement projects which are admissible under NRCP include sewerage networks, interception and diversion works, sewage treatment plants (STPs), etc

Proposals for pollution abatement works in towns along polluted river stretches are received from the States/UTs from time to time for consideration under the NRCP, and sanctioned based on their prioritization, conformity with guidelines, availability of Plan funds, etc.

Under NRCP, pollution abatement projects for the conservation of six rivers namely Cauvery, Adyar, Cooum, Vaigai, Vennar, and Tambarbarani were sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 908.13 crore for 13 towns, namely Bhiwani, Chennai, Erode, Karur, Kumarapalayam, Kumbakonam, Madurai, Mayiladuthurai, Pallipalayam, Thanjavur, Tirunelveli, Trichirappalli and Trichi, and STPs with a total

capacity of 477.66 million litre per day were created in Tamil Nadu. However, in the last 5 years, this Ministry has not sanctioned any funds to Govt. of Tamil Nadu.

In addition, this Ministry, under the scheme of Repair, Renovation, and Restoration (RRR), now part of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sichayee Yojana- Har Khet Ko Pani (PMKSY-HKKP), provides central assistance to State Governments for the creation and restoration of irrigation potential (I.P). Under this scheme, 441 projects have been sanctioned in the last five years at the total cost of Rs. 310.9 crore. Of these, 91 projects are completed and a central share of Rs. 70.16 crore has been released to the State Government of Tamil Nadu.

National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems (NPCA), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) is being implemented for conservation and management of wetlands/lakes in the country on cost sharing basis between Central and respective State/UT Governments. During the last five years, MoEF&CC has released a grant of Rs. 94.47 lakhs for point Calimera, Rs. 63.25 lakhs for Kazhuveli, and Rs. 99.38 lakhs for Pallaikaranai to the Govt. of Tamil Nadu under this scheme for conservation and management of these three wetlands.

MoEF&CC notified the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules 2017. The notification constituted National Wetlands Committee (NWC) at Central level and Wetlands Authorities at State and UT to oversee protection, conservation and management of wetlands across the country. The notification also specifies the prohibition or regulation of certain activities to safeguard the wetlands from encroachment, pollution, solid waste dumping, etc. Govt. of India declared Pallikaranai wetland as Ramsar site, i.e., Wetland of International Importance under Ramsar convention for its protection, conservation and management.
