

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

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UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 428

ANSWERED ON 24.07.2023

POLLUTION OF WATER BODIES

428. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA

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

- (a) the measures taken by Government to combat the pollution of water bodies across the country;
- (b) whether Government keeps a record on the current state of pollution in major water bodies, such as rivers, lakes, and reservoirs, including the extent of contamination and the presence of pollutants such as industrial effluents, agricultural runoff, sewage, plastic waste, and other hazardous substances;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether Government is promoting the preservation and conservation of water resources, especially in terms of sustainable water management practices and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) Water being a State subject, it is the responsibility of the States/UTs and local bodies to combat pollution of water bodies in their respective jurisdiction. However, some of the measures taken by Government of India to supplement the efforts of the States/UTs are given below.

1. It provides 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.
2. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) is implementing a centrally sponsored scheme namely, National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems (NPCA) for conservation and management of wetlands (include lakes) in the country on cost sharing basis between Central Government and respective State/UT Governments. The scheme covers various activities such as interception, diversion and treatment of wastewater, shoreline protection, lake front development, in-situ cleaning i.e. de-silting & de-weeding, storm water management, bioremediation, pollution abatement, catchment area treatment, etc.

3. Further, MoEF&CC has notified Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 as regulatory framework for conservation and management of wetlands across country to conserve, manage and maintain the ecological character of the wetlands without restricting the wise use.

4. Regulation of industrial pollution is implemented through various provisions of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, Revised Guidelines for Idol Immersion, 2020, etc.

(b) & (c) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) monitors water quality of aquatic resources at 4,484 locations including 2,108 monitoring locations on rivers and 437 monitoring locations on lakes under National Water Quality Monitoring Programme (NWMP) in association with the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/ Pollution Control Committees (PCCs). Accordingly, in year 2022, by analysis of water quality of 603 rivers for the years 2019 and 2021, CPCB has identified 311 polluted river stretches on 279 rivers in the country, on the basis of bathing water quality criteria parameter of biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) exceeding 3 mg/L. Further, based on water quality assessment of lakes, ponds & tanks during the year 2021, out of 599 locations monitored, 498 locations were found to be not complying to the primary water quality criteria for outdoor bathing.

(d) Though the work lies in the domain of the State Government concerned, however some of the initiatives taken by Government of India in this regard, are given below.

1. Under various components of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana, Government of India is providing partial financial assistance to identified projects for creation of new storages; extension/ renovation/ modernization (ERM) of major/ medium irrigation projects; surface minor irrigation projects; repair, renovation and restoration of water bodies; and construction of check-dams and other water harvesting structures.

2.. Focused interventions under Jal Shakti Abhiyan annual campaigns taken up by the Government of India and the State Governments, inter-alia, include renovation of traditional and other water bodies/ tanks, enumeration, geo-tagging and making inventory of all water bodies, and removal of encroachments of tanks/ lakes, and de-silting of tanks.

3. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGS) has provisions for public works relating to natural resource management, water conservation and water harvesting structures to augment and improve ground water like underground dykes, earthen dams, stop dams, check dams and roof top rain water harvesting structures in public buildings.

4. Launched in April 2022, Mission Amrit Sarovar is aimed at developing and rejuvenating at least 75 water bodies of minimum pondage area of 1 acre each, in each district of the country as a part of celebration of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.
5. Ministry of Jal Shakti has conducted first Census of Water Bodies in convergence with the Sixth Minor Irrigation Census (Reference Year 2017-18) with the objective of developing a national data base of all water bodies in the country. The Water Bodies Census inter-alia contains information on all important aspects on the subject including their size, condition, status of encroachment, use storage capacity, status of filling up storage etc.
6. Atal Bhujal Yojana provides financial assistance for sustainable management of groundwater resources with community participation in selected areas of 80 districts, 229 blocks and 8,220 water stressed Gram Panchayats of 7 States.
7. Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), provision has been made for the preparation of Village Action Plan (VAP) by village community, which inter alia includes strengthening of drinking water sources including rain water harvesting in convergence with other schemes such as MGNREGS, Finance Commission grants to rural local bodies/ PRIs, MP & MLA's Local Area Development Fund, District Mineral Development Fund, CSR fund, etc.
8. Rejuvenation of water bodies is also a component under Water Supply sector of Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) Scheme under Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs. Further, AMRUT 2.0 launched in October, 2021, targets to promote circular economy of water through development of city water balance plan for each city focusing on recycle/reuse of treated sewage, rejuvenation of water bodies and water conservation.
