

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 51
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.07.2023

Analysis of water quality of rivers by CPCB

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

- (a) whether Central Pollution Control Board has analysed the water quality of rivers for the years 2019 and 2021, if so, the details thereof and the number of polluted river stretches identified, State-wise and priority-wise;
- (b) the details of budget allocated, sanctioned and fund released under National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) during the last three years, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether Government is working on any plan to curb pollution and rejuvenate these rivers and lakes if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of funds released during last three years and current financial year under the scheme of National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems (NPCA)?

ANSWER

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

(a) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) monitors water Quality of aquatic resources at 4484 locations in 28 States and 7 Union Territories spread over the country including 2108 locations on Rivers, 713 on stagnant water bodies (Lakes, Ponds and Tanks), 64 on Creeks/marine, 1235 on Wells and 364 on other water bodies (drains, canals, WTPs/STPs) in association with State Pollution Control Boards/Committees.

Based on analysis of water quality data of 603 rivers on 1920 locations for the years 2019 and 2021, CPCB in year 2022, has identified 311 polluted river stretches on 279 rivers in 30 States/UTs in the country based on indicator of organic pollution i.e. **Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD)** (3mg/L). State-wise number of identified polluted river stretches identified in year 2022 are given in **Annexure I**.

Key findings of assessment were:

- 1103 out of 1920 locations (57%) were complying with BOD criteria
- All locations monitored on 324 rivers complying with BOD criteria
- 817 river locations on 279 rivers were exceeding BOD level of 3 mg/L

Comparative evaluation of present assessment with the previous assessment carried out by CPCB indicates that there is decrease in number of polluted river stretches from 351 (year 2018) to 311 (year 2022).

Further, Improvement in water quality has been observed in 180 out of 351 PRS identified during year 2018. Out of 180 PRS, 106 river stretches have come out of the list of polluted stretches and remaining 74 has been shifted to lower priority class.

Assessment of water quality over the years revealed that in the year 2015, 70% of rivers monitored (275 out of 390) were identified as polluted whereas, in the year 2022, only 46% of rivers monitored (279 out of 603) are identified as polluted.

(b) The details of budget allocated, sanctioned and fund released under National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) during the last three years, State/UT-wise is at **Annexure II**.

(c) and (d)

The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has recently released the Detailed Project Reports (DPR) for Rejuvenation of 13 Major Rivers namely Sutlej, Beas, Ravi, Chenab, Jhelum, Luni, Yamuna, Mahanadi, Brahmaputra, Narmada, Godavari, Krishna and Cauvery through Forestry interventions prepared by Indian Council of Forestry, Research and Education (ICFRE), Dehradun. The programme interventions include tree plantation, soil and moisture conservation works in the catchment area and river front development to increase green cover and carbon sink, reduce silt load & flooding and enhance ground water recharge etc., besides generating employment.

The interventions proposed in these thirteen DPRs is under 4 major components viz (a) Implementation of Forestry Interventions, (b) Strengthening Knowledge Management and National Capacity Development, (c) Maintenance Phase including Scaling Up and Replication of Successful Models, and (d) National Coordination for Forestry Interventions and River Conservation.

Further, MoEF&CC is currently implementing a centrally sponsored scheme namely, National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems (NPCA) for conservation and management of wetlands in the country on cost sharing basis between Central Government and respective State/UT Governments. The scheme aims at holistic conservation and restoration of wetlands for achieving the desired water quality enhancement, besides improvement in biodiversity and ecosystems. It aims to promote mainstreaming of wetlands in developmental programming with States by supporting formulation and implementation of integrated management plans, capacity development and research. Various activities covered are interception, diversion and treatment of wastewater, shoreline protection, lake front development, in-situ cleaning i.e. de-silting & de-weeding, storm water management, bioremediation, catchment area treatment, lake beautification, survey & demarcation, bio-fencing, fisheries development, weed control, biodiversity conservation education and awareness creation and community participation. Funds released during FY 2020-21 to 2022-23 and current financial year 2023-24 under the NPCA scheme is given below:

Financial year	Amount (Rs. in crore)
2020-21	34.36295
2021-22	42.657673
2022-23	19.74
2023-24	6.95
Total	103.710623

State-wise & Priority wise number of Polluted River Stretches

S No.	STATE/UNION TERRITORY	PRIORITY CLASS					TOTAL No. of PRS
		I	II	III	IV	V	
1.	ANDHRA PRADESH	1			1	1	3
2.	ASSAM	1				9	10
3.	BIHAR		1	2	7	8	18
4.	CHHATTISGARH		1		2	3	6
5.	DAMAN AND DIU, DADRA AND NAGAR HAVELI			1			1
6.	DELHI	1					1
7.	GOA				1	5	6
8.	GUJARAT	6	1	1	1	4	13
9.	HARYANA	2	1				3
10.	HIMACHAL PRADESH	4			1	4	9
11.	JAMMU & KASHMIR			2	4	2	8
12.	JHARKHAND			1	2	6	9
13.	KARNATAKA	3			3	11	17
14.	KERALA			1	2	15	18
15.	MADHYA PRADESH	2		1	5	11	19
16.	MAHARASHTRA	4	5	18	17	11	55
17.	MANIPUR				2	11	13
18.	MEGHALAYA	2			1	4	7
19.	MIZORAM				2	1	3
20.	NAGALAND			1		3	4
21.	ODISHA	1			3	3	7
22.	PUDUCHERRY		1	1	1		3
23.	PUNJAB	3				2	5
24.	RAJASTHAN	2		1	4	7	14
25.	TAMIL NADU	4	1	1	1	3	10
26.	TELANGANA	1	1	2		5	9
27.	TRIPURA					1	1
28.	UTTAR PRADESH	6		1	2	8	17
29.	UTTARAKHAND	2	2	4		1	9
30.	WEST BENGAL	1	2	1	3	6	13
GRAND TOTAL		46	16	39	65	145	311

Annexure II

Details of State-wise and year-wise funds released to the State Governments/Union Territories during last three years, including current year, under NRCP (excluding river Ganga and its *tributaries*)

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	State/UT	River	Funds Released				
			2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
A	Budget Estimates		150.50	153.00	100.00	217.68	450.00
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Godavari	0	0	0	0	13.26
2.	Gujarat	Sabarmati, Mindola & Tapi	63.00	96.89	27.26	117.45	208.63
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	Devika & Tawi	30.00	0	20	20	24.665
4.	Maharashtra	Mula Mutha	0	0	0	0	113
5.	Manipur	Nambul	3	15	20	20	15
6.	Sikkim	Rani Chu	42	10	20	23.6785	58.428
7.	Nagaland	Diphu&Dhansiri	5	10	5.13	14.87	0
Total			143.00	131.89	92.39	195.9985	432.983